



Rother Local Strategic Partnership

**Making things better**  
by working **together**

[www.RotherLSP.info](http://www.RotherLSP.info)



# **Annual Conference Report 2015**

## **for Delegates and Stakeholders**

## 1. Background to the Rother Local Strategic Partnership and it's Annual Conference

- 1.1 The Rother Local Strategic Partnership (RLSP) works with the Rother community and others to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Rother community and the quality of life of residents.
- 1.2 After a recent review of the RLSP, the Rother LSP Executive (core membership - see Appendix 1) meets four times throughout the year to organise an annual conference and take forward associated actions. The issues will be discussed by the wider membership at the conference and inform the RLSP action plan.
- 1.3 The Rother LSP Executive agreed that the theme of its annual Conference which was held on 16 June 2015 was “**Helping People to Help Themselves**” and the objective was to enable our local communities to access the services they may need in order to improve their own (and their family's) wellbeing.
- 1.4 The Conference was to provide an opportunity for a wide range of local agencies and organisations to share their thoughts and ideas about why some Rother residents, and particularly the most vulnerable, may not be accessing services which are available to them across Rother. In addition, to consider the role of self-help and grass roots provision of community services as traditional services reduce and demand increases.
- 1.5 Through discussion at the conference, the Rother LSP Executive aimed to assist services/organisations to:
  - a) Identify what services are available for people in need in Rother.
  - b) Discuss ideas around how to increase the take-up of services by local people that will increase their wellbeing, but particularly amongst the most vulnerable in Rother.
  - c) Identify issues that their organisation believed are preventing people from accessing services.
  - d) Identify what assets are available locally to assist voluntary and public sector providers in directing people to the right service provider(s).
  - e) Explore how, as local organisations, we can continue to deliver quality services with limited and decreasing resources.
- 1.6 This report outlines the findings from the annual Conference for the delegates and Rother LSP Executive to consider and identify any strategic needs or projects to take forward in 2015 and 2016.

## 2. The Conference – Summary

- 2.1 Members of the private/business, public and voluntary/community sector working for Rother residents were invited to participate in the Conference. The **Chair Martin Fisher**, outlined the Rother LSP Executive's reasons for identifying the Conference theme “**Helping People to Help Themselves**”. He set the scene for the morning's discussion and provided some key statistics from the Office of National Statistics and HM Revenue and customs for Rother:

- Average earnings are below East Sussex and the National averages.

- Number of households in poverty is higher than in East Sussex and the National Average.
- Lower levels in educational achievement.
- Higher % of residents who provide care than in East Sussex and Nationally.
- Higher % of people with longer term health problems or disability than in East Sussex and Nationally.



2.2 This opening speech was followed by four guest speakers who delivered presentations on issues affecting Rother.

- Graham Peters** introduced how the South East Local Enterprise Partnership is working with partners to help create sustainable jobs in Rother, working to improve road, rail, cycling and walking networks. Providing opportunities for larger commercial investment will help develop industries and support small local business growth. Find out more here: <http://www.southeastlep.com/> and <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/eastsussex/default.htm>
- Naomi Ridley** presented a case study on social enterprise and how such organisations in the local area are working to enable vulnerable people to access support, services and opportunities for skills development. Find out more about the programmes here: <http://www.hfs.org.uk/bexhill.html>.
- Richard Watson** spoke about the causes of health inequalities; Social, economic and environmental; Lifestyles and behaviours, and; Access to services. The current aims of the Reducing Health Inequalities Programme, which started in November 2014, include reducing the difference in the life expectancy of those in the most and the least deprived areas. For more information visit: <http://www.hastingsandrotherccg.nhs.uk/#>.
- Anne McLoughlin** spoke about affordable housing in rural Rother and the challenges that people face living in rural communities. The issues include: low wages / high house prices; fuel poverty (no gas network in rural areas), and; lack of homes for young people. Hastoe Housing Association is a rural housing specialist working across the south of England. Hastoe works with rural communities to ensure developments meet their needs. For more information visit <http://www.hastoe.com/area/17/About-Hastoe.aspx>.

### 3. Mapping exercise:



Participants were asked to identify services and organisations that Rother residents can access by placing the details of the services on maps of East Sussex. 39 different providers were identified - some with more than one service and these are listed in Appendix 2.

### 4. Conference Discussion Groups

- 4.1 The second part of the conference allowed for discussion, focusing on the following themes:
- Improving health and wellbeing
  - Education, jobs, and skills
  - How are our communities coping?
  - Maximising financial resources for residents and agencies
- 4.2 Delegates attended two out of the 4 discussion groups listed above. The discussions and their key points and suggested areas for action were recorded and summarised in a briefing paper for the Rother LSP Executive. The findings have been reflected in section 5.3 below.
- 4.3 The notes from the discussion groups can be found alongside this report on the Rother LSP website: <http://www.rotherlsp.info/>

### 5. The Chair's Reflections at the Conference

- 5.1 Martin Fisher, Chair Rother LSP reflected on some central points which were raised in the group sessions, summed up the event and identified some of the key issues, which included;
- Access to services
  - "Online" is only part of the answer
  - Vulnerable members of the community may lack confidence in accessing services
  - Assumptions are made about IT literacy due to popularity of Facebook and Twitter – some people are not necessarily confident enough to access digital services outside these applications
- 5.2 The Chair called for a Conference report to be produced and circulated to delegates listed in Appendix 3. He also agreed that the Rother LSP Executive Board will consider the outcomes highlighted in the conference report, which will be based on the central discussions held at the Conference and use these to set the action plan and programme for the coming year.
- 5.3 The Rother LSP Executive (core members) considered the briefing document which summarised all of the comments and key points raised by participants at the Conference at its meeting on the 15 July 2015 and identified that core membership will

work closely over the coming year to deliver the Rother LSP action plan which will include the following:

- **Improving Health and Wellbeing** – consider how the Rother LSP can support the work of the local Clinical Commissioning Group to tackle health inequality through community or health and wellbeing hubs in Rother
- **Education, Jobs and Skills** – work through partner agencies to develop a small project for older, experienced members of the community to work/voluntarily mentor young people to improve their maths, English and knowledge of engineering skills to increase their employability.
- **How are our communities coping** –
  - Rother LSP to organise and host a discussion between Council Members and key stakeholders with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Sussex Police, and the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service on the changes to service delivery in these emergency services and how we can support the agencies and community to help themselves. This is planned for 28 October 2015 and all members of the wider LSP group who were invited to the conference will be invited to this event.
  - Rother LSP to develop a project to identify the strategically important community assets (building) in challenging neighbourhoods and to consider the sustainability of these assets.
- **Maximising Financial Resources** – to increase access to services by:
  - a) the provision of a single source of information on services for Rother residents, that can be updated regularly and accessed electronically, and via websites, social media etc;
  - b) identify different ways that the most vulnerable in Rother engage with services and access information;
  - c) produce contact and service information on 12 key agencies that serve Rother residents that can be printed out and viewed electronically through the Council and Rother Voluntary Action (RVA) websites;
  - d) All the information from the mapping exercise will be made available to the wider membership and other key stakeholders (see Appendix 2).

## 6. Conclusions

- 6.1 This Conference report will be circulated to all stakeholders, partners, delegates and other interested parties for further information.
- 6.2 The Rother LSP Executive will keep all parties updated on progress with the actions identified through the Conference (section 5.3) through posts and update reports on the Rother LSP website.
- 6.3 Organisations, stakeholders and partners will be invited and encouraged to participate in working groups and on projects that are delivered through the Rother LSP Action Plan and will be asked to support the work of these agencies, through their own organisation e.g. referrals to projects, and sharing of information.
- 6.4 The findings from this Conference, performance against the action plan and additional input in the coming year from partners and stakeholders will form part of the review of the District for the 2016 Conference.

## Report Ends

## Appendix 1

### **Core Membership (RLSP Executive)**

The core membership is made up of decision makers from the following organisations:

- Rother Voluntary Action (Martin Fisher, Chair)
- Rother Transport Action Group (Cllr Ian Hollidge, Vice Chair)
- East Sussex County Council (Cllr Carl Maynard)
- Rother District Council (Brenda Mason)
- Sussex Police (CI Warren Franklin)
- East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (Paul Evans)
- Sussex Coast College (Dan Shelley)
- NHS Hastings & Rother Clinical Commissioning Group (Richard Watson)

The administration and support work of the Rother LSP is provided by members of the Programme Office and Policy Team within Rother District Council. Further information about the core membership, including meeting dates and minutes can be found at:

<http://www.rotherlsp.info/>

## Appendix 2

The table below provides a list of the organisations identified by participants during the mapping exercise.

| Organisation and Area  | Services   |
|--|--|
| <b>Action in Rural Sussex</b><br>Area Covered: Rural Sussex  | Addressing need in rural areas.  |
| <b>Active Sussex</b><br>Area Covered: Sussex   | Signpost to sport and activity provision (including subsidised options) achieved through funding from bids.  |
| <b>Bexhill Care in the Community</b><br>Area Covered: Bexhill  | Services for older people.   |
| <b>Bexhill Care in the Community Services for Older people</b><br>Area Covered: Bexhill                                    |  |
| <b>Bexhill Job Centre &amp; Bexhill Library</b><br>Area Covered: Bexhill   | IT access, drop in or book.  |
| <b>Bexhill Your Way</b><br>Area Covered: Bexhill   | Managing Mental health.  |
| <b>Building Stronger Bridges Befriending scheme</b><br>Area Covered: Hailsham, Herstmonceux, Lewes, High Weald and Seaford |  |
| <b>Christians Against Poverty</b><br>Area Covered: Bexhill and also some outlying areas                                    | Central phone number to discuss need and book appointments 0800 328 0006.  |
| <b>Crossland and Dudson</b><br>Area Covered: Bexhill   | IT courses, literacy and numeracy.   |
| <b>DV8 (Bexhill Campus)</b><br>Area Covered: Bexhill   | Provides opportunities for young people to learn creative skills, train and do work experience.<br>Tel: 01424 213890<br><a href="mailto:apply@dv8sussex.com">apply@dv8sussex.com</a> |
| <b>East Sussex Children's Centres Bexhill</b><br>Area Covered: East Sussex   | Provides, adult learning, volunteering courses and job roles, support for parents, health visiting.  |
| <b>East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service</b><br>Area Covered: East Sussex  | Free Fire Safety Advice.<br>Tel: 0800 177 7069<br><a href="http://www.esfrs.org">www.esfrs.org</a>   |

| Organisation and Area   | Services  |
|---|---|
| <b>East Sussex Young Carers</b><br>Area Covered: East Sussex                          | Supports the most vulnerable young carers aged 5-18 who are responsible for caring for a family member.<br><br>Tel: 0300 777 2011<br><a href="mailto:info@eastsussexyoungcarers.org.uk">info@eastsussexyoungcarers.org.uk</a><br><a href="http://www.eastsussexyoungcarers.org.uk">www.eastsussexyoungcarers.org.uk</a> |
| <b>Elderly Accommodation Counsel</b><br>Area Covered: National                        | National charity aimed at helping older people make informed choices about meeting their care and housing needs.<br><br>Tel: 0800 377 7070<br><a href="http://www.eac.org.uk">www.eac.org.uk</a>  |
| <b>Family Mosaic</b><br>Area Covered: East Sussex and the South East                  | Provides care and support services across the area.<br>Tel: 01424 839600<br><a href="mailto:eastsussexcare@familymosaic.co.uk">eastsussexcare@familymosaic.co.uk</a><br><a href="http://www.fmeastsussexcare.co.uk">www.fmeastsussexcare.co.uk</a>  |
| <b>Hastings Advice and Representation Centre</b><br>Area Covered: Hastings and Rother | Residents home visits, by phone, weekly outreach services in Rye and Hastings, welfare benefit advice, help with form filling, representation at welfare benefit appeal tribunals.  |
| <b>Hastings and Rother Credit Union</b><br>Area Covered: Ticehurst                    | Is trying to do some work in Ticehurst.   |
| <b>Hastings and Rother Disability Forum</b><br>Area Covered: Hastings and Rother      | Research needs of disabled people in Hastings and Rother.   |
| <b>Hastings and Rother Mediation Services</b><br>Area Covered: Hastings and Rother    | Tel: 01424 446808<br><a href="mailto:hrmediation@aol.com">hrmediation@aol.com</a><br><a href="http://www.mediationeastsussex.com">www.mediationeastsussex.com</a>   |
| <b>Hastings and Rother Rainbow Alliance</b><br>Area Covered: Hastings and Rother      | Social group, phone line, trans group, bereavement group. To reduce social isolation and provide safe spaces for lesbian, gay, bi and trans people.<br><br>Tel: 07593444677<br><a href="http://www.hrra.org.uk">www.hrra.org.uk</a>   |
| <b>Hastings Furniture Service</b><br>Area Covered: Rother and Hastings                | Bases in Bexhill and Hastings, delivers and collects throughout Rother area.  |
| <b>Heart of Sidley</b><br>Area Covered: Sidley  | £1million to spend over 10 years.   |
| <b>HomeWorks</b><br>Area Covered: Sussex  | Support for people with housing needs.  |



| Organisation and Area   | Services  |
|---|---|
| <b>National Careers Service<br/>At Bexhill Job Centre</b><br><br>Area Covered: Bexhill  | Interview preparation, skills health check, social media training, CVs.   |
| <b>Robertsbridge Community Friends</b><br><br>Area Covered: Robertsbridge and Salehurst | Volunteers offering low level support for their neighbours like:<br>transport, gardening, prescriptions, shopping, pet care, befriending, small jobs in the home.   |
| <b>Rother Association of Local Councils</b><br><br>Area Covered: Rother                 | Communication network.  |
| <b>Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau</b><br><br>Area Covered: Rother               | Free, confidential, impartial and independent advice service providing information on a wide range of subjects to everyone.<br>Tel: 01424 215055<br><a href="http://www.rotherdistrictcab.org.uk">www.rotherdistrictcab.org.uk</a>                |
| <b>Rother District Council – Housing Advice</b><br><br>Area Covered: Rother             | Free advice to anyone in housing need. Aims to prevent homelessness.<br><br>Tel: 01424 787000<br><a href="http://www.rother.gov.uk/housing">www.rother.gov.uk/housing</a>   |
| <b>Rother Voluntary Action</b><br><br>Area Covered: Rother                              | Council for voluntary service.<br>Infrastructure support for community and voluntary organisations.<br>Projects for communities, including health and wellbeing (Chances for Change, Skilled 4 Health, Building Stronger Bridges, Active Rother). |
| <b>Rural Rother Trust</b>   | Small grants for needy individuals and groups.  |
| <b>Safe From Harm</b><br><br>Area Covered: East Sussex                                  | Emotional and Practical support for those at risk of ASB and Hate Crime.  |
| <b>SCDA</b><br><br>Area Covered: East Sussex  | Provides: Employability Services, Sompriti Translation service, BME Group, Health and Well Being Services.  |
| <b>Sussex Community Foundation</b><br><br>Area Covered: Sussex                          | Small grants for £500-£5,000 for community organisations.   |
| <b>Talent Match</b><br><br>Area Covered: Sussex   | Volunteer mentors to support young people.  |
| <b>The Orangery extra care scheme</b><br><br>Area Covered: Bexhill                      | Communal spaces, computer room, GP Surgery, Community Café and Treatment Centre.  |
| <b>The Pelham Community Hub</b>   |   |
| <b>Ticehurst Community Friends</b><br><br>Area Covered: Ticehurst                       | Volunteers offering support to their neighbours with things like:<br>transport, gardening, prescriptions, shopping, pet care, befriending, small jobs in the home.  |

| Organisation and Area                                       | Services   |
|---|--|
| <b>Tilling Green Community Friends</b><br>Area Covered: Rye | Volunteers offering support to their neighbours with things like:<br>transport, gardening, prescriptions, shopping, pet care, befriending, small jobs in the home, games in sheltered accommodation. |
| <b>Work Smart Project</b><br>Area Covered: Sussex           | Free course to improve skills, confidence and communications.  |

**End**

## Appendix 3

### Rother LSP Annual Conference – Tuesday, 16 June 2015

|    | Organisation   | Delegate Name       |    | Organisation                           | Delegate Name          |
|----|--|---------------------|----|--|------------------------|
| 1  | AmicusHorizon  | Vanessa Biddiss     | 20 | Jobcentre Plus Bexhill                 | Mandy Isaacs           |
| 2  | Christians Against Poverty                                 | Sue Ensor           | 21 | Locate East Sussex                     | Philip Johnson         |
| 3  | East Sussex County Council                                 | Cllr Keith Glazier  | 22 | NHS Hastings & Rother CCG              | Richard Watson         |
| 4  | East Sussex County Council                                 | Cllr Carl Maynard   | 23 | Orbit Homes                            | Russell Smith          |
| 5  | East Sussex County Council                                 | Indea Cadman-Rivers | 24 | Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau | Glenn Jopson           |
| 6  | East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service                          | Paul Evans          | 25 | Rother District Council                | Tony Leonard           |
| 7  | East Sussex Rural Partnership & East Sussex SME Commission | Graham Peters       | 26 | Rother District Council                | Malcolm Johnston       |
| 8  | Freedom Leisure  | Karen Burrell       | 27 | Rother District Council                | Robin Vennard          |
| 9  | Hastings & Rother Credit Union                             | Georgiana de Lussy  | 28 | Rother District Council                | Brenda Mason           |
| 10 | Hastings & Rother Disability Forum                         | Rosemary Iddenden   | 29 | Rother District Council                | Graham Burgess         |
| 11 | Hastings & Rother Mediation Service                        | Gilly Wood          | 30 | Rother District Council                | Adrian Gaylon          |
| 12 | Hastings & Rother Rainbow Alliance                         | Mary Benton         | 31 | Rother Race Action Forum               | Linda Seddon           |
| 13 | Hastings Advice & Representation Centre                    | Teresa Andrews      | 32 | Rother Seniors Forum                   | Ron Sunderland         |
| 14 | Hastings Furniture Service                                 | Naomi Ridley        | 33 | Rother Transport Action Group          | Cllr Ian Hollidge      |
| 15 | Hastoe Housing Group                                       | Anne McLoughlin     | 34 | Rother Voluntary Action                | Martin Fisher          |
| 16 | Rother Voluntary Action                                    | Gina Sanderson      | 35 | Sussex Coast College                   | David Pine             |
| 17 | Rother Voluntary Action                                    | Jan Cutting         | 36 | Sussex Community Development Assoc     | Jo Whitehead           |
| 18 | Rye Area Community Transport                               | Tony Moore          | 37 | Sussex Police                          | Inspector Anita Turner |
| 19 | Sidley & Egerton Children's Centres                        | Alison Bissett      |    |  |                        |

#### Facilitators & Scribes for Discussion Groups as follows:

Group 1 – “Improving Health and Wellbeing” – Richard Watson and Adrian Gaylon (Scribe – Joanne Wright)

Group 2 – “Education, Jobs and Skills” – Graham Burgess (Scribe – Marie Kennedy)

Group 3 – “How are our communities coping?” – Brenda Mason and Cllr Ian Hollidge (Scribe – Amy Fearn)

Group 4 – “Maximising financial resources for residents and agencies” – Vanessa Biddiss and Jan Cutting (Scribe – Lisa Hayward-Bartlett)

Apologies received as follows:

- Hamish Monro – Wheel Park Business Farm
- Rob Hutchings – Stagecoach Bus (South East)
- Jackie Haggerty – Bexhill Caring Community
- Zoe Matthews – Friends, Families and Travellers
- Chief Inspector Warren Franklin – Sussex Police
- Lisa Gillette – Rother Citizens Advice Bureau
- Dan Shelley – Sussex Coast College
- Clive Cooke – Sussex Coast College
- Sue Burton – 1066 Cycle Club
- Claire Grover-Ford – Alzheimer's Society
- Amanda Barton – Rother Children's Centres (Battle, Rye and High Weald)
- Suzi Laver – Sussex Community Development Association

**Report Ends**