

### **Latest update from Highways:**

- In February over 3,700 potholes were repaired across the county, in addition to the 3,095 that were fixed in January.
- The heavy and persistent rainfall again led to a rise in the number of new potholes appearing.
- There were 22 crews working on reactive repairs, with extended hours into evenings and weekends to increase capacity.
- During continuous wet weather, there have been changes to the method of fixing potholes. Where a pothole presents a safety risk to road users, a temporary repair will be undertaken to make it safe. Once the weather improves, then a full 'sidesawn and sealed' repair will be made.
- Each week there has been clearing or repairing of around 2,000 drainage assets to help reduce standing water and prevent further potholes forming.
- The Annual Delivery capital programme for 2026/27 was published this month – further details on the following link [Highways, Transport and Planning Delivery Programme 2026/27](#) HT11(25/26)
- The County Council will invest £60.7 million maintaining and improving highways in West Sussex over the coming year.

### **Secondary School Places:**

On 6<sup>th</sup> March, the County Council confirmed that all 8,906 applicants in the county have been allocated a secondary school place. Of those, 86.5 per cent were offered their first preference school, while 97.1 per cent were offered one of their three preferences.

The Admissions Team continues to look at opportunities to help give parents and carers more information on the process through attendance at secondary school open events and briefings for parents in areas where there are currently pressures.

Pupils who may be feeling anxious about starting secondary school can access support and resources through the council's eWellbeing page.

**Adult Social Care Strategy, Living Well and Being Independent**, is a refresh of the original strategy which was published in 2022. It sets out how the council will support adults and carers across the county. The plan which has been co-produced with people who experience care as well as carers and partner organisations, focuses on providing clear information, early support and help closer to home. With more people needing care and services facing financial pressures, the strategy aims to make it easier for residents to understand their options and get the right support at the right time.

**The County Council and NHS Sussex** have developed a new plan to improve experiences and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

A shared commitment to providing earlier, more consistent and connected support services is set out in the new [West Sussex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Strategy 2026 to 2030](#).

The new SEND strategy has been developed with families, young people, schools, health services and the West Sussex Parent Carer Forum. It focuses on the things families have said matter most to them:

Getting help earlier - families often face long waits or uncertainty when trying to access support. The strategy commits to improving early help, so children and young people can receive the right support at the right time, without always needing a formal plan.

Clearer, more joined-up support - education, health and social care services will work more closely together. This means families won't have to repeat their story and will find it easier to understand what support is available.

Support closer to home - more children and young people will be able to attend local schools or provision that can meet their needs, reduce long journeys and keep children connected to their community.

Better communication - the strategy places a strong emphasis on listening to families and improving communication, including clearer updates and easier access to information and advice.

Preparing young people for their future - young people with SEND will get earlier support to move into adulthood - whether that means further education, work opportunities, independent living or local activities that help them feel included.

Improving emotional wellbeing - a commitment to better support for mental health, reducing waiting times and increasing help available in schools and communities.

These priorities reflect the voices of children, young people and parents who contributed through workshops, surveys, events and via the West Sussex Parent Carer Forum.

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