NEIGHBOURHOOD
Area Committee
Farnham

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee (NAC)

Meeting Notes 03 November 2025



Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee (NAC)
Meeting Notes 03 November 2025 16:00 – 18:00

Chair:
Rachel Morris – Champion of Disabled People and Mental Health

Vice Chair:
Cllr Alan Earwacker - Farnham Town Council

Invitees:

Elected Representatives:

Name	Organisation
Andy Macleod	Surrey County Council
Catherine Powell	Surrey County Council
Michaela Martin	Surrey County Council & Farnham Town Council
Michaela Wicks	Waverley Borough Council
Richard Steijer	Waverley Borough Council
George Murray	Farnham Town Council
Alan Earwaker	Farnham Town Council & Waverley Borough Council
David Beaman	Farnham Town Council & Waverley Borough Council

Partner Representatives:

Name	Organisation
Dr John Lewis	Hale Community and Youth Centre
Paul Harris	Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice
Mark Ellul	University for the Creative Arts
Liz Flanagan	Elphicks
Dr David Brown	Farnham Health Integration Group and Member of Farnham Primary Care Network
Dr Niloufer Ebrahim	Farnham Health Integration Group and Member of Farnham Primary Care Network
Stuart Maginnis	Farnham Heath End School
Inspector Rob Brian	Surrey Police
PS Stuart Brant	Surrey Police
Matt Richardson	Surrey Fire and Rescue
Iain Lynch	Farnham Town Council (Clerk)
Catherine Knight	Business Waverley
Jane Todd	Community Waverley (Waverley Borough Council)

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Community Representatives:

Name	Organisation
Becky Jeffrey	Citizens Advice Southwest Surrey
Pete Glanville	Farnham Maltings
Philip Oliver	Farnham University of the 3rd Age (U3A)
Rachel Morris	Champion of Disabled People and Mental Health
Jon Curtis	Dempster Trust
Libby Ralph	Farnham Biodiversity Partnership
Richard Davies	Farnham Hoppa
David Gill	Farnham Sports Council
Richard Hunt CBE	The Farnham Society
Caroline Keith	Voluntary Action Southwest Surrey

Observer:

Name	Organisation
Cllr Paul Fellows	Waverley Borough Council

Apologies:

TO BE ADDED

Welcome and Introduction

Terms of Reference – Key Questions and Reflections

Purpose of item:

- Bring everyone together for the first NAC meeting and encourage group collaboration
- Brief recap what NACs are, current status of NAC development and reflect on feedback received so far
- Clarify and confirm the ways of working for the NAC pilots, including agreement on the Terms of Reference
- Explore available data and insights to identify initial NAC priorities, and agree on which topics to carry forward for deeper discussion in the next meeting

What helps you work well with others from different organisations?

- *Farnham Connects* is a strong example: quarterly meetings, shared purpose, and information exchange.
- *Farnham Support Fund* offers rapid emergency support.
- Trust is foundational: “Change happens at the speed of trust.”

- Bringing diverse sectors together is valuable.
- Focus on existing networks rather than creating new ones.
- Meetings must be action-focused due to limited capacity.
- Strong leadership and a clear chair role are essential.
- Political dynamics (e.g., Local Government Review) can be a barrier.
- Equal value to voices inside and outside the room.
- Clear outcomes and action plans are vital.
- Time constraints: December deadline may limit impact.
- Town Council supports continuation if pilot succeeds.
- Quick wins (e.g., blood pressure monitoring) can build momentum.
- NAC collaboration can unlock grant funding.
- Ensure resident voices are heard, especially from underrepresented areas.

Barriers and Considerations

- Cost of living: keep activities affordable.
- Differing priorities and limited time (especially near Christmas).
- Unclear NAC purpose makes it hard to justify involvement.
- Resource gaps (e.g., youth work).
- Farnham Town Council funds £90K/year for youth services; lottery funding ends next year.
- Farnham Business Improvement District (BID) wants coordinated charity engagement and offers non-financial support.
- Professional boundaries and funding restrictions limit flexibility.
- Balance needed between short-term wins and long-term strategy.
- Risk of Farnham's influence being diluted due to structural changes.
- Health inequalities should be a key focus—start with children and families.
- Avoid duplication; streamline governance and group size.
- Prioritisation: mix of achievable and aspirational goals.
- Low implementation capacity in past health inequality efforts.

What would make this group work well?

- Trust-building and socialisation (e.g., Surrey Fire and Rescue Service involvement).
- Networking to build community relationships.

Actions

- Define and communicate NAC priorities.
- Coordinate charity engagement with Farnham BID.
- Develop quick wins and long-term strategy.
- Identify skills gaps and funding opportunities.
- Encourage school engagement with BID.

Data and Insights - Presentation and small group discussions

Purpose of item:
Introduce NAC members to the data and insights pack, its purpose, contents and how to contribute. Reflect on the emerging insights and how insights can inform priorities. Agree priorities to take forward.

Identified Gaps

- Household composition (clarify single-person vs single-parent).
- Digital exclusion: Information Technology (IT) access, online navigation, and business barriers.
- Gaps in Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) provision, further education, Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) and youth unemployment.
- Underreported crime (e.g., shoplifting, assaults).
- Housing and infrastructure: 3,000 unbuilt planning consents.
- Pockets of deprivation (e.g., Sandy Hill) often masked by overall affluence.
- Youth mental health, screen time, antisocial behaviour and SEND issues.
- Missing data from partners, especially around students and transport.
- Economic data: income levels, housing prices, and employment.
- Health data is the biggest gap; more needed from Frimley and Surrey Heartlands.

Positive Insights

- Farnham is seen as a great place to live with strong community pride.
- Businesses face challenges despite positive public perception.

Biggest Needs / Issues

- Focus on children and young people's mental health, especially in deprived areas like Sandy Hill.
- Early prevention and community engagement are key.
- Children and Adults Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Surrey & Borders services are under pressure -
- Need for sustainable funding and integrated services.
- Consider cohabitation models (e.g., students and elderly).
- Volunteer base is aging; need for coordinated volunteer strategy.
- Public sector under pressure: low council tax, high need, and limited resources.
- NACs must reflect local communities and have democratic legitimacy.

Next Steps & Actions

- Continue refining Terms of Reference and scope.
- Identify schools in Farnham with mental health support workers (General Practitioner (GP) in the room volunteered they have some of this information).
- Engage University for Creative Arts (UCA) for data contribution.
- Health partners to mobilise support from new Integrated Care Board (ICB).
- Invite Mindworks to next meeting (Action for Surrey County Council (SCC)).
- Future meetings offered at St Mark's Church, Upper Hale, and UCA.

Non-agenda items:

- It was decided future NAC meetings shouldn't be open to the public or recorded to allow the group to build trust, have confidentiality/safety in their discussions.