

Members' Update - East Sussex County Council February 2022 Cllr Bob Bowdler

Adult Social Care

Accessible online safety video launched

A new video has been created to help adults with learning disabilities stay safe online, as part of a competition commissioned by East Sussex County Council and managed by Lewes-based arts charity Culture Shift to develop an adult-appropriate online safety resource.

The winning film, titled 'Safety Net', was designed by Rhiannon Barton, a graduate student from the University of Brighton. It is specifically aimed at people who have autism and/or a learning disability and can be used as part of conversations and training about internet safety.

The film is available to [watch on YouTube](#) and tackles issues such as not sharing or watching things which are inappropriate or unpleasant, keeping personal information private, and how to ask for help. It was created in collaboration with learning disabled adults and the soundtrack was provided by local band Delta 7.

Funding to support domestic abuse victims announced

East Sussex is set to receive additional funding to deliver their Domestic Abuse Act duties in 2022/23.

A further £125million will be allocated to local authorities, with East Sussex County Council receiving £1,072,232.

This funding is to ensure safe accommodation spaces, such as refuges and shelters, can provide victims with support services such as health care, social workers, and benefits – meaning anyone who flees their home gets the help they need to recover and rebuild their lives.

More than £4million to support care providers

Over £4million of funding is being shared among East Sussex care providers to ensure support remains available for those in need.

East Sussex County Council was awarded £4.982million from the Government Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund (WRRF) to support providers who are facing unprecedented challenges in retaining their workforce. The funding will be used to provide support in people's own homes and care homes, help to prevent hospital admissions, and boost providers' capacity to deliver more hours of care.

Plans for distribution of the funds were approved last month, following discussions between independent care providers and East Sussex's Lead Members for Adult Social Care and Health.

The grant is the second instalment from a pot of £162.5m distributed to councils.

Communities, Economy and Transport

Economy-boosting access road opens to traffic

The Newhaven Port Access Road, an integral part of the Newhaven Enterprise Zone, has officially opened to traffic and will provide a crucial boost to the town's economy.

The new road creates direct access to East Quay and allocated development land, opening up 80,000 square metres of business space and allowing the creation of new jobs.

The road was funded by a £10 million grant from the Department for Transport and £13.2 million from East Sussex County Council's capital programme – money set aside for one-off projects.

In July 2021, the new cycle path and footway that runs alongside the road opened, providing pedestrian access to Tide Mills and the beach. The new path also links with existing footpaths north and south of Mill Creek to create new circular walking and cycling routes.

Funding agreed for 'community' road works

Plans to make more money available for road safety works in East Sussex have been approved by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

Around £750,000 of unused money from the council's Community Match programme will instead be spent on a wide range of road improvement projects which would not usually meet funding criteria, such as traffic islands or dropped kerbs.

Chosen works will address safety concerns, cost no more than £40,000 and be identified by considering a range of issues and specific site characteristics. Funding for these works will be made available in the coming months.

Plans to extend local wine estate are approved

Plans to expand the Ridgeview Wine Estate, near Ditchling Common, have been approved by East Sussex County Council's planning committee.

The proposals include a new building to provide al fresco dining experiences and an extension to the existing winery building. This extension would accommodate a tasting room, a small café, a retail area, and a meeting space.

The proposals were brought to the council's planning committee as the site falls within the boundaries of both Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

Cllr Bob Bowlder
Wealden East Division
7 March 2022