



## HCN Locality Network Marketplace and Open Mic Event

**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 at the Stade Hall Hastings**

Hastings Community Network (HCN) Locality Network is one of eight Locality Networks supporting community resilience across East Sussex.

The April 2019 event was planned around the core purpose of all Locality Networks across the county which is to share information and resources, build relationships and collaboration, provide opportunities for mutual support and learning and strengthen community based services. Our networking events can be themed around 'hot topics' identified by network members or can be more open opportunities for individuals organisations and sectors to come together to share their work, ideas, challenges and aspirations.



In response to numerous requests from network members the April event was wholly focussed around networking and information sharing. Marketplace stalls and open mic opportunities were available for those that felt this would be of value and there was a shared information table for any additional leaflets and promotional materials.

**77 participants attended on the day from 46 local organisations** across the voluntary, community, public and independent sectors. **41 evaluation forms** were completed of which thirteen participants identified it was the first HCN Locality Networking event that they had attended and eight said they were attending in an unpaid or voluntary capacity.



**20 organisations booked marketplace stalls to share information about their projects:**

Active Hastings, Age UK East Sussex, Anchor Foster Care, Association of Carers, Care for the Carers, Education Futures Trust, FSN, Hastings Advice and Representation Centre, Healthwatch East Sussex, Heart of Hastings, Heringtons, Home Instead, HRRRA Rainbow Alliance, Jas Fit, One You East Sussex, Project Art Works, SCDA – Let's Get Working, Open for Parents, STEPS, Stroke Association, The Pantry and TCV. There was also a share information table for those who did not wish to have a stand.

**13 projects, or initiatives, shared information as part of the Open Mic space:**

Age UK East Sussex, Anchor Foster Care, Beaconsfield Surgery PPG, Common Treasury, East Sussex County Council Public Health, Education Futures Trust, Heart of Hastings, Jas Fit, Macmillan, My Trust, Open for Parents, Sussex Prisoners Families and The Pantry.





Contributors shared information about new funding coming into the town, the expansion or development of local services, up and coming events, opportunities in the community, focus groups and fundraising activities.

An update on actions agreed as a result of the January HCN, '**Social Prescribing - connecting to the right support across Hastings and St Leonards**' was shared and the July 2019 HCN, '**Ageing Well in Hastings and St Leonards**' was promoted. Slides from the event will be available on the HCN webpage <https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/hcn>

**The 41 evaluation forms completed were all positive about the event.**

When asked what they gained feedback included:


***Putting faces to names and organisations. Opportunities to work together. Events happening and what's new. Opportunities to partnership.***

***I have found this event very interesting finding out about information and services locally to support our community***

***More local knowledge about Hastings community. Good chunk of time for networking. First time seeing open mic - really good. Will prep for next time***

***Learned about some community services I didn't know about before. Sense of community***

Evaluations forms also highlighted that **over 204 connections were made on the day**. With some people commenting that there were **too many to count or I lost count**.

Suggestions about how to improve future HCN events are always taken into account. For example a list of those that had booked a place was shared with participants on the day and, when consent has been given, email details will be shared between participants after the event to support continued joint working. Participants were also encouraged to ensure their projects are listed and up to date on  [www.escis.org.uk](http://www.escis.org.uk)

**The next HCN Locality Network meeting will be held on 17<sup>TH</sup> July 2019** at The Pop In, Central Hall, Bank Buildings in Hastings Town Centre. The theme, chosen as it is a 'hot topic' identified by Hastings Community Network members at previous events, is **Ageing Well in Hastings and St Leonards**.

**Book your place on the HVA website: <https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/events>**

