



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About Us

Age UK East Sussex was founded in 1948 as the Old People's Welfare Committee. We became an independent charity in 1973, and until December 2010 we were called Age Concern East Sussex. In January 2011 we rebranded as Age UK East Sussex. This was because we became a Brand Partner with Age UK (the new national charity for older people formed by the merger of Age Concern England and Help the Aged). In April 2025 a new Shared Strategy and Network Agreement was agreed in which Age UK East Sussex role new role as a Network Partner along with c120 other local Age UKs and the national Partner (Age UK) was confirmed. Age UK East Sussex is an independent, locally focused and led by the needs and aspirations of those in later life.

The charity's Vision is to make East Sussex a great place to grow older. It works towards this by:

- working with people in later life to identify and respond effectively to their expressed needs and aspirations.
- representing people in later life.
- promoting a positive image of later life.
- being a sustainable charity and social enterprise.
- collaborating with others.

The Board

Age UK East Sussex is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. Its Articles of Association govern the way it charity operates. A Board, whose members are both Charity Trustees and Company Directors, oversees its management and administration in a manner laid down by Charity and Company Law. The general role is to ensure that the objectives of the charity are adhered to and that funds held in trust are used only for specifically stated objectives. As with staff, the skills and experience brought to the organisation by Board is crucial to the success of the charity.

The Board meets at least six times a year although individual member has the opportunity to be involved in further work arising because of Board decisions. This might be representing Age UK East Sussex in other settings, or involvement in working parties or sub-committees.

Employees

The charity employs a paid full time Chief Executive to strategically lead and manage the organisation, and there are Directorate and Management Teams. There are over 80 paid employees involved in various aspects of the service and around 300 unpaid volunteers at any time. The success of the organisation depends on the skills and experience of both employees and the volunteers working together.

The Organisation

Age UK East Sussex is an independent and autonomous charity with its own charity number and raises its own funds through trading, charity shops, donations, legacies, bequests and gift aid. It also has contractual arrangements with statutory agencies for specific service provision.

Age UK East Sussex is an Age UK Network Partner and fulfils four main functions:

- Service and Support
- Public Education and Social Advocacy
- Innovation and Research
- Partnership and Co-operation

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- **Information & Advice** - free, confidential, and independent advice on a wide range of later-life topics.
- **Scams Project**– preventing scams via awareness raising and practical support. Recovery support to those affected by scams.
- **Social Prescribing** –support access to non-medical community-based support.
- **Take Home and Settle** – enabling safe and timely hospital discharge.
- **Macmillan Information & Advice Hub** – provides people affected by cancer with information, signposting, referrals and other support.
- **Befriending** – talking loneliness and establishing community connections
- **The Isabel Blackman Centre (Hastings)** - a health, leisure and wellbeing centre.
- **Healthy Living Clubs** – support to locally run health and activity groups.
- Declutter and house clearance – practical support supporting independent living.

RETAIL

- **5 Charity Shops** - Lewes, Battle, Bexhill, Hastings, and Brighton Kemptown
- **Charity Donation Centre and Furniture Warehouses** in Newhaven and Eastbourne
- **Faraday House** - a unique business centre in Eastbourne providing high quality, affordable facilities for Voluntary and Community Groups, Businesses and Public Sector to use on a day-to-day or long-term basis.