NEIGHBOURHOOD
Area Committee
Farnham

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee (NAC)

Meeting Notes 15 December 2025



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Chair:
Name – Organisation

Vice Chair:
Name – Organisation

Attendees:
Name – Organisation

Apologies:
Name – Organisation

Welcome and Introduction

Narrative Notes

On Monday 15th December 2025, the Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee (NAC) held its third meeting following an initial workshop in September and then two official meetings on 3rd November and 24th November 2025. The tone of the room was one of excitement, trust, and collaboration. The NAC priority had already been identified from previous meetings as children's and young people's mental health.

Everyone was welcomed at the start of the meeting, with thanks expressed for their attendance and a note on the impressive turnout once again. The group was then reminded of the approach being adopted by the four pilot NACs in Surrey as "test, learn and grow". As part of the evaluation process, informal engagement and interviews are also being carried out, which may involve NAC members in the room.

The presentation then focused in on Farnham, specifically noting the clear passion to improve life in Farnham for residents that has been present from the outset of the NAC process.

The subsequent stages of the pilot process were presented to the group, beginning with the proposal that draft recommendations will be submitted to cabinet, supporting the continued operation of the NACs. Work with the new shadow authorities will then take place after May with the potential of setting up additional pilots in other areas. Priorities could be revisited, and less frequent meetings could be a possibility in the future. Assessment of resources and funding will also be considered. Everyone was reminded that these are draft recommendations for all four pilots, but each individual area will have its own learning and

recommendations. Following this input, many questions and a lively interactive session ensued.

Farnham NAC was then provided with two presentations from expert witnesses. The first summarised engagement activities that the Community Partnership Officers (CPOs) undertook in collaboration with community partners as well as online engagement via Commonplace.

The second presentation, from the High Sherrif of Surrey, provided an overview of project work undertaken with young people not in employment, training, or education (NEETs). Amongst the project's findings was the need for early intervention involving a range of measures - mentoring, having a trusted go-to adult, effective signposting, as well as wrap around community support. A question-and-answer session then followed the presentation.

The next part of the meeting focused on the creation of an action plan. Each table was invited to select two short-term objectives and two long-term objectives from the list of priorities identified at the previous NAC meeting. Once the room decided on the top four priorities, each table was asked to start breaking down one of those priorities into actions. Each table facilitator then reported to the group on the actions identified, specifying who would carry them out and the expected completion timeline.

The four priorities chosen for the action plan were:

- Arrange a meeting with PCN, Mindworks and Schools to collaborate on Mental Health provision
- Create an upskilled volunteer base to become trusted adults (communicate through Farnham Connects membership and other voluntary groups). Increased positive male role models and explore the creation of more mentoring opportunities.
- Support development of multiple safe spaces for young people, leveraging corporate social responsibility from local businesses and using spaces provided by them for community initiatives.
- Increase development opportunities for young people with skills and interests other than formal education. Introducing youth mentoring programmes using 18–25-year-olds as trusted adults. Recruitment through Duke of Edinburgh and other youth upskilling initiatives.

It was felt on some tables that sub-groups would need to be formed to achieve the objectives outlined. Specific feedback from tables included the need to stop working in silos and instead to work together on the same priority. Also, that attaining funding for mental health training would enable those skills to be taken into the community preventing worsening mental health amongst young people. Some noted that those responsible for funding and leadership should be involved from the start to ensure the initiative doesn't fizzle out.
The engaging table exercise and subsequent discussions led to additional suggestions, including the possibility of SFRS establishing a cadet

scheme. Such a program would provide young people with valuable career development opportunities and could be implemented at no cost. Also, the proximity to the Army in Aldershot could lead to opportunities for young people as well.

As the meeting came to a close, the NAC was informed that the designated actions and their responsible parties would be addressed outside of the NAC in the New Year. An update on progress will be shared at the next meeting in February to keep things moving forward. This would allow for one more NAC meeting to take place in March ahead of the start of the pre-election period.

Farnham Town Council concluded the meeting by summarising their openness to arranging additional meetings in February and March to keep up the momentum. Following this meeting, all participants were encouraged to consider how they can contribute to one or more of the identified themes and to present their suggestions at the next meeting.