

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The people we asked said that social and healthcare services were one of the top three aspects in making somewhere a good place to live - only the environment and safety from crime were seen as more important. 23% of residents identified health and social care as something which needed to be improved.<sup>24</sup> Many concerns focused around difficulties in getting to services rather than the level of care received. The Healthy Wealden Partnership works to improve health and social care services in Wealden, helping to make Wealden a healthier place to live.

### Priorities

- Encourage cohesive and flexible partnership working to provide good access to health and social care services, with particular consideration for areas where provider boundaries do not match, and transport issues when considering change
- Support existing outreach projects, and the exploration with relevant partners of opportunities to maximise the use of existing facilities to offer a range of health care services locally
- Increase levels of community engagement around service improvement and the implementation of change, recognising concerns about the pace and frequency of change, and their need for clear information about proposed changes and their implications
- Promote direct links between local frontline health and social care staff and voluntary and community sector workers, exploring ways to optimise the use of existing facilities and community buildings through partnership
- Support social inclusion, especially in rural areas, and seek to promote innovative ways of addressing exclusion and health inequalities
- Promote five key areas of health improvement: reducing the number of people who smoke; tackling obesity; improving sexual health;

improving mental health and well-being; and reducing harm and encouraging sensible drinking.

- Maintain support for the use and development of volunteers in the delivery of local community healthcare services, for example, care and support for the elderly, children and the disabled
- Continue to strengthen partnership working with wider partners, including voluntary and community groups, parish, town and district councils, and healthcare service providers to identify areas for service improvement and innovative solutions to access issues

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<sup>24</sup> Wealden LSP (2002) Wealden Community Planning Consultation Report of Findings