



Safe in East Sussex

In Focus: Communities Against Exploitation

October 2018

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Exploitation is a key theme within the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership Business Plan 2018/19. Exploitation can involve individuals being coerced, forced, tricked, bribed, threatened, moved around and exploited for the profit of criminal gangs and networks. There are many different forms of exploitation some examples of which include human trafficking, modern slavery, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and fraud.



Victims of exploitation are extremely vulnerable and often do not perceive themselves as victims. Raising awareness helps improve knowledge, attitudes and behaviour for everyone. In order to work together we all need to have a common understanding of what exploitation is.

This Newsletter outlines some of the work and developments taking place across the UK and East Sussex by partners to combat the different types of exploitation we are experiencing in East Sussex.

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership is supported by the Safer East Sussex Team, made up from Community Safety staff from Sussex Police and East Sussex County Council

Communities Against Exploitation

We are currently developing a new project '**Communities Against Exploitation**' which will involve a district wide campaign and a number of key professionals/experts who will deliver information on Serious Organised Crime issues in the Rother area in order to raise awareness of emerging crime trends and equip communities with knowledge and information on current issues, signposting where they can go for further information and support, or how they can report/respond appropriately. The crime types covered will include:

- Vulnerable people being exploited and recruited by Organised Crime Groups for the purposes of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), County Lines and Cuckooing.
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- Vulnerable victims of Fraud, Rogue Trading and Cyber-enabled Crime including hate crime

As part of the project, short, visual and engaging packages will be developed around specific priority areas which will be designed to achieve the following:

- An increased knowledge and understanding of the latest threats through awareness raising initiatives, which will include learning on how to help prevent threats from developing in their local neighbourhoods.
- Community and awareness raising events with key professionals delivering clear, relevant and interesting facts and information relating to local areas.



The overall aim of this project is to provide information, guidance, support and signposting to Rother communities/organisations so they become the local 'Eyes and Ears' and are able to identify possible examples of serious organised crime and exploitation occurring in the area and respond appropriately by providing intelligence that could help local organisations provide solutions for these issues through partnership working. The project will be delivered and is being developed in partnership with Rother Voluntary Action and Stop the Traffik.



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What is Child Exploitation?

The Department Of Education definition of child sexual exploitation is as follows:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Child Criminal Exploitation is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

What to look for



Awareness that child exploitation can occur in different contexts is crucial. The following are examples of different scenarios where child exploitation occurs;

Peer-on-peer; where children are being lured, forced or coerced into sexual or criminal activity by other children. Peer-on-peer exploitation can take place without the involvement of adults, or can involve adults exploiting children and young people to exploit other children.

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Organised or networked; in this form of exploitation, children are passed through networks of perpetrators, sometimes over geographical distances and between different cities. They may be forced or coerced into sexual or criminal activity with multiple adults. They may also be used to recruit other children into the network.

Position of responsibility; some perpetrators may be in positions of responsibility – and manipulate this in order to sexually exploit children.

Multi Agency Child Exploitation Group (MACE)

East Sussex Children's Services and Sussex Police are increasingly identifying children at risk from criminal exploitation. These include children living in East Sussex as well as children living from outside the county (mainly but not exclusively the London area). Some of these children are experiencing criminal exploitation alongside sexual exploitation. This is especially prevalent in the area of organised drug dealing and supply. Children can be used to transport and / or actively distribute and deal illicit substances whilst being exploited by adults or other children involved in this criminal behaviour.



This exploitation can take the form of direct threats of violence to that child or other members of their family or actual physical or sexual abuse of that child. It is important that professionals treat these

risks as they would in cases involving sexual exploitation and that they understand the significant pressures that child would be under and the specific barriers to them disclosing this abuse or exploitation to professionals. The identification of any child at risk from this activity in East Sussex should be referred to the Single Point of Advice (SPOA) www.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/professional-resources/spoa/about/

One of the main aims of the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting is to share up to date information across all agencies of high risk children who go missing and are at risk of criminal/sexual exploitation in order to agree a shared understanding of risk and plan to reduce the vulnerability to that child. Any child who is referred to the MACE group must have an objective in their child's plan that specifically focuses on reducing their vulnerability to exploitation and what actions are to be taken to mitigate the risk to that child.

Operational Instructions and Practice Guidance for the Multi-Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) of Children Including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in East Sussex can be found here:

<http://www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/East-Sussex-MACE-Operational-Instructions-and-Practice-Guidance-2018.pdf>

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Drug gang exploitation of vulnerable youngsters - East Sussex hears from London ex-gang member



Community partners from across East Sussex came together in July to discuss ways of preventing youth exploitation, especially in relation to local 'county lines' drug dealing stemming from London gangs.



A special one-day conference involving more than 50 people heard from Junior Smart of the South London-based St Giles Trust.

Attendees include representatives from the police, local authority children's services, and locally based welfare support services and charities.

On his release from prison, Junior set up the SOS Project at St Giles Trust which offers intensive support to young people at risk of or involved in gangs and serious violence. His presentation helped raise the awareness of professionals who are directly involved in supervising or spending time with children, to be alert to the warning signs and understanding these areas of criminality.

The event proved very popular and feedback received following the event was extremely positive. Thank you Junior!

One of the best training days I've been to – Junior is very engaging, knowledgeable and provides a unique perspective with good interaction throughout the day.

The whole day has been really useful and interesting. Fantastic presentation and great learning opportunities from both Junior and partners around the table. Very valuable insight based learning.

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YMCA WiSE (What is Sexual Exploitation) Project has been in operation across Brighton and Hove, East Sussex and Surrey since 2010, starting out at a time when the typical response to the suggestion that something needed to be done about child sexual exploitation was “well, it doesn’t really happen in our area”. Initially the work involved training and awareness raising; getting people to recognise exploitation as a safeguarding issue. This included developing and delivering 4 different training courses as part of the LSCB training programme and an e-learning course which can be accessed through the East Sussex Learning Portal.

The team has developed a toolkit for working with children and young people with learning disabilities and difficulties, as well as delivering a night time economy awareness raising campaign. Most recently the team have developed and launched the ‘WiSE Up to Boys’ campaign with a series of films, campaign materials and educational toolkit, to ensure that boys and young men do not continue to be the hidden victims of sexual exploitation. You can see the films and download the toolkit at www.ymcadlg.org/wiseuptoboys

The team are committed to those they support, working responsively and flexibly, going above and beyond, to meet individual needs and prevent and disrupt exploitation. Thanks to recent grants from the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and Big Lottery’s Reaching Communities fund they have been able to increase their capacity for direct support to children and young people across East Sussex.

They are also expanding their support to ensure that children affected by other forms of exploitation can access Wise; such as criminal exploitation and the emerging patterns around county lines.

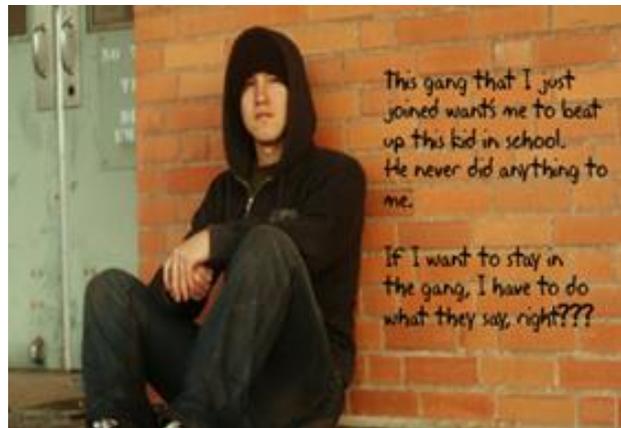
To talk about accessing any of their services please email wise@ymcadlg.org with your contact details and they’ll be in touch.

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Against Exploitation Workshop for Young People

The Safer East Sussex Team and the Youth Safety and Intervention Team of Sussex Police are piloting a new resource aimed at providing young people with factual information about gangs/criminal exploitation and tactics on how to avoid them. The workshops also focus on what real friendships are, why and how criminals persuade or encourage young people to do things they often don't want to get involved in and ways they can say No. The workshops also include elements of the Serious Organised Crime Toolkit which was developed by the Home Office, in partnership with the police and the voluntary sector, to provide information for practitioners working with young people to help them:

- Understand why young people get involved in serious and organised crime
- Understand how organised criminals operate
- Spot risks and identify when young people need support
- Help young people at risk to access the support they need



The toolkit can be accessed here: <http://infed.org/mobi/soctoolkit/>

Currently young people receive little or no education to help them understand criminal exploitation and the associated risks. Where some education is provided it mainly focusses on risks of sexual exploitation. This makes children ill equipped to identify when they are being groomed and exploited by gangs for criminal purposes. The recent introduction of mandatory relationship and sex education through the Children and Social Work bill offers an opportunity to ensure that children from primary through to secondary education are made aware of different types of grooming and exploitation.

Following a recent workshop comments received from local young people in Hastings included:

- **This was helpful and made me understand more about the consequences.**
- **It was worth it I learned to say no to things I don't want to do.**
- **This was good because it showed us ways to stay safe.**

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Cuckooing

When Criminal gangs target the homes of vulnerable people in order for them to be used for drug dealing – this is known as cuckooing (after the bird that invades other bird's nests) and victims are often left with little choice but to cooperate. The Safer Communities Partnership is supporting Sussex Police develop a multi-agency approach to tackle cuckooing by pro-actively identifying victims and ensuring they then get the right support.

Often the person being cuckooed will be reluctant to raise concerns as this could impact on their availability to free drugs, which is an attractive offer for those struggling with addiction.

Local Police in Hastings have worked closely with partner agencies to develop the most joined-up approach to safeguard victims of cuckooing, to support them and to reduce their vulnerability. Chief Inspector Steve Curry, district police commander in Hastings and Rother, said: “***The practice of cuckooing presents a significant threat to vulnerable people and has a detrimental effect on community safety***”.

Tell-tale signs of cuckooing include an increase in the number of visitors to what is usually a multi-occupancy or social housing property. New cars or hire cars may be parked outside and there may be a local increase in anti-social behaviour.

Victims may disengage with support services, and legitimate visitors may be aware of strangers or evidence of drug use, such as deal bags, weighing scales and cling-film wrap. Should the police raid a cuckooed property, the owner or tenant could face being arrested for drug dealing if he or she has been concerned in the supply of class A drugs. In some circumstances where the impact on others living in proximity has been so extreme, following consultation with partners, police will apply for a premises closure order through the court to shut the premises down.

Anyone with information about cuckooing in their area is asked to contact police online or phone 101, quoting Operation Preclude. In an emergency, always dial 999.

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Modern Slavery

The term Modern Slavery captures a whole range of types of exploitation, many of which occur together. These include but are not limited to: Sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation, organ removal, forced begging, forced benefit fraud, forced marriage and illegal adoption.

As Modern Slavery is a complex crime, with victims and perpetrators moving across local authority boundaries a **Pan Sussex Modern Slavery Network** was established a year ago which brought together all the organisations across Sussex that are committed towards tackling modern slavery, prosecuting perpetrators and assisting the victims. The main purpose of the Network is to co-ordinate activity to prevent duplication and ensure a Sussex wide approach.

East Sussex Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Modern Slavery Training

The Safer East Sussex Team, Safeguarding Adults and Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Sussex Police, Local Clinical Commissioning Groups and Stop the Traffik have come together to deliver a truly collaborative approach to the way partners across the County can work together to develop a consistent approach to this crime.

Over 70 frontline professionals attended training events in October to improve their understanding and knowledge around Modern Slavery in order to share this more widely within their own teams and organisations. They heard from local police and partners about local cases, where to report concerns locally and how referrals can trigger relevant support to potential victims of modern slavery.

This new group of single points of contact (SPOC's) will be at the forefront of sharing information, intelligence and best practice.

Colleagues from the Department of Works and Pensions working together to find solutions to their case study activity during the Bexhill training event



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**The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.**

Dr. Seuss

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking E-learning

This new eLearning is available on the East Sussex Learning Portal and has been designed to raise your awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking and to help you recognise your role in identifying and reporting concerns. It may be viewed as a stand-alone module but is also a prerequisite for any ESCC classroom training around modern slavery.

Details on the module can be found here:

<https://childrens.eastsussexlearning.org.uk/elearning/Course/Detail/199>

For new users to the learning portal you will first need to register on the link below—and accessing the Modern Slavery and Human trafficking module is free.

https://childrens.eastsussexlearning.org.uk/courses/bookings/p_new_user.asp



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Modern Slavery Briefing

This multi-agency audit was conducted by East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) as part of an initiative by the Sussex Modern Slavery Network. It was agreed that a multi-agency audit would be conducted by all three Sussex Safeguarding Adults Boards to assess whether the needs of adults with care and support needs, who are known or suspected to be victims of modern slavery are appropriately addressed. This was the first audit to be conducted.

This resulted in a briefing which summarises the findings and learning outcomes of the SAB multi-agency audit. Staff in all SAB partner agencies working with adults with care and support needs are encouraged to read the briefing and discuss it in their team meetings.



What is working well?

- ✓ Good joint working by agencies to quickly address immediate risk
- ✓ In one case a non-statutory safeguarding enquiry was successfully used to manage risk
- ✓ Good examples of client involvement in safeguarding plans
- ✓ Appropriate referrals made and good support provided in relation to substance misuse
- ✓ Good provision of translation services where required
- ✓ Good professional curiosity by staff

What can be improved?

- Information about modern slavery for staff and the public at strategic locations including leaflets in other languages.
- Training for staff in all relevant agencies.
- Awareness of the statutory reporting mechanisms (NRM/MS1) in relation to Modern Slavery.
- Information sharing between SAB partner agencies.

For further information in relation to this briefing, or if you would like a copy of the full audit report, please contact George Coleby, SAB Quality Assurance & Learning Development Officer at george.coleby@eastsussex.gov.uk

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Supporting Victims

At present the **Safe from Harm** service is supporting 22 clients across East Sussex who have been referred by either Police or partners, in response to an incident or where there is ongoing harassment and they are deemed to be in a high risk category. Issues can range from a neighbourhood dispute to a physical harm incident and more recently, they have been supporting an increasing number of cuckooing cases.



The Safe From Harm worker, supports clients by making sure they feel safe in their homes and the local community, by getting support and/or putting equipment in place; for example getting security lights fitted, getting personal security alarms, speaking to the Police to get door jammers for the clients and discussing further options. This also includes putting safety plans in place, so in case of an emergency clients have already thought about what to do.

Safe from Harm is funded by the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Eastbourne and Lewes Community Safety Partnership, Wealden Joint Action Group and Rother Joint Action Group.

The graphic features a white circle on the left containing the Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA) logo, which consists of a grid of pink dots and the text 'Sussex Community Development Association Advice & Inclusion'. A dotted line connects this circle to the main text on the right. The background is a gradient from pink at the top to blue at the bottom.

Safe from Harm is a service that can provide you with support if you are experiencing anti-social behaviour, hate crime or targeted harassment and you have been told you are a victim who is at high risk.

The Safe from Harm project is part of Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA) and is funded by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Eastbourne and Lewes Safer Communities Partnership, Wealden Joint Action Group and Rother Joint Action Group.

Contact our friendly staff on 07825 409 552
or email safefromharm@sussexcommunity.org.uk
sussexcommunity.org.uk



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East Sussex Family & Carers' Team (ESFACT)

East Sussex Families and Carers Team (ESFACT) is part of Cranstoun, a charity which provides drug and alcohol treatment services, support for young people, housing support and domestic abuse work.

ESFACT offer individually tailored packages of support to people who are being affected by someone who is close to them who is using drugs and/or alcohol and has mental health problems. Both people with mental health problems and people with substance misuse problems are more likely than those in the general population to be the victims of crime and more vulnerable to forms of exploitation.

The impact of this on the families can be devastating, so ESFACT offer the opportunity for people to talk about their experiences, to meet other people who share similar stories. They also offer respite activities, days out and other events to help people maintain and rebuild their own lives as well as supporting their cared for.

They offer 1-1 support and also run support groups, training workshops and social events as well as signposting clients to other specialist services with whom we work closely in partnership.



Meet the team from left Jerri, Emma & Maxine.

Contact us at esfact@cranstoun.org.uk

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The 'Big Event' 2018



Every year, for the last 10 years the SpeakUp Forum has run a one-day conference for the voluntary and community sector. The event brings together about 150 people from small voluntary and community groups, larger charities, and the public sector from across East Sussex.



The SpeakUp Forum brings together voluntary and community organisations for dialogue, information sharing and joint action about strategic planning and services in the county. They work directly and collaboratively with the public sector to share perspectives, build knowledge and jointly address shared priorities.

The aim of the Big Event this year was to empower voluntary organisations to better support people to stay safe in a variety of ways and to help our organisations and sectors to do safeguarding work more effectively together

This year's Big Event took place in September and the theme we spent the day focusing on was "Safeguarding and Community Safety: Roles of the Voluntary Sector". The event started off with an advice and information fair, full of stalls from local community groups and services that work to keep our communities safe from exploitation, abuse and neglect.

We then had a set of fascinating conference presentations, where we heard from Safer East Sussex, our local Adults and Children Safeguarding Boards and the voluntary sector representatives who work with them.

The audience learned about the priorities and work of these agencies and also had the chance to share their own experiences and views of what the main issues are in their communities. Breakout sessions gave an overview of different types of exploitation, as well as different types of abuse and neglect.



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“I left the session with a sense of how complex ‘community safety’ is and with a new understanding of how interlinked many different forms of exploitation and abuse are with one another”.

After a delicious lunch and much-needed energy boost, participants went off to a selection of breakaway workshops where they had the opportunity to focus in on one single topic. “Modern slavery and cuckooing” – the workshop that was directly about exploitation – was incredibly popular. Participants reported having learned enough to identify and help work against these issues in their own communities – no matter what size their organisations are.

All in all an incredibly useful day! And the start of the SpeakUp Forum working more closely with statutory partners to help empower communities and community groups to fight exploitation and keep themselves safe across the board.

Rebecca Luton
SpeakUp Forum Project Officer
www.speakupforum.org.uk



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Neighbourhood Watch – Helping Build Safer Communities



Neighbourhood Watch is the largest voluntary organisation in the country, a national charity with over 2 million member's homes. In Sussex we have over 4,000 local contacts in over 3,500 schemes protecting around 100,000 member homes, and with a messaging reach of about 500,000 people including via social media.

Formed over 35 years ago, the focus was then on burglary. Times and crime have changed and they helped burglaries fall by about 25% in recent years.

Now the modern Neighbourhood Watch is looking at repeating this success story by helping to tackle growing crimes such as fraud, scams, cybercrime and other forms of exploitation. They don't do this alone, but in partnership, working together with key allies. No one organisation can do it alone. The whole community needs to be involved. That's why they were a founding signatory to the East Sussex Against Scams Partnership Charter.

In 2017 they partnered with the Sussex Elders Commission to conduct a Fraud survey, and then assisted the Sussex PCC by helping with the precept survey – this resulted in more funds becoming available to Sussex Police.

They work hard to find solutions to help protect people at risk and distribute awareness messages to warn and inform people about the latest scams, and advise them how to keep safe, in partnership with Sussex Police, Action Fraud, the County Councils and other key agencies.

Whenever they can, they we give presentations at public meetings to take fraud and other community safety messages out to the public. Forewarned is forearmed. This helps build community resilience and makes life tougher for criminals.

Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch have highlighted the issues of County Lines and Cuckooing in their last two Newsletters which helps raise this issue with local communities. They can be found here: <http://www.enwa.org.uk/archive.html>

They care about the things that we all care about. They need more people to join them and help keep Sussex safe. Membership is free.

To contact Sussex Neighbourhood Watch please email enquiries@sussexnwfed.org.uk or visit www.sussexnwfed.org.uk.

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Neighbourhood Watch - Modern Slavery Campaign Toolkit



To help you spread the word about modern slavery and how to spot the signs, Neighbourhood Watch have compiled a range of free campaign materials that you can use to educate and inform people in your neighbourhood.

Resources include:

- Printable resources such as leaflets that you can print off and put through people's letterboxes, or forward to them via email.
- Online materials such as campaign websites, videos and infographics that you can forward to people by email or share on social media such as your Neighbourhood Watch Facebook group or app.
- A Powerpoint presentation you can use to hold a public meeting to educate people and raise awareness about the issue.
- A template campaign action plan. You don't need to follow this to the letter, it just provides some ideas of how you might run a multi-week campaign to raise awareness about modern slavery in your community.

Other toolkits available include:



Terrorism Domestic Abuse Scams Serious Violence Loneliness CSE

They can be accessed via this link; <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/crimes/>

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The East Sussex Against Scams Partnership

The partnership now has **104** Charter Partners helping in vital community scams / fraud prevention and awareness raising work.

“Attending the recent Good Life Show run by the Eastbourne Seniors Forum as part of the Older People’s Day celebrations, it was a great opportunity to catch up with a number of Charter Partners. The joint scams / fraud display stand run with East Sussex Trading Standards Service was extremely busy, lots of people stopping by to share their experiences of scams and take away some useful scams / fraud literature and contact numbers.” Elaine Bowdery



Picture: on the left Elaine Bowdery Project Officer, Safer East Sussex Team and Elizabeth Bowring Trading Standards Officer, Trading Standards.

For support and advice on scams (eg rogue traders, romance scams, scam mail, telephone calls, text messages, emails), call Citizens Advice on **0345 40 40 506**

If you are concerned about financial abuse speak to Health and Social Care Connect on **0345 60 80 191**

For a non-emergency response (if you have been a victim of a fraud/scam), call Sussex Police on **101**

If you have been affected by crime, get emotional and practical help from Victim Support on **0808 168 9274**

To report a fraud, or suspected fraud, and share information to help stop others from becoming victims, call Action Fraud **0300 123 2040**

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Pathways to Recovery and Wellbeing

An event to raise awareness of services available to those with alcohol and substance misuse issues, and provide advice and signposting towards other services that might be of benefit



Thursday 29 November 2018

Uckfield Civic Centre, Bellfarm Lane TN22 1AE

Drop in any time between 11am and 3pm!

For further details please contact:

- Dave Perry on 07769 239104
- Lexi Garabedian on 07714 839587



SOUTH COAST USER FORUM
celebrating recovery



, made



ACTIVE
IN RECOVERY