

Hampshire Autism Partnership Board

MINUTES

16th September 2025 - 10.00 - 12.30 (via Teams)

Present:

Chairing meeting today - Cllr Fran Carpenter, County councillor

Margaret White - Co-chair of HAPB, Hampshire Autism Voice member

Jason Norum - Head of Commissioning young adults, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Physical Disability, HCC - Autism Lead

Zoë Beasley – Hampshire Autism Partnership coordinator & Learning Disability Partnership coordinator (& minute taker)

Adele Brand - Team Leader, Voiceability

Ann Bryant - Frimley ICB

Michelle Broughton - Senior Delivery Manager CYP Neurodiversity, HIOW ICB

David Carter - Chair of NAS South Hampshire Branch and Autism Ambassador lead

Rachel Carter - Hampshire Autism Voice (HAV) member

Vanessa Cosby - HAV and Autism Ambassador administrator

Leigh Drury - Early Years inclusion team leader and 0-5yrs Autism Lead, CSD, HCC

Tom Horan - Head of Service Older Adults, AHC, HCC

Mark Kingswood - County Education Manager & Education Autism Lead, CSD, HCC

Alice Madden-Curtis - Deputy Autism Adult Lead & Commissioning Officer AHC, HCC

Nicki Martin - Disabled Childrens Team, CSD (on behalf of Mark Hewer)

Sandy Teal – Director, Mind Sensibility

Michael White - Hampshire Autism Voice member and GP

Cerys Williams - Hampshire Autism Voice (HAV) member

Simon Lloyd – Hampshire Autism Voice (HAV) member

Melanie Williams – Head of Specialise Education, St. Vincent's college

Present for input:

Sarah Parsons – Professor of Autism and Inclusion, University of Southampton

Hanna Kovshoff – Professor of Neurodiversity, University of Southampton

Apologies:

Cllr Russell Oppenheimer – County Councillor, HCC

Alison Dyer – DWP Disability Employment Advisor Lead

Alyson Miller – HAV member

Andrew Lund – Area Director for NW & Autism Lead for Childrens and Families Dept, CSD, HCC

Catherine Porter – (CAMHS)

Cheryl Claxton – Head of Community Services, Autism Hampshire

Diana Taphouse – Senior Delivery Manager (All-age Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, Neurodivergence), HIOW ICB

Gemma Langman – GP and clinical lead, HIOW NHS

Helen Toomer-Jones – Autism Specialist Lead, Hampshire Hospital Foundation Trust (HHFT)

Ileana Cahill – Public Health Principal, Public Health, HCC

Jeanette Mansbridge – Disability Employment Adviser Leader, DWP

Katie Board – Service Manager, Autism Hampshire

Mark Hewer – Disabled Childrens Team lead, District Manager, CSD

Paul Richardson – Chair of Hampshire Parent Carer Network (HPCN)
Raine Andrews – Disability Employment Advisor Lead for Solent and IOW, DWP
Sarah Banholzer – Regional Operations Manager Voiceability, Advocacy
Sgt Emma Pragnell – Out of court disposals, Hampshire Constabulary

Agenda items:

1. **Welcome and chairing today**
2. **Introductions/Any matters arising from minutes of last meeting/Action Log**
3. [Hampshire Autism Voice Briefing Paper](#)
4. [Strategy updates overview updates](#)
5. [MDT/Autism & ADHD Pathway work](#)
- Break, refreshment and network**
6. [ICB input including Intensive Support Team update](#)
7. [ACoRNS input](#)
8. [Any other Business](#)
9. **Close**

Agenda Item	Subject	Action
1.	<u>Welcome and chairing today (Cllr Carpenter)</u> Cllr Fran Carpenter welcomed attendees and acknowledged her return to the Board as Co-chair.	
2.	<u>Introductions/ Minutes of last meeting and any matters arising</u> <u>HAPB actions</u> March and June 2025 minutes Approved without objections.  Action Log for HAPB.xlsx Action Log verbally updated.	<i>Minutes to be added to HAPB website</i>
3.	<u>Hampshire Autism Voice Briefing Paper</u>  HAV Briefing paper for the HAPB Septem Overview of report given by HAV members. Highlights: - Autism Ambassadors: 1,347 ambassadors to date and annual conference planned for 6 November. - HAV Membership Changes: New members recruited and in place now. Concerns Raised: - Use of Portsmouth neurodiversity profiling tool. - Post-16 transport changes. - Proposal for joint ownership of Mental Health and Autism Charter by both ICB and HAPB. - ICB Transformation Project: Awaiting results from questionnaires.	1. <i>MB to request ICB comms sent as priority re RTC.</i> 2. <i>RC/MB to share updated charter with JN to ensure wording aligns with HCC.</i>

	- Right to Choose (RTC) Pathway: RTC Pathway funding exhausted; concerns over lack of communication and impact on waitlisted individuals. Questions/comments: > Michelle Broughton advised that a group is looking at combined assessments although this is at an early stage of conversation > Michelle Broughton responded to the RTC concerns • Apologised from ICB perspective that the Board had found out about RTC issues via a provider • Recognised that ICB communications should have been shared earlier and will be consulting with Steve Trembath to ensure if something can be shared with HAPB and its partners. • RTC is not optimum • There can be duplication of waitlists • There is a significant variation in providers' charges • General practitioners are not signing up to shared care agreements [for ADHD medication and monitoring] • ICB trying to "risk assess" across the more complex patients • ICB would prefer to transfer RTC funding to commissioned services as these represent better value • Some assessments raise issues especially if handed back to CAMHS locally • Some assessments are poor > Jason Norum expressed the need to check in service specifications reflect any wording changes to the Mental Health Charter. Need to ensure any new charter aligns with what HCC already has in place.	
4.	<u>Strategy Updates</u>  HAPB partner updates - September Partners are encouraged to sign up to the: Local Area Partnership newsletter where they will receive information about what Children Services are doing to improve Children and Young Peoples experiences, particularly within education and health. Overview of updates given: • Progress was noted in education, especially post-16 provision. • Potential to expand the Autism Ambassador programme to include older adults within HCC. • Autism awareness training is being embedded in the Police, marking a significant step toward systemic change. • Concerns around service continuity due to Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) were addressed, with co-produced Easy Read formats developed for public engagement through the Hampshire Learning Disability Partnership.	

	- Hampshire Hospitals are planning a focus group, piloting outpatient adjustments and autism health passports. - Notable success stories from HCC and Intensive Care support team. <i>Additional updates emailed post meeting:</i> Autism Hampshire (from Cheryl Claxton): - Currently working on writing our new strategy, as well as vision, mission and value statements. Since joining Avenues Group, Autism Hampshire have been working with two sets of these, and so now is our opportunity to align them. We will have one joined-up set of statements for the whole group including Autism Hampshire. - Autism Hampshire are the incumbent provider for the ICB Autism Information, Advice and Guidance contract. This is now becoming part of the Autism and ADHD information, advice and guidance service and community hubs for adults going forwards. Hampshire Hospitals (HHFT) (from Helen Toomer-Jones): - Below is a link to a Blog about my post on our public facing site for your information: https://www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/news-events/blog/six-months-improving-support-autistic-people-hampshire-hospitals HHFT Focus Group - Beth Reed and I are hoping to start a HHFT Autistic Patient Experience Focus Group with plans for the first meeting to be the 21st October 2025 face to face. If anyone would like to be involved, please ask them to email me directly. - Patient experience and lived experience stories - still really keen to have conversations about what works and does not work for individuals. Quality Improvement (QI) Projects within role - Pilot of Liaison function - me to support dialogue re appointment and post appointment to provide bridge between the autistic person and the service they are accessing. - Pilot of different passport options e.g. outpatients' appointments vs and ED attendance vs an elective ward stay will likely require different priorities in terms of information needed to best support the service users. - Education, supplementing OMMT, of staff to increase awareness and engagement with service users' potential needs and how best to communicate and adapt practice	
5.	<u>Hampshire's Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)</u> (Mark Kingswood) <i>Emma Meek was unable to attend on the day, so Autism & ADHD Pathway work not discussed in detail.</i> <i>Insert presentation</i> Mark gave an overview of his role within the MDT and as lead for Hampshire Place. The initiative aims to create a joined-up, needs-led	3. <i>MK to come back to talk about community hubs</i> 4. <i>MK to send future MDT role</i>

	support system for Children and Young People (CYP). The vision is to bring together the services together at the earliest point and create system wide change and will not be reliant of diagnosis to access support, for example, local authority and education services. Relationships between services are important. Mark explained a recent survey by the HCC SEND youth forum (<i>noted small response level of 42 young people</i>) revealed that: • 76% said that a diagnosis was important to them. • Most didn't know what support was available. • Young people don't feel that services offered give the support that they need • Diagnosis was gatekeeper to support • Schools are the main place where young people got their support The key message will be that this needs to be everyone's business. • Rising demand and long wait times for diagnosis, needs assessments, and Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) requests were acknowledged. Mark likened the MDT model to Early Help hub approach, stressing the importance of early intervention to avoid missed support opportunities. • Transition Year 7 to 8 is significant • The Hampshire Wellbeing Service, which supports CYP with SEMH (Social & Emotional Mental Health needs), was briefly discussed. The service may potentially support MDT workers. • Mark shared updates on two existing community hubs in Farnborough and Gosport, with plans to expand across Hampshire. • A new Neurodevelopmental tool is being developed, based on the original Portsmouth model. Mark acknowledged known concerns around this and invited HAPB partner engagement during development. • Timeline: The Team Manager role has attracted strong interest and will be in post in coming months. An implementation group with broad partner involvement has begun scoping needs and service specification. The MDT is expected to launch by April 2026. Next steps include communications and high levels of stakeholder engagement. Questions/comments: > Cllr. Carpenter stated that HAPB is not on list of stakeholders. <i>Mark explained that although the HAPB wasn't listed explicitly in the stakeholder list, there is representation through various HAPB members. Mark offered to provide regular updates and suggested a standing item or highlight report for future meetings.</i>	<i>adverts to ZB to share via HAPB members.</i>
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Cllr. Carpenter also reflected from the survey that adults need similar support to that of the young people and so need to be conscious of the lifespan aspect of being autistic. <i>Mark is aware of need to link with Early Years and Adult Services for a more consistent approach to support.</i> > Melanie Williams expressed she was really positive about the MDT and concept of ensuring Young People's views heard and respected. Example given that they have students coming at 16yrs old without diagnosis, but important to know that this isn't important and that the label doesn't change the need. Positive to know that this will be needs focussed not diagnosis led. > Zoë Beasley asked how will communications be managed to ensure schools are clearly aware of the MDT offer and expectations? Zoë also asked if any mandatory level of training for schools been considered. Need to ensure that the MDT addresses myths such as needing diagnosis for an EHCP, as still regularly hear parents wrongly being informed about this. <i>Mark agreed that clear communication with schools is essential and creating a safe space to ask questions. He plans to personally attend headteacher meetings across Hampshire to explain the MDT model and dispel myths (e.g. needing a diagnosis for EHCPs). Mark acknowledged the issue of diagnosis gatekeeping and said the MDT aims to be needs-led, not diagnosis-dependent.</i> > Michael White asked if the MDT model is based on evidence-based approaches for similar projects elsewhere in the UK or internationally? <i>There are MDTs in number of areas already locally, regionally and nationally. Whilst there are parameters, it needs to be Hampshire specific, and this is being carefully considered. There has been linking locally to other work in HIOW.</i> Michael also asked if there will be a formal evaluation or monitoring process to monitoring process and an evaluation to validate the work? <i>There is a set of KPIs for monitoring impact, and Mark expressed openness to involving universities or external bodies for qualitative evaluation, though this is still to be scoped.</i> > Cerys asked where the MDT-related jobs are being advertised, especially roles suitable for neurodivergent people? <i>Mark explained the service lead role was advertised via Hampshire County Council and NHS Careers and received 36 applications. Other MDT roles are not yet advertised but Mark welcomed suggestions on</i>	
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	<i>where to advertise to reach neurodivergent applicants and offered to share job details via the Partnership Board once available.</i>	
	<i>< Break ></i>	
6.	<u>ICB input including Intensive Support Team update</u> Michelle detailed information about Great Minds Together (GMT), the newly commissioned provider replacing the Key Worker Programme. The service offers intensive support for children and young people on the Dynamic Support Register (DSR), which monitors those at risk of hospitalisation or inpatient admission. The new provision will also work with Individuals in complex local authority placements, placement breakdown and those involved in the Criminal Justice System. A Complex Support Register (CSR) is being developed to include individuals without formal diagnoses. The LDAP team still runs the DSR, and the GMT will hold the CSR once live. There is a team of 18 support practitioners at GMT and every person on the DSR will have been allocated a support worker. Challenges: • 48% of recent hospital admissions involved individuals not known to the DSR, highlighting gaps in awareness and referral. • Mental health teams are often unaware of the DSR and instead complete AMPs (Assessment and Management Plans) without involving the DSR team. • Individuals with complex needs often experience a lack of coordinated care, resulting in them being “bounced” between services. • There’s a need for better cross-team awareness, especially within mental health services. The new model aims to improve coordination, reduce risk, and ensure robust care plans are in place. Referral pathways currently require health or social care professional involvement, and historically have been very medical model based, which has led to missing what the young person actually needs, by focusing on the medical perspective. GMT will be working to a needs led approach going forward and seek to enhance a multi-agency collaboration in supporting CYP. Website for any other information - https://greatmindstogether.co.uk/ Questions/comments: > Jason Norum noted the lack of knowledge around the DSR and uncertainty on the referral pathway, so it would be helpful to be clearer on that for Social Care. How do we extract thematic information to identify gaps? <i>Michelle agreed that knowledge about the DSR still needs improving and about what protocols should be taken. Also acknowledged the need to extract strategic intelligence from the DSR to identify gaps in service</i>	5. <i>MB to arrange for relevant person from ICB to attend HAPB to discuss DSR and link to ZB.</i> 6. <i>MB to confirm who the LDAP contact is.</i> 7. <i>GMT rep to attend ASG/HAPB going forward.</i>

	<i>provision. Michelle offered to ask someone from LDAP team to attend to discuss the DSR in more detail.</i> <i>Individuals must give their consent to be placed on the DSR.</i> > Zoë Beasley asked to clarify who is the correct link with the LDAP team and whether someone from GMT would be able to attend ASG and HAPB going forward as it was always helped when there was Key Worker Programme representation. <i>Michelle welcomed the idea and agreed it would be helpful once the team is more embedded. She will ask about appropriate LDAP representation.</i>	
7.	<u>ACoRNS input (Prof. Sarah Parsons & Prof. Hanna Kovshoff)</u> <i>Insert presentation</i> Sarah and Hanna presented the work of ACoRNS (Autism Community Research Network Southampton). Overview of Acorns • Acorns is a collaborative research initiative focused on autism and neurodiversity in education including inclusion and attendance. • Established in 2016, it brings together autistic individuals, families, practitioners, and researchers. • Over half of its members are neurodivergent themselves. • It aims to bridge the gap between research and practice, especially in education settings. • Acorns' research is co-produced with autistic people, families, and practitioners, takes a values-based approach, uses creative methods like digital storytelling and comics to amplify autistic voices, and is designed to inform and improve real-world practice. Current research School attendance: Challenges of school attendance detailed and how research often doesn't reflect true experience for CYP and families. This is a study (Funded by the British Academy) has revealed elevated persistent absenteeism among autistic girls. Data from the National Pupil Database showed: • Autistic girls and boys have higher rates of persistent non-attendance than peers. • Rates increased significantly post-pandemic, especially for autistic girls. • Many autistic girls are undiagnosed, contributing to hidden barriers. ACoRNS held a forum with people to understand and looked for national picture beyond what is in media. Aim discussed: 1. Understand the national rates of non-attendance and comparison to autistic males.	8. ZB to link SEND Youth Forum to ACORNS 9. Link MK with SP & HK 10. RC & DC to follow up regarding NAS South Hampshire collab.

	2. Co-constructing the evidence base with autistic girls and families to understand how things led to where they are and what support was needed. 3. Spoke with Autistic women reflecting back on their school experiences Resources have been developed with autistic young people include digital stories, comic books, and awareness guides. Opportunities for future collaboration with Hampshire stakeholders were discussed. Other areas of work detailed: • Intersectionality of racial diversity and autistic people. • Home education experience of neurodivergent learners • Use of intense interests in learning • Shared decision making in the Key Worker Programme • Co-production of creative methods of Voice. Questions/comments: > Rachel Carter stated she was shocked by the figures and asked how research is advertised to recruit participants. <i>Hanna explained that most engagement is community-led, but do have LinkedIn page and put comms out via the Autistic Girls Network. Welcome more engagement however though.</i> Zoë Beasley offered to connect Acorns with Sally White re the SEND Youth Forum and suggested linking with Hampshire's MDT work within community hubs also.	
8.	<u>AOB</u> Jason – DWP Connect to Work grant and delivery plan have been agreed so increased funds are coming in to provide supported employment etc. This will have a wide cohort in terms of referral pathways. Would people like it brought to December HAPB? 🔗 Watch the NAS video about travel campaign Empowering Autistic Travel 🔗 Watch the animation here: Tricky Friends animation - The HSAB is introducing "Tricky Friends" as a new resource to help raise awareness of issues such as exploitation, county lines, and cuckooing. This animation is designed to spark important conversations and support safer, more informed relationships, particularly among those who may be more vulnerable to harm. 🔗 Watch this Ch4 piece on LeDeR report delays - Is government 'sitting on' damning report into learning disabled people's deaths? – Channel 4 News – the 2023 report has finally been published - Learning from Lives and Deaths Transitions ME Poster 2025.pdf • Off the record - <i>would we like them to come for input about what concerns they had most?</i>	11. Bring details about DWP support employment input to December HAPB

	 ACG Annual Report 2024 - FINAL.pdf • Gosport Age Concern report:  Kooth A5 Leaflet.pdf • Kooth:  HEDCA 26th July - Hampshire NHS Health - would we like an input from them? • Hampshire & Isle of Wight Social Prescribing Network and VS Health & Wellbeing Events 2025–26: → Thursday 27 November 2025, 10.15am–12.30pm – Fareham & Gosport Health Forum Showcase (venue TBC) → Tuesday 9 December 2025, 1–2pm – Webinar: <i>Addressing Frailty and Social Isolation – Integrated Approaches to Ageing Well</i> → Tuesday 10 February 2026, 1–2pm – Webinar: <i>Weight Management in the 21st Century – Nutrition Innovation & Medical Intervention</i> → Wednesday 11 March 2026, 9.30am–2.30pm – Social Prescribing Network Celebration Event, Vineyard Church, Winchester.	
	Next meeting: December 9th (via teams)	

Action	Action responsibility	Completion date requested	Completed	Updates
1. MB to request ICB comms sent as priority re RTC.	Michelle Broughton	Priority	Yes	shared and ZB sent to HAPB members
2. RC/MB to share updated charter with JN to ensure wording aligns with HCC.	Rachel Carter	asap	Yes	sent to ZB & JN 8/10
	Michelle Broughton			
3. MK to come back to talk about community hubs	Mark Kingswood	17/12/2025 - Dec HAPB		
4. MK to send future MDT role adverts to ZB to share via HAPB members	Mark Kingswood	as relevant	Ongoing	
	Zoë Beasley			
5. MB to arrange for relevant person from ICB to attend HAPB to discuss DSR and link to ZB.	Michelle Broughton	asap		
6. MB to confirm who the LDAP contact is	Michelle Broughton	by next HAPB		
7. GMT rep to attend ASG/HAPB going forward.	Michelle Broughton	by next ASG	Ongoing	
	Zoë Beasley			
8. ZB to link SEND Youth Forum to ACORNS	Zoë Beasley			
9. Link MK with SP & HK	Zoë Beasley			
10. RC & DC to follow up regarding NAS South Hampshire collab with ACoRNs	Rachel Carter			
	David Carter			
11. Bring details about DWP support employment input to December HAPB	Jason Norum	17/12/2025 - Dec HAPB	Ongoing	
	Zoë Beasley			

Hampshire Autism Voice (HAV) Update Brief to Hampshire Autism Partnership Board (HAPB)

Tuesday 16 September 2025

The following update from HAV covers their activities since June 2025.

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10	Proposed government changes to Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs).....	3
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1 Autism Ambassadors

HAV is a partner in this scheme along with Hampshire County Council (HCC), Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council, Isle of Wight Council, Autism Hampshire and NAS South Hampshire branch.

- One training session has been delivered since the June HAPB meeting. This was an in-person training session that took place in Romsey in June adding a further 15 people appointed as Ambassadors, bringing the total to 1347. A further online training course is scheduled in September, and an in-person course is scheduled in October in Gosport.
- The 2025 annual conference will take place on 6 November at Ashburton Hall. It will be a hybrid conference this year. Two speakers will present, Dave Serpell-Stevens on School Avoidance and Jess Hendrickx on Transition from School to Employment.
- Membership renewal for 25/26 will began in April and so far, 182 people have renewed, bringing the total funds raised this year to £1,193.
- New training material has been released and was tested successfully at the Romsey training course.

2 HAV membership

Since the last HAPB in June, we have welcomed another new member to HAV, completing the current HAV group. Our new member has recruitment industry background and is keen to use his experience to help champion neurodiverse recruitment and employment best practice. He will join us for his first meeting in October.

3 HAPB Project Co-ordinator

Zoë Beasley our HAPB project co-ordinator has now taken over the responsibilities of co-ordinator for the Learning Disability Partnership in addition to her HAPB role. We do wish her well and hope that she has enough contracted hours to carry out both roles.

4 Autism Steering Group (ASG)

Several HAV members attend the ASG. Since the last HAPB, the following topics were discussed:

- There is currently no ICB representative at the ASG due to staff cuts.
- Frimley ICB is being absorbed into neighbouring areas.

- Autism Hampshire update – National Lottery funding has been procured for the Serendipity groups.
- Concerns about use of the Portsmouth Neurodiversity Profiling Tool
- Discussion about transport changes for post 16-year-olds.
- Autism Assessment Referrals and Right to Choose (see item 17 below)

5 AHC Strategy Meeting

Two HAV members were invited to attend this meeting along with two representatives from the Carers Partnership. The focus was on Prevent, Reduce and Delay. Public Health data was shared showing that the population is becoming increasingly older. There was a health inequalities discussion regarding the Live Better Longer initiative. Our HAV members were able to provide input to the discussions from the autism angle, helping to feed into the AHC strategy going forward.

6 Hampshire Carers Partnership (HCP) & Board

Three HAV members represent us on this Partnership, including its Partnership Board.

Since the last HAPB meeting there have been two Carers Board meetings. These meetings included topics such as ASCOF (Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework) and a presentation from Dr Lesley Stevens Chief Quality and Engagement Officer from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Trust which was formed on the 1st October 2024. Lesley explained the vision and values of the organisation. The new Trust Strategy was explained and the Transformation Priorities within

6.1 Carer's sub-group update:

At the August meeting the CEO of the PRTC (Princess Royal Trust for Carers) Kerry Hearsey explained the Carers Contract.

6.2 Carers Partnership Learning Disability (LD) working group

At the August meeting the discussion concentrated on the changes and access to bus services in Hampshire. This included an in-depth discussion about the changes to the "Companion" Bus Pass. Attendees referenced that some local MPs have become involved in this campaign

7 Personalisation Expert Panel (PEP)

Our HAV representatives regularly attend the monthly PEP meetings. During recent meetings the following topics were discussed:

- At the June meeting the following presentations were made by Ruth Gongalves Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) manager, Adrian Ridley Business Manager HSAB and Sarah Taylor Suicide Prevention & Adult Mental Wellbeing Public Health HCC. During their extensive slide presentations our HAV representative asked why autism (which is not a mental health) was not included in their presentations when it can be a contributing factor with suicide. Sarah stated that Autism was added as a priority population for the 2022 suicide strategy.
- At the July meeting Jess Hutchison Director of Adult Services presented an update regarding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and devolution. Our HAV representative asked what would happen to the HAPB post devolution. The inclusion of other areas basically SHIP based (as was the original HAPB area) will affect all existing partnerships.
- The August meeting discussed proposals and changes to PEP going forward.

8 Combined Autism and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) diagnosis

Concerns have been raised in support groups that two different companies are commissioned to assess for Autism and ADHD diagnoses separately, and this is causing problems for those with combined autism and ADHD diagnoses, as they need two separate referrals, with associated delays. The providers are The Owl Centre for autism only and PHL Group for ADHD only. It used to be standard that an autism assessment would include assessment for relevant co-morbidities including ADHD as well.

HAV recommends that there should be a process to identify people who are likely to have a combined diagnosis of autism and ADHD. Such people should be referred to organisations that are able to assess for both autism and ADHD simultaneously during one appointment. This would save time, resources and money, and will help reduce the assessment waitlist.

9 HIOW ICB Neurodivergence Working Group

Two HAV members have joined this new group, led by Diana Taphouse, Senior Delivery Manager (All-age Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, Neurodivergence) at HIOW ICB. They are looking for adults with lived experience to join. The remit of the group is needs led pathways, shaping early support and waiting well initiatives, information and advice, collaboration and partnership. Ultimately, they will help to improve experiences and outcomes for autistic adults and adults with ADHD in the area.

10 Proposed government changes to Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs)

There are worrying indications that the government plans to weaken or remove rights of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) children in the Children and Families Act 2014. This could leave some children and young people with no legally enforceable right to an accessible education that meets their needs.

There is no indication yet how they will replace the ECHP, and whether they will remove the statutory duty too.

11 New NHS long-term plan

The [Government has published its 10-Year Plan for the NHS](#). It is based on three general shifts:

- hospitals to communities
- analogue to digital
- sickness to prevention

It is a very high-level strategy (political) document that doesn't say anything new. The 10 Year Plan makes little reference to specific groups facing inequalities, with no mention at all of autism in the main body of document. Primary care funding has been reduced from 8% to 6%. Primary care funding needs to be increased if they want to make progress with these proposed "shifts".

12 Neurodiversity Summer Conference

A HAV member recently attended the Royal College of Psychiatrists & Royal College of General Practitioners Neurodevelopmental Special Interest Groups (NDPSIGs) joint online all-day Neurodiversity Summer Conference. One presentation analysed the co-morbidities of patients with a neurodiverse diagnosis in a single practice of about 11,000 patients, of whom 8,505 were aged 18-50 years (practice prevalence is 5.4%). These suggested that the prevalence of neurodiversity in patients with certain diagnoses is greater than 20% including gastroparesis (62.5%), postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS) (60.0%), fibromyalgia (33.3%), hypermobility (32.8%), chronic fatigue syndrome (31.3%), BMI>40 ever (20.2%).

13 Gosport Primary Care Network

Rachel Hunter, Primary Care Network Manager for Southern Health NHS runs the Gosport Primary Care Network. Every surgery in Gosport has a wellbeing group. Rachel has asked a HAV member to help the surgeries with suggestions for reasonable adjustments.

14 HCC Tutor Funding

There is currently a backlog of tutor contracts signed by HCC ready for the start of term. This means the student misses out on education for 2-3 weeks until contracts are put in place. Some students have fatigue or executive functioning difficulties and cannot easily make the time up. Often the tutor doesn't have time slots available to make up the time either. This also happened at the start of the summer term this year.

15 Mental Health and Autism Charter

The Mental Health and Autism Charter developed from a 2016 consultation between the NAS South Hampshire Branch and Healthwatch Hampshire. Responses from people who filled in surveys and attended workshops showed that mental health services didn't cater for autistic people. A report and a video were produced, the significance of which was identified by the Board and Jason Brandon, HCC lead for Mental Health at the time. He responded by setting up a working group to develop the Charter. The Charter is a set of principles that providers sign up to when working with autistic people. It was launched in early 2020 and some organisations had signed up to it but until the Covid pandemic happened and stalled the roll-out.

HAV is working with Michelle Broughton, ICB lead for Children and Young People - Neurodiversity to relaunch the Charter. Michelle has tweaked the approved wording to include ADHD. A relaunch event is being planned for later this year.

It is proposed that the Charter should be jointly owned by the HAPB and the ICB (not HCC).

16 HIOW ICB Transformation Project update

HAV members helped co-produce diagnostic referral questionnaires for the ICB to better understand public needs and clinician perspectives on autism and ADHD. Unfortunately, progress stalled after March. A HAV member has been chasing this and sharing background information regarding the original scope and purpose with Michelle Broughton to enable this to progress

17 Autism Assessment Referrals and Right to Choose

Dan Simmonds, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, and Managing Director, Psicon, attended the Autism Steering Group meeting on 4th September 2025 to discuss the issues relating to Right to Choose for people who have been referred for an Autism or ADHD assessment.

When patients are referred to a hospital or community provider as an outpatient or elective referral, the referring clinician will usually send a referral letter or document to the preferred provider. All patients have the option to nominate a different provider through a scheme called "Right to Choose". The newly nominated provider is not allowed to decline the referral, if the referral is appropriate. This may lead to duplication in the system.

The number of referrals for autism and ADHD assessments has increased massively such that demand has exceeded the capacity of the system to manage. For example, referrals to Psicon for autism assessment via Right to Choose increased from 25 in November 2023 to 2,500 in November 2024.

NHS England have given ICBs the authority to negotiate Indicative Activity Plans (IAPs) with providers and agree reasonable levels of activities with providers. HIOW ICB have decided that they will allocate a finite amount to Right to Choose providers, and when that runs out activities will cease.

Locally, regarding autism and ADHD assessments, our understanding is that the HIOW ICB has decided that:

- Their decision requires the cessation of all activities immediately
- There is an exception where providers are providing ADHD medication
- This is the same for all providers, not just Psicon
- Patient choice will be reduced

The indication is that there will be a 9 to 12-month waitlist increase as people move back to the NHS waitlist.

HIOW ICB has drafted a letter to patients on the waitlist to warn them that they are unlikely to be seen this year, however this seems to have been published on social media before supporting organisations such as Autism Hampshire and NAS South Hampshire Branch have had a chance to prepare for the inevitable increase in calls to their helplines. We are concerned that those on the waitlist will not fully understand the implications of the letter.

Below is a summary of HAV concerns:

References to the Board include Hampshire Autism Steering Group, Hampshire Autism Voice, and appropriate members of the Board

No	Issue	Comment	Moving forward
1	HIOW ICB officers' level of engagement with the Partnership Board	- This process and events have clearly been taking place for several months. - It is disappointing that a provider's representative was the first person to inform us about these events and not ICB representatives. - We feel that the ICB is entitled, if not obligated, to share their narrative and version of events with the Board.	A senior ICB representative: - Explain what has been happening, - Share relevant documentation, - Explain the likely way forward - Advise how the Board and its constituent partners can or should be appropriately involved in this process?
2	Clinician engagement with this process	The provider representative explained that he has not spoken with any clinical stakeholders in any of the many ICBs with whom his company works.	An ICB representative discuss with the Board about - With whom it has consulted on clinical issues, - The clinical advice received - The ICB's evaluation of that clinical advice.
3	Co-production	Has there been involvement of experts-by-experience, their families and carers during the decision-making process about limiting or delaying autism and ADHD assessments? Has this been to appropriate NHS England and other recognised standards?	An ICB representative to inform the Board about co-production relating to the decision to cease all activities with immediate effect, etc
4	Equality and Impact Assessment (EIA)	Our understanding is that there is a public sector equality duty (PSED), which is required by law. An Equality and Impact Assessment is an established and credible tool for demonstrating due regard towards this duty	An ICB representative to: - Share the latest EIA with the Board. - If appropriate, update after consultation and co-production with the Board and others.
5	Indicative Activity Plans (IAPs)	We understand that these have been issued to all providers of autism and ADHD assessments.	An ICB representative to: - Explain about IAPs to the Board. - If appropriate, update after consultation and co-production with the Board and others.
6	Issues and risks assessments	- There are clearly risks of working with undiagnosed groups of neurodiverse people - Has there been an assessment and evaluation of the issues and risks associated with reduction of engagement with undiagnosed groups of neurodiverse people?	An ICB representative to: - Share any relevant issues and risks assessments with the Board - If appropriate, update after consultation and co-production with the Board and others.

No	Issue	Comment	Moving forward
7	Guidelines and “good practice”	Is the ICB following any relevant statutory guidelines or recognised “good practice”?	An ICB representative to: Share the ICB’s approach on this topic
8	Judicial Review proceedings	We are aware that there have been potential “judicial review” proceedings relating to autism assessments, e.g. Bristol (April 2023) ^{1 2}	An ICB representative to: - Advise how the ICB is seeking to mitigate or reduce the risk of judicial reviews relating to autism and ADHD assessments - Advise if any such judicial reviews are pending against the ICB
9	ICB Communications (“comms”) with patients on waiting lists	- We have become aware of the publication of a letter on social media before it had been shared with people on waiting lists for autism and ADHD assessments. - This letter appears to be from the ICB and addressed to people who are on waiting lists for an autism or ADHD assessment. The letter explains about what the ICB is doing about the situation.	Our impression is that this letter may benefit from being co-produced, as experts-by-experience, their families and carers would be able to assist in improving the wording.

¹ BBC News Legal challenge launched over autism assessment changes in Bristol 14th April 2023
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-65274593> viewed 11th September 2025

² LocalGovernmentLawyer Parent-carer group raise funds for judicial review against Integrated Care Board over autism assessment criteria changes 14th April 2023 <https://localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/healthcare-law/405-healthcare-news/53565-parent-carer-group-raise-funds-for-judicial-review-against-integrated-care-board-over-autism-assessment-criteria-changes> viewed 11th September 2025

18 Local Groups feedback

HAV members continue to be involved or in touch with many autism support groups across the county. The latest information includes:

National Autistic Society South Hampshire Branch (www.shantsnas.org.uk)

- Their AGM was on 21 July. The speaker was Carolyn Elliott, an experienced Speech and Language Therapist, who works professionally with autistic people. She spoke on the subjects of autistic communication, double empathy and social thinking.
- Seven exclusive members-only subsidised summer boat trips with Wetwheels were completed in July and gave over 70 members a great experience.
- Trip to Marwell Zoo last month was enjoyed by 70 members.
- A trip to the Watercress Line on 19 October has been arranged and sold out within 24 hours. Another trip has been organised to Circus Starr on 22 September.
- Videos of the Autism Seminar 2025 are now available on their website.
- The Autism Support Group, Partners Support Group, Lego Club, and Family Youth Club will take place as usual in September. Number for the Family Youth Club are low however and is at risk of closing if numbers don't improve. Southampton Social Group for Adults is going strong, but the Children's group is also at risk of closing if numbers don't improve

Gosport Neurodivergent Group

This new group now have a page on the Gosport Borough Council website. It will be launched at Your Space on the High Street in Gosport at the end of October.

Autism Support Group in Totton

This group, run by Youth and Families Matter (YFM), a community project of Testwood Baptist Church, is being well attended.

Friends of In Touch (www.friendsofintouch.org.uk)

Continue to support children and young people in their weekly youth clubs, and a young adults' social group. This is the organisation's 20th year and currently has funding from the National Lottery for another 4 years.

The Zone, Farnborough

Zone In sessions for children and their families, once per month and in the school holidays.

Supportive Parents of Asperger Children Everywhere (SPACE) (Havant)

Monthly group continues to meet at the Heron pub in Leigh Park.

September 2025

Hampshire **Autism** Partnership Board

PARTNER UPDATES

Reporting date –

Reporting person –

HAPB lead for organisation –

Organisation –

Key relevant service/personnel updates

Current autism strategy action plan updates

Current obstacles in meeting actions

Hampshire **Autism** Partnership Board

PARTNER UPDATES

Reporting date – August 2025

Reporting person – Mark Kingswood/ Becci Murphy

HAPB lead for organisation –Becci Murphy

Organisation – Education and Inclusion, HCC

Key relevant service/personnel updates

- Since April 2025, Mark Kingswood has assumed the role of County Education Manager for vulnerable children and works alongside Becci Murphy to lead on E and I's work in this area
- Mark and Becci, have been working alongside key personnel from E and I and the ICB to develop the early stages of the Hampshire Neurodiversity MDT. We have begun to widen the scope and membership of the implementation group, to ensure the development of the service takes account of the views of all stakeholders.

Examples of current joint working:

- Video script has been shared with multiple professionals including Zoë Beasley and partnership board members (via Zoë).
- Implementation group for education in collaboration with ICB exploring how to create a Hampshire model for needs-led approach to Neurodiversity

Current autism strategy action plan updates

- Autism trainings across HCC Education and Inclusion branch (in addition to Hampshire Autism) have been collated in preparation for MDT developments.
- Educational Psychologists have held a training day for EPs to discuss language use and recommendations for neurodivergent children and young people in education
- Post 16 autism strategy actions almost completed.
- Education strategy actions to be reviewed in light of MDT developments.
- Neurodiversity affirming use of language – script developed and has been recorded by neurodivergent HCC professional. To be disseminated across HCC (for professional's use).
- Memorandum of Understanding and funding has been agreed for ND MDT. An Implementation Group is working towards full roll-out by April 2026. We are currently recruiting for a Service Lead, with interviews planned for September 2025

What outcomes have been observed so far:

- Change in understanding of neuro-divergent affirming approaches across HCC
- Language use has been developed, and changes are being seen in statutory reports for neurodivergent children and young people.

Current obstacles in meeting actions

- Notwithstanding the usual challenges with balancing workloads and managing capacity, timing and finance, there are no current specific obstacles to report.
- There have been challenges with the scale and detail of the strategy and the need to refine the education strand to secure understanding and engagement and a sense of achievability.

Hampshire **Autism** Partnership Board

PARTNER UPDATES

Reporting date – 22/08/2025

Reporting person – Nicki Martin

HAPB lead for organisation – Andrew Lund

Organisation – Hampshire County Council Childrens Services

Key relevant service/personnel updates

- Disabled Childrens Teams (DCT) in Childrens Services have aligned with the Family Help Model from August 2025. There will continue to be a dedicated team to support families of children with Disabilities within Hampshire alongside Family Help Teams.
- Court of protection applications continue to rise for children in residential placements age 16 in order to ensure all restrictions are lawful.
- **Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP)** marks the beginning of the Government's roll-out of social care reforms across the country. It aims to keep more children safe, through the implementation of Family Help, multi-agency child protection and family group decision making reforms. Hampshire have been awarded funding by the Department for Education (DfE) to be used across the breadth of prevention services between April 2025 and March 2026.

Hampshire **Autism** Partnership Board

PARTNER UPDATES

Reporting date –

Reporting person – Zoë Beasley

HAPB lead for organisation – Jason Norum

Organisation – Younger Adults, AHC, HCC

Key relevant service/personnel updates

- **Devolution** - [Hampshire County Council prepares to finalise plans for simpler, stronger and more secure local councils](#) - full County Council will meet on 24th September to consider final proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The Cabinet is expected to confirm the final proposal on 26th September, before it is submitted to Government. Details of the engagement survey can be found via link - [Local Government Reorganisation - public and stakeholder engagement](#)
- **New Chief Executive** – Gary Westbrook officially started his role on 4th August - [Hampshire County Council to confirm appointment of new Chief Executive | Hampshire County Council](#)
- **CQC** – In July HCC received official notification of upcoming assessment by CQC. HCC has submitted self assessment documentation (referred to as Information Returns) to CQC ahead of the onsite inspection activity in November. There is an Executive Summary of the documentation that has been submitted which we wish to share with partners who may be contacted by CQC as part of their inspection visit. Further information will follow.
- **Wait times in Cart/MASH** – There has been a big focus on reducing wait times and meeting current demand with c.1000 referrals being processed in last seven weeks. There has also been an 85% reduction in the online referral waiting list within MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) meaning that HCC is getting to safeguarding concerns in a timelier manner.

Current autism strategy action plan updates

- **PREVENT** – DSL survey detailed to ASG – opportunity for co-production to create resources to meet needs identified from survey.
- **Autism Ambassadors** – additional comms have gone out which has brought new ambassadors forward and using the HCC team's channel. The older adults' team are keen to look at if the same model we have in YA could take happen. Our children's autism leads have also agreed they are happy to become ambassadors.
- **Co-production leads** are meeting to look at what opportunities are in place and how we build links with communities more. Has been useful platform to ensure what need to be thought about for engaging with autistic individuals, having clear comms/easy reads in place from outset. A regular report is shared DMT on work that is happening which will aid in aligning engagement.
- **HAPB representation** continued at HCC staff roadshows, provider forums, external engagement events such as PACE events, social prescribers.
- **Autism data** – within CSD systems are working to have it show if a child has an EHCP; Donna Harrison is looking at how we might bring this information through to adults to understand demand and what support it required more effectively. Also looking at how we can obtain data of users of services that have an autism diagnosis on care director so we can have clearer idea of numbers in HCC.

What outcomes have been observed so far:

- Had two people register interested from co-production communications that went out wanting to be part of the HAPB.

Current obstacles in meeting actions

- Devolution and LGR means some elements of the actions may need to be readdressed once the new structures are established, but a lot of the details are not known yet. Some service users are nervous about what Devolution and LGR may mean for the services they currently use. The engagement survey showed individuals with disabilities had less understanding about what Devolution and LGR meant.
- Capacity within HAPB more challenging with increase in portfolios.

How are these challenges being addressed/taken forward:

- Easy Read on Devolution has been created (last draft being finalised) to help with understanding and alleviate concerns.
- Working with Donna Harrison to look at how capacity can be managed and what additional support can be offered.

Please detail any current success stories or case studies that demonstrate the positive impact of the strategy on the lives of autistic individuals

- Zoë attended a recent PACE event on 'Embracing Autism' that is run in partnership with CAMHS and the HPCN with a stall for HAPB. There was some fantastic interactions and received feedback that they felt the stalls (which also included SENDIASS and Autism Hampshire) were as beneficial as the talks given. From the feedback we have been asked to attend another PACE event for another location.

Spoke with a particular parent that was being given incorrect advice regarding diagnosis and EHCP's from son's school and has since emailed to say she has met with SENCo and advised them on correct process and now support plan is being put into place.

Hampshire **Autism** Partnership Board

PARTNER UPDATES

Reporting date – 26/08/2025

Reporting person – Alison Dyer

HAPB lead for organisation – Alison Dyer

Organisation – DWP (Department of Work and Pensions)

Key relevant service/personnel updates

- My post as Disability Employment Adviser (DEAL) for Solent & IoW has come to an end. Jeanette Mansbridge will be the new DEAL for the area from 1st September 2025. Her email is JEANETTE.S.MANSBRIDGE@DWP.GOV.UK

Include any examples of current joint working:

- The DEA team will be represented at a Neurodivergent round table event taking place in Portsmouth during September. This will be looking at Welfare Reform and Employment Support.
- We have begun working with Toucan Diversity - They are a CIC who provide accredited training for disabled people, by disabled people. She contacted me as she is looking for some volunteers.. The roles that she identified are: Web Development, Social Media, Marketing, Fundraising, Content Writing. They provide all the training and support and also complete a personal development plan with their volunteers and work with them to use the skills they have learnt to get into paid employment. They can put their volunteers through confidence building as well. The majority of their work is done from home but they have lots of online engagement and meet in an office environment for a team meeting once a month. They are also looking at apprenticeships as well.

Current autism strategy action plan updates

- As part of our commitment to supporting the local DWP Youth NEET Zero project, the DEA's will be running a Group Information Session once a month starting 10th Sept. It will focus on support that is available to young jobseekers with a health condition or disability to help them to move into and sustain paid employment.. The session will cover Access to Work, Disclosing a Health Condition, Support organisations etc.
- Disability Confident Employers - This is our very first district Disability Confident forum. This is a virtual event on 4th September 10 – 1. We have guest speakers sharing their experiences and best practice on the benefits of joining the Disability Confident scheme and progressing through the levels. We have a presentation from Access to Work and a guest speaker on how working has changed his life and what reasonable adjustments can be made. We will close with a session on how DWP and Jobcentres can help local employers.

What outcomes have been observed so far:

- These have not happened at the time of writing

Current obstacles in meeting actions

- Green Paper expectations not fully confirmed to date

How are these challenges being addressed/taken forward:

- Being chased up through the chain

Hampshire **Autism** Partnership Board

PARTNER UPDATES

Reporting date – 02/09/2025

Reporting person – Michelle Broughton

HAPB lead for organisation – Michelle Broughton

Organisation – NHS HIOW

Key relevant service/personnel updates

- The Learning Disabilities, Autism and ADHD Assurance Committee are meeting monthly. It reviews key areas such as CETRAs, DSR and reducing hospital admissions. This ensures progress is monitored and improvements are delivered.

Include any examples of current joint working:

Current autism strategy action plan updates

- Great Minds Together has now been fully mobilised across Hampshire, with 18 Intensive Support Practitioners recruited. Every child and young person (0–25yrs) on the Hampshire Dynamic Support Register (DSR) has been allocated an Intensive Support Practitioner. Families are engaging rapidly with the service, and early intervention is already reducing risk.
- The HIOW ICB is introducing a new Complex Support Register (CSR), which will sit alongside the Dynamic Support Register (DSR) and be centrally managed by GMT. The CSR will identify children and young people (0–25) at risk of hospital admission, including those awaiting diagnosis or who identify as autistic, and provide access to intensive support through GMT. Its aim is to prevent crisis, avoid unnecessary admissions, and reduce the risk of readmission or criminalisation. The register is currently in development and is expected to be implemented within the coming weeks.
- The Clinical Reference Group is progressing work to redesign the all-age ADHD and autism pathway, with a clinically led review focused on creating an assessment pathway and aligning future commissioning with evidence, innovation, and national direction. Meetings recommence 4th September.
- Ongoing efforts are being made to finalising the Autism and ADHD All-Age Referral and Assessment Service Experiences Survey. The survey is in its final refinement stage before sign-off and publication, with input from experts by experience to ensure that all key information is accurately represented and shared.

Current autism strategy action plan updates

- Final touches are being made to the Mental Health Charter, with updated wording to include Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and the overall format under review. Plans are being developed for a relaunch to raise visibility and encourage renewed organisational sign-up. Next steps include clarifying ownership through the Partnership Board and considering options for a launch event.
- Preparation work has taken place on the ND Strategy, but progress has been limited as attention has needed to focus on mobilising immediate improvement work.
- NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board have published a new tender for the delivery of a new service that will provide Autism and ADHD early help community hubs for adults in Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight, and Autism and ADHD information, advice and guidance to individuals and their families, carers and friends across the wider Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIOW) footprint
- <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/050648-2025?origin=Dashboard>

Current obstacles in meeting actions

- Delivering system-wide change remains challenging, with restructuring and workforce changes affecting pace. Nonetheless, steady progress is being made, and key commissioning priorities and workstreams remain on track.
- High demand for diagnostic assessment continues and subsequently Right to choose activity has continued to significantly increase. NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight spends more money on this pathway than our locally commissioned services. The Right to choose pathway is not optimal due to the variation in assessment costs charged, the variance in what we are charged for and the inability to establish strong shared care arrangements.

How are these challenges being addressed/taken forward:

- The overarching workplan is guided by a system-wide Committee, enabling organisations to align priorities and drive progress collectively. Strong collaboration from colleagues continues, with contributions made wherever capacity allows.
- Indicative Activity Plans (IAPs) are being established for our Right To Choose providers, with the aspiration to re-distribute the proportion of spend between our locally commissioned services and Right to Choose. Further communications in regard to our approach, and actions to mitigate any short-term impact to the local population will follow shortly.

Please detail any current success stories or case studies that demonstrate the positive impact of the strategy on the lives of autistic individuals

GTM Feedback given by parent:

- *“Our intensive support practitioner (from GMT) and the GMT team have been a wonderful support both to my daughter and myself.*
- *Our intensive support practitioner has been warm, practical, knowledgeable and approachable from the outset; made a real effort to get to know us and how we work and has offered us practical real-world support and advice that has been invaluable to us in our journey so far. We have been very lucky to find them.”*

Outcomes:

- This young person has now been discharged from inpatient care and returned home, following the removal of her section. This outcome was achieved through effective collaboration between GMT, health, and social care. Throughout DSR meetings and her Care and Treatment Review, she was recognised for her determination and insight.

Hampshire **Autism** Partnership Board

PARTNER UPDATES

Reporting date –

Reporting person – Ann Bryant

HAPB lead for organisation – Ann Bryant/James Breeze

Organisation – NHS Frimley ICB

Key relevant service/personnel updates

- **Future of Frimley ICB –**

- Proposal to dissolve Frimley ICB and form new Thames Valley ICB with Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICB currently on pause whilst awaiting ministerial approval in boundary and geographical changes as the new proposal will mean that Frimley will be split Farnham and Surrey Heath moving to the new Surrey and Sussex ICB and North East Hampshire to Hampshire and IOW ICB.
- Clustering arrangements between ICBs will commence on 1st October – the clustering arrangements cover Frimley as a whole and not just East Berkshire.
- No national or regional announcement on funding or whether the new ICBs will come into effect from April 2026 or April 2027.

Current autism strategy action plan updates

- **Section 117 care packages –**
 - Frimley ICB is currently working with Hampshire ICB to review all S117 care packages to ensure patients are receiving the correct level of support, we are also working more closely to link our teams and review processes better.
- **Reasonable Adjustment Digital Flag –**
 - Project is progressing, the ICB now has a digital lead that will drive this part of the project forward to ensure all of our technical operating systems and IT suppliers have engaged with NHS England to commence the technical integration, to and from the RADF using digital integration.
 - All of our providers have signed up to commence technical onboarding to enable the digital flag to be available on NHS Spine.
 - NHS SE Region is pulling together an implementation group made up of representatives from differing teams across ICBs.
- **Medicines Safety Improvement Programme -** Frimley ICB has signed up to be part of MedSIP
 - This programme aims to address the most important causes of severe harm associated with medicines, most of which have been known about for years but continue to challenge the health and care systems in England. The programme affects safety culture, safety systems and the high-risk medicines in common use.

Hampshire **Autism** Partnership Board

PARTNER UPDATES

Reporting date –

Reporting person –

HAPB lead for organisation –

Organisation – **NHS LDAP and Inpatient Team**

Key relevant service/personnel updates

- No information provided

Current autism strategy action plan updates

- No information provided

Hampshire **Autism** Partnership Board

PARTNER UPDATES

Reporting date – September 2025

Reporting person – PS 21994 Emma Pragnell

HAPB lead for organisation – PS 21994 Emma Pragnell

Organisation – Hampshire & IOW Constabulary

Key updates

- PS Pragnell now has a regular update space within Disproportionality Board to raise issues/requests. Working with Custody Autism Ambassador lead to improve numbers and training.
- New support and signposting page for Officers/Staff to use within the Voluntary Interview process. Mandatory sections required for Appropriate Adult and Legal advice to be completed. Mandatory risk assessments to assist with identifying any support required.
- Subject is now covered within the Operational Leadership Course – new to role Inspectors and Sergeants. Includes support signposting, decision making process and investigation considerations. This covers all areas of force, not just the Custody Investigation Teams.

Hampshire **Autism** Partnership Board

PARTNER UPDATES

Reporting date –

Reporting person –

HAPB lead for organisation – Sarah Power

Organisation – CPS (Crown Prosecution Service)

Key relevant service/personnel updates

- No information provided

Current autism strategy action plan updates

- No information provided

Hampshire **Autism** Partnership Board

PARTNER UPDATES

Reporting date – 21/5/25

Reporting person – Cheryl Claxton

HAPB lead for organisation – Cheryl Claxton

Organisation – Autism Hampshire

Key relevant service/personnel updates

- Verbal update to be given on day.

Hampshire **Autism** Partnership Board

PARTNER UPDATES

Reporting date –

Reporting person –

HAPB lead for organisation – Paul Richardson

Organisation – HPCN (Hampshire Parent Carer Network)

Key relevant service/personnel updates

- PINS update to be given as part of pathway and ICB updates.
- *No further updates as this time due to summer break.*



HAVING WORRIES ABOUT MOVING TO SENIOR SCHOOL?



INTRODUCING ... OFF THE RECORD'S NEW MANAGING TRANSITION EMOTIONS WORKSHOP

A WORKSHOP EXPLORING
THE THOUGHTS, FEELINGS
AND EMOTIONS
SURROUNDING THE
TRANSITION FROM YEAR 6
TO YEAR 7, DESIGNED TO
HELP YOUNG PEOPLE
MANAGE THE CHANGE
MORE EFFECTIVELY.

HELD ON 2 DAYS DURING
THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS
28TH JULY OR 22ND
AUGUST 2025

RUNNING FROM
12:45PM - 4:15PM
AT LEIGH PARK
COMMUNITY CENTRE ON
DUNSBURY WAY

CALL: 02392 474724
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**NEW
SCHOOL
New
Sprits**



ABC



2024 Annual Report

Executive Summary

Angela Gill, Chair of Trustees



In the past year, Age Concern Gosport has continued to deliver vital support and advocacy for older residents across the borough, with a strong focus on financial wellbeing, health, and social care. This has included: -

Information & Benefit Application Support: the Co-ordinator and small but friendly team of trained Volunteers have supported 459 individuals, helping them navigate complex welfare systems and access the support they are entitled to.

Financial Impact: Age Concern Gosport successfully secured £392,390 in benefits for our Clients - a 38% increase from the previous year - demonstrating the growing need and effectiveness of our services.

Geographic Reach: The highest levels of benefit support were provided in the wards of Lee East, Alverstoke, and Elson, highlighting key areas of need within that area of Gosport's community.

Referral Trends: The most common referrals were for Welfare Benefits, Adult Social Care, and Support Groups, including those for Bereavement, Dementia, and Carers Support.

Health Insights: Among our clients, prevalent health conditions included High Cholesterol & Blood Pressure, Osteoporosis/Rheumatoid Arthritis, and Heart Conditions, underscoring the importance of integrated health and social care support.

Staff and Volunteer Contribution: Our dedicated Volunteers contributed 632 hours, playing a crucial role in delivering our services and maintaining community engagement. We continue to be grateful for all the hard work and vital community outreach and quality assurance, undertaken by Age Concern Gosport's experienced Co-ordinator, Angela Gould.

Funding Support: We gratefully acknowledge a £10,000 grant from Hampshire County Council's Connect4Communities – Household Support Fund for 2024, which helped us to continue our important mission also, the much-valued, continued funding received from Gosport Borough Council.

Community First: After Gosport Voluntary Action merged with Community First in October 2024, Age Concern Gosport became a member of Community First. We continue to support the project's local financial outcomes for Gosport residents - as part of the Close Encounters partnership project.

Age Concern Gosport remains committed to empowering older people, reducing isolation, and ensuring access to essential services. I would personally like to thank once again, our Co-ordinator, Volunteers, Partners, and Funders for their continued support.

We continue to look for a Trustee for a few hours a quarter and a Volunteer who has a couple of hours a week for a really rewarding role as one of the small but friendly team of Information Assistants. Full training will be given for both roles – please contact Angela Gould in the first instance – coordinator@ageconcerngosport.org.uk

Our Services

Age Concern Gosport is supported by Gosport Borough Council; it offers free and impartial information and form filling for people aged 55+ of Gosport including their families and carers. Volunteers can provide:

- ✓ A broad range of information to help people aged 55+ in Gosport. If they don't have the answer, they will direct you to someone who does.
- ✓ Assistance with form filling including Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance, Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Pension Credit and Blue Badge applications.
- ✓ Domestic help information such as cleaning, personal care, mobile hairdressers, chiropodists, gardening, repairs and more.
- ✓ Details of social clubs, day centres, lunch clubs, health and wellbeing services, bereavement and financial support.

The Age Concern Gosport office is situated within Community First (formerly Gosport Voluntary Action) at Martin Snape House, 96 Pavilion Way, Gosport PO121FG. Open Monday to Thursday 10am to 12pm.



Our Volunteers

Elaine, Hilary and Maria continue to dedicate their time and effort to supporting and helping older local people within our community. Each of these volunteers plays a crucial role in delivering essential services, and they are all deeply valued members of the team. Their unwavering commitment and contributions have been instrumental in Age Concern Gosport's ability to serve older residents.

We are incredibly grateful for their time, expertise, support, compassion and the care they bring to their roles. They make a real difference to the lives of older people in Gosport. Without their dedication, the delivery of our services would not be possible.

Elaine



Maria



Hilary

Our Achievements in 2024

459 people were helped

459 General information & signposting provided (of which the following forms were completed...)

87 Attendance Allowance (AA)
62% = Female
38% = Male

23 Blue Badge (BB)
70% = Female
30% = Male

5 Personal Independence Pay (PIP)
60% = Female
40% = Male

92

Financial Benefit claims completed

£392,390

Confirmed benefits received (annual)

632

Volunteer hours given

Referrals to Support Services

Gosport Voluntary/CFirst

Advocacy	19
Befriending	8
Dustbusters	14
Mend & Tend	21

Adult Social Services

31

Home Safety

Personal
Alarms, Fire
Checks
6

Citizens Advice Gosport

11

Mobility Equipment

7

Personal at Home Care

Podiatrist, Hairdresser,
Home Help
21

Transport

Hospital & Shopping
8

Housing

Sheltered &
Care Homes
21

Benefit Enquiries

126

Support Groups

Social Clubs, Bereavement,
Dementia and Carer Support
26

General Enquiries

Letter Writing, Budgeting,
Household Bills
43

Legal

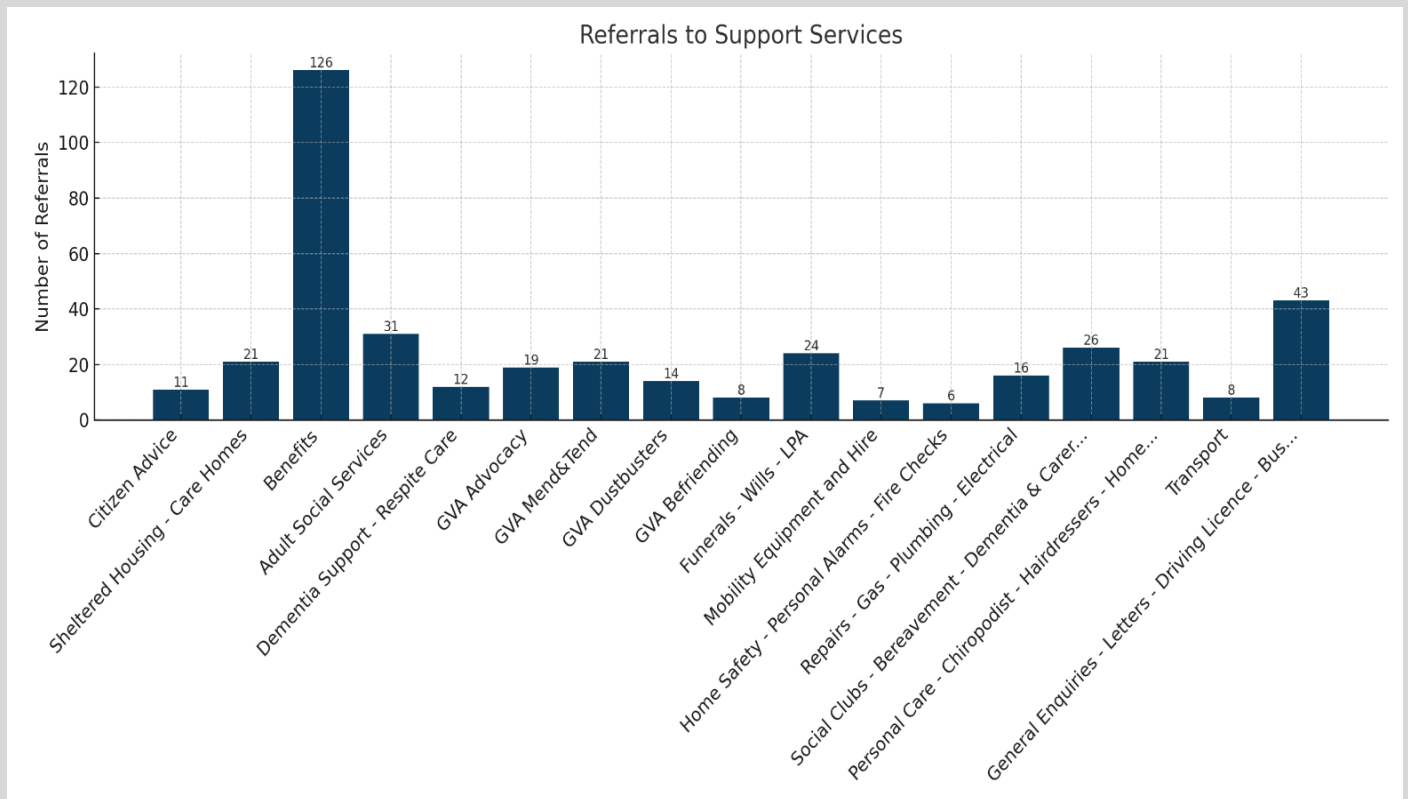
Wills, LPA's & Funerals
24

Repairs

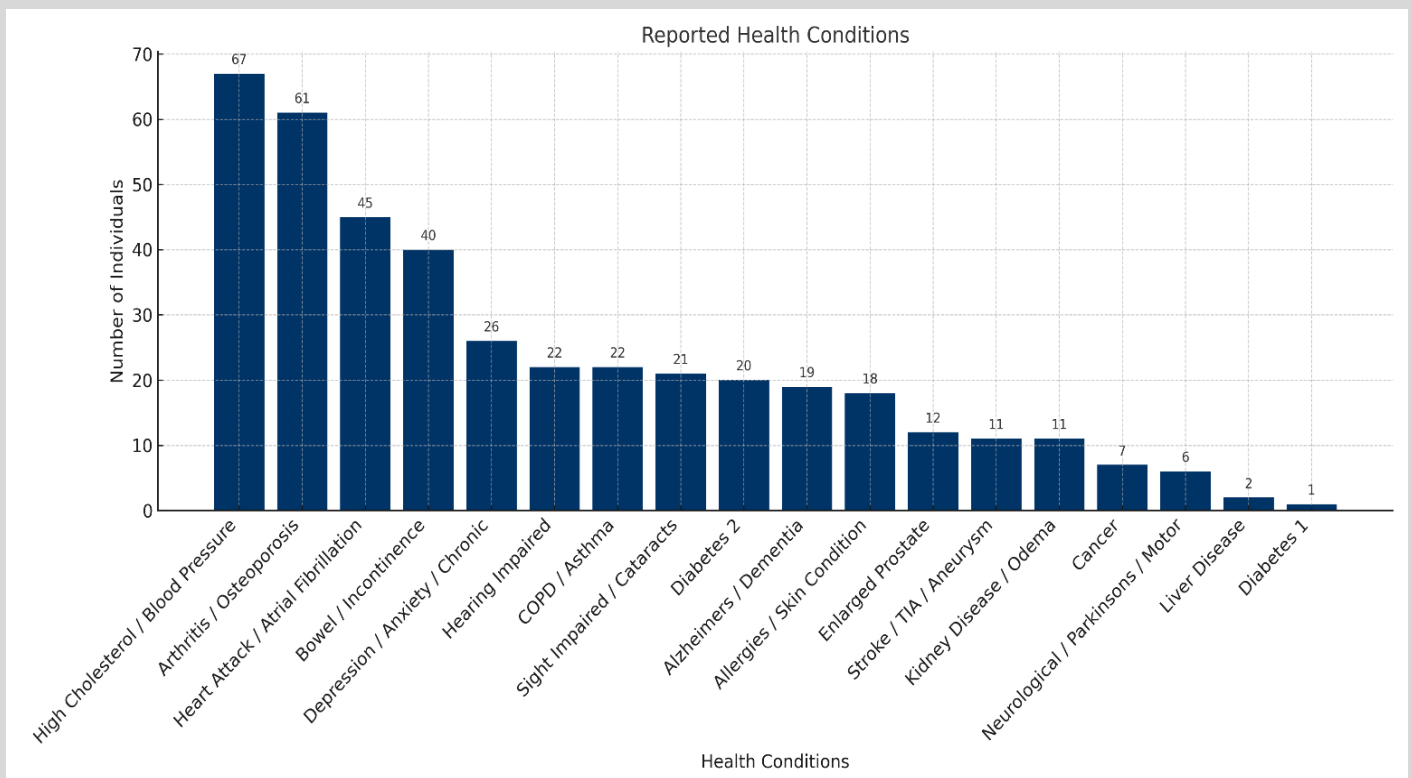
Gas, Plumbing & Electrical
16

Statistics

Referrals to Support Services - (1) Welfare Benefits (2) Adults Social Services (3) Social Clubs, Bereavement, Dementia and Carers Support (4) Funeral Wills & Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)

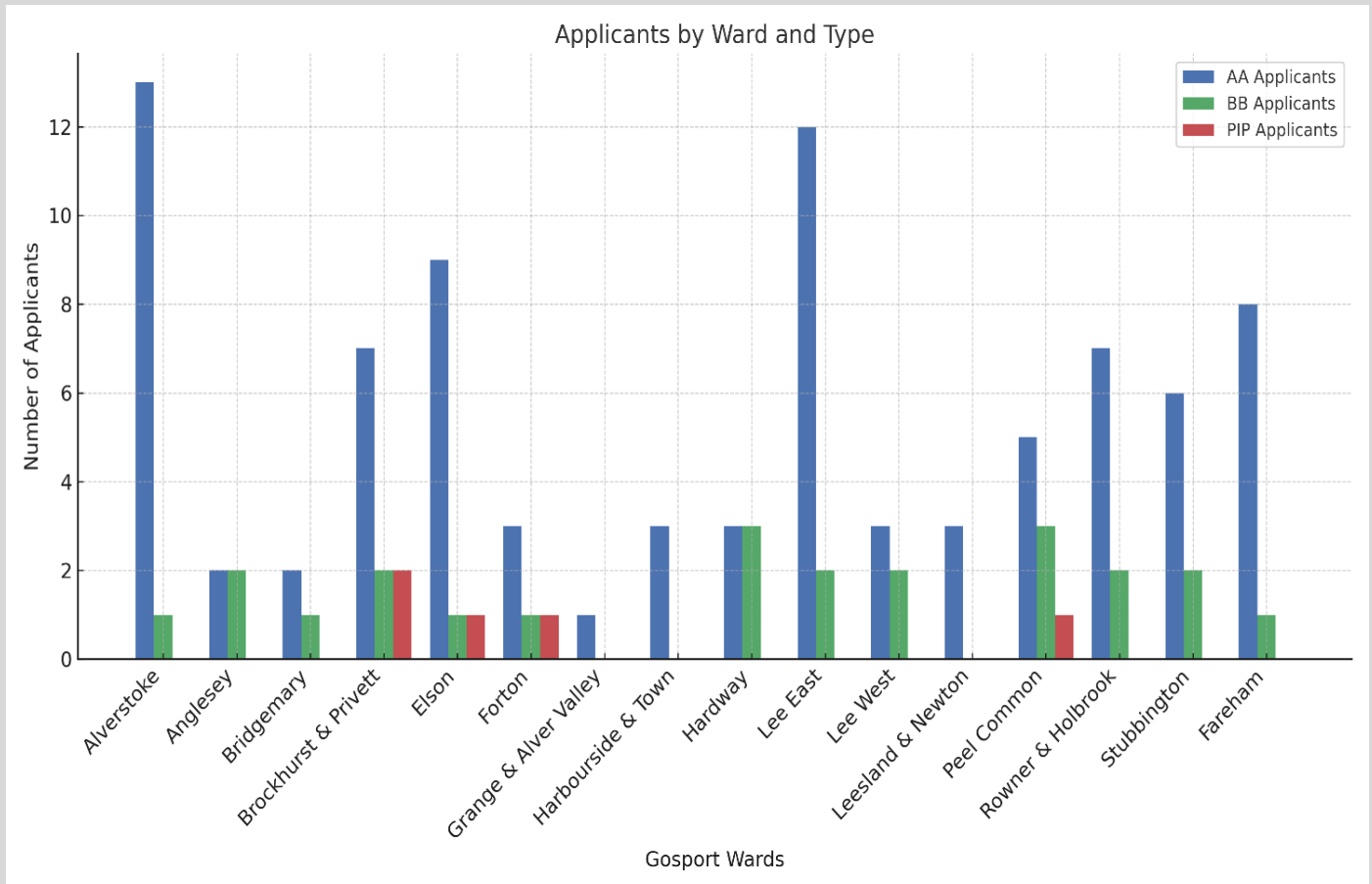


The most common reported Health Conditions - (1) High Cholesterol & Blood Pressure (2) Osteoporosis/Rheumatoid Arthritis (3) Heart Conditions.



Statistics

Applicants by Gosport Wards – (1) Lee East (2) Alverstoke (3) Elson. It is noted that applicants from Stubbington and Fareham were considerably high in numbers too.



Thank You's





Thank You's



It's appreciated a lot for all your help and advice; you are unsung heroes - Anne

Thank you so much for your kindness, humour and expertise with the Attendance Allowance form, much appreciated - Joy

I just want to thank you for the help and your kindness and thoughtfulness will always be remembered. You helped me get a Blue Badge, Thank you very much - Kathryn

Thank you very much for all your help and support filling in all the forms, we really appreciate it - M & H

Thank you for all your help getting PIP, it really means a lot - Janet

Please accept these chocolates as a thank you for your time and work filling in my AA form. I heard this week and have been awarded the highest amount. Thank you once again - Pauline

Thank you so much for all your help with the form filling for our parents Attendance Allowance, it was invaluable; P.S we got the higher rate - N & S

Just to let you know that the claim for Attendance Allowance that you so kindly helped me to fill out has been successful and my wife has been awarded the higher allowance. Thank you very, very Much - Kenneth

Community Events

The **Fareham and Gosport Voluntary Sector Health Forum** and the **Hampshire and Isle of Wight (IoW) Social Prescribing Network** are key initiatives aimed at enhancing health and wellbeing services and community support in Hampshire.



The **Fareham and Gosport Voluntary Sector Health Forum** acts as a bridge between local health services and over 300 community groups in the region, focusing on the needs of people with health conditions. It provides information and quarterly Webinars on a range of topical health-related themes. The Forum's recent face-to-face meeting took place on 12 September 2024 at Gosport Borough Council Chambers, Town Hall, Gosport with 43 attendees and a wide range of local organisations sharing valuable resources and information via Market Stalls, including Age Concern Gosport.



The **Hampshire and IoW Social Prescribing Network**, launched in 2017, connecting patients with non-medical services to improve their health and wellbeing, especially in cases where social issues play a major role in their health concerns. Social Prescribing helps patients find support from community services, such as charities or local council initiatives. The Network, supported by Community First and Gosport Voluntary Action, offers free webinars, regular updates, and newsletters to its 400 members, all focused on social prescribing projects across the county. The Network is funded by Hampshire's Integrated Care System. These programmes aim to integrate health services with community-based care to improve patient outcomes and well-being. Age Concern Gosport is regularly represented at the quarterly Webinars.

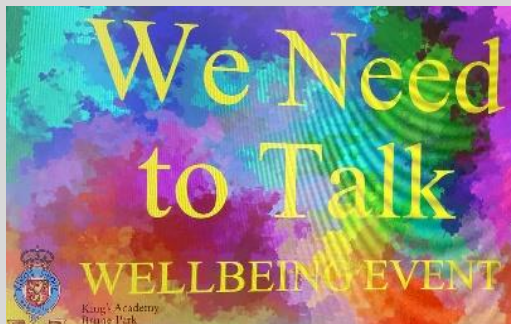
For more information, you can contact healthforums@cfirst.org.uk.

Community Events

Kings Academy – Brune Park School - Mental Health and Safeguarding Event



Age Concern Gosport was pleased to attend a Safeguarding and Mental Health Information Sharing and Support Event held at Brune Park School (Kings Academy) on 30th April, from 4:30–6:00pm. The event focused on encouraging open conversations between parents, carers, and support services around safeguarding and mental health, in a welcoming and inclusive setting. Key aims of the event included, providing a safe space for parents and carers to voice concerns and access support, offering guidance and resources through stalls hosted by professional organisations and strengthening collaboration between stakeholders to support young people and their families.



Attendees engaged informally with a range of local services, including the Mental Health Support Team and Police Community Support Officers. The atmosphere was enhanced by live student music, poetry on the theme of school refusal. Anti-stress giveaways were included in take-home information packs. The event served as a valuable platform for meaningful dialogue and marked a positive step toward ongoing community engagement and support for mental health and wellbeing.

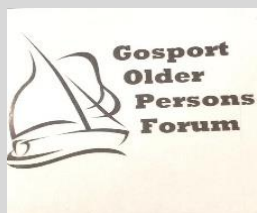
Princess Royal Trust in Partnership with SGN - Home & Well Hubs for Carers



Age Concern Gosport attended the SGN and the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Home and Well Carers Hub events, in both Gosport and Titchfield, ACG provided information on welfare benefits and local support groups. These community events offered advice and support on topics such as energy tariffs, fuel poverty, and accessing the Priority Services Register. Carers were also able to connect with peers and speak to experts about managing energy bills and accessing benefits.

Community Events

Gosport Older Persons Forum – 55+ Infofest



Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gosport proudly hosted an annual exhibition known as Infofest—an event dedicated to promoting the wide range of services, activities, and support available to the over 55's residents in the community. The last event took place in October 2019. Five years on, the Gosport Older Persons Forum (GOPF) successfully revived this much-valued initiative with a more modest version of Infofest, held at the Masonic Hall, 5 Clarence Road, Gosport, on Friday 18th October 2024.



This year's event was designed to gauge current interest and levels of community engagement. GOPF remains committed to the importance of accessible, face-to-face information sharing, particularly for older people who may not regularly use digital platforms. A free raffle was included as part of the event to encourage attendance and participation.

Infofest 2024 was well received by both attendees and participating organisations, and, as a result of its success, planning is already underway for a larger Infofest to be held at Thorngate Halls on Friday October 17th 2025.

Information Desks at Local Hampshire Libraries & Community Hubs

Age Concern Gosport (ACG) sought funding to deliver a community-focused outreach initiative aimed at promoting our free support services to residents aged 55 and over. This initiative includes the delivery of regular Information Desk Days in local libraries, where staff will be available to offer information, advice, and signposting to local services. By engaging directly with local communities through libraries, support groups, and outreach events, we aim to reach those who are most in need, particularly those who may be socially isolated, digitally excluded, or unaware of their entitlements. This targeted approach will ensure that financial and practical support (including Asda and Morrisons Food Vouchers) are directed toward individuals facing disadvantage or hardship.

Elson Community Library and Hub



Bridgemary Library



ASDA

Food Vouchers



Morrisons
Since 1899

Food Vouchers



Financial Benefits and Putting Your House in Order - Presentation Talks

As part of the funding received from the Hampshire County Council Household Support Fund, ACG deliver an engaging 50–60-minute PowerPoint presentation focusing on Age Concern Gosport's information services, with a particular emphasis on Financial Benefits for the Over 55s. Topics covered include practical advice, guidance, and support on how to claim key financial entitlements such as: - Attendance Allowance, Blue Badge, Carer's Allowance, Pension Credit, Personal Independence Payment.



The COPD support group at Gosport Leisure Centre



The presentation also featured a segment titled "Putting Your House in Order" which takes a light-hearted but informative approach to important topics such as Wills, Funeral Plans and Lasting Powers of Attorney, highlighting the value of early planning and preparation. Each session concludes with an open question-and-answer segment, offering attendees the chance to share their experiences and receive tailored guidance in an informal and supportive environment

Bridgemark Library



Community Project Support



Support for a New Frailty Initiative in Gosport

The Primary Care Network – Gosport Locality Manager, Rachel Hunter reached out to ACG to share an exciting new initiative they were currently developing to better support the moderately frail population in Gosport. As part of their commitment to holistic and integrated care, they were launching a pilot project, a 'Carousel'-style surgery, designed to enhance the health and well-being of their patients.



This innovative clinic will provide patients with the opportunity to be seen in one visit by a multidisciplinary team, including a GP, Practice Nurse, Clinical Pharmacist, and Health & Wellbeing Coaches. The carousel model enables a more rounded and co-ordinated approach to care, ensuring patients receive tailored support across various aspects of their health.

As part of the pilot, Hilary, our Volunteer from ACG attended the first session to welcome patients in the waiting area and to help promote the valuable services ACG provides. It was also to add warmth to the experience and offer an important link to further community support for local patients.

Hampshire County Council – Live Longer Better – Gosport Community of Practice

Age Concern Gosport actively contributes to the Live Longer Better in Hampshire – Gosport Community of Practice – a local initiative aligned with the national Live Longer Better programme. The project aims to support older residents in Gosport to live healthier, more independent lives by promoting physical activity, preventing falls, improving hydration and continence, and reducing social isolation. As part of this collaborative group, we are working alongside partners, Gosport Borough Council, Gosport Older Persons Forum, Gosport Primary Care Network – Gosport Locality, Citizens Advice, Community First, Love Outdoors CIC and Gosport Places Leisure to shape and deliver a local action plan that addresses these priorities, with a focus on reducing health inequalities and ensuring long-term sustainability. Our involvement reflects our continued commitment to partnership working for the benefit of our ageing community.



Volunteer Support

Gosport Voluntary Action – Volunteer Cream Tea - June 2024

In 2024, Volunteers' Week (3-9 June) celebrated its 40th year, honouring the invaluable contributions of volunteers across the UK. As part of this celebration, Gosport Voluntary Action invited **Age Concern Gosport** and other local charities and voluntary organisations to come together and recognise the tremendous impact volunteers have on the community. Although the efforts of volunteers often go unseen, their impact is deeply felt throughout society, making events like Volunteers' Week crucial for acknowledging and appreciating their dedication.



This year, Gosport Voluntary Action marked the occasion with a special **Cream Tea event** held on Thursday, 6th June at **Nicholson Gardens, Gosport**, where volunteers and organisations gathered to celebrate the vital role they play in supporting local communities and the voluntary sector.

Acknowledgements

Age Concern Gosport would like to give sincere thanks to all who supported the charity, the organisations and individuals listed are included below.

Organisation	Contribution
Age UK Portsmouth	Support via the Close Encounters funded project
Gosport Borough Council	Continued support and funding
Gosport Voluntary Action & Community First	Support in Close Encounters funded project
Hampshire County Council – Connect4Communities	Funding from the Household Support Fund
University of Portsmouth	External Examination of Accounts

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Tel: 02392 069722
Email: info@ageconcerngosport.org.uk
Website: www.ageconcerngosport.org.uk

Opening Times: Monday to Thursday – 10am – 12noon



Charity Number: 211876

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HEALTH

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an NHS Health Check?

The NHS Health Check is a free health check-up for adults in England aged 40- 74. It's designed to help spot early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes or dementia. As we get older, we have a higher risk of developing one of these conditions. An NHS Health Check helps find ways to lower this risk.

Why should I have an NHS Health Check?

It's not only an opportunity to put right any health problems, but to get personalised advice on keeping yourself healthy and active in the future. After a check you will be more confident and know more about your health. You should also receive personalised advice on how to improve or maintain your health. It will give you the knowledge you need to take control of your health.

What happens after the check?

After your NHS Health Check, you will receive a number of results. This is the time to take action to improve these results to give you a longer, better life. Research shows small changes to your habits can have a beneficial effect on your health. By giving up smoking or taking up regular physical activity you can reduce your risk of heart attack, stroke and cancer. Changes like this could add many years to your life.

What happens at the check?

An NHS Health Check will include:

- height and weight measurements
- blood pressure measurements
- waist measurement
- a simple finger prick test for cholesterol
- questions about your health, diet, exercise and family medical history
- assessment of your level of cardiovascular risk and what you can do to reduce it

Who are Randox Health?

Established in 1982, Randox is the largest healthcare diagnostics company in the UK. Our goal is to provide individuals with access to unrivalled health data that empowers you to take control of your health and make positive changes to help prevent future illness.