



Enjoy thrills or just chill in West Sussex this Easter



Get out and about in West Sussex and discover some of the more unusual activities you can take part in.

There's Easter egg rolling, vineyard visits, yoga retreats, a Hungry Caterpillar trail, Escape Rooms, historical re-enactments, climbing and lambing. You can do and see it all – and more – right here on your doorstep.

And our miles of beautiful coast and countryside are bound to put a spring in your step as the weather (hopefully!) warms up. There are lots of tried and tested cycle trails and walks for all abilities.

Check out Experience West Sussex where you're sure to find something to make the most of Easter – and if you need a traditional chocolate fix then there are workshops where you can create and then eat some delicious chocolate goodies!

Discover something different to do

Start composting more - for less!

Here's your chance to buy a compost bin for less so you can start recycling your garden and some organic waste!

We have teamed up with Get Composting to help you buy a home composter at a reduced price.



Spring is a great time to start composting in your garden, and it's also a great way to minimise waste produced by your household.

The process simply involves recycling your daily plant and food waste, along with any other organic materials you can find.

You can compost grass cuttings, unwanted plants, organic kitchen waste such as fruit and vegetable peelings, tea bags and coffee grounds and even egg shells.

Together, these will naturally decompose over time to produce a ready-made mixture rich in nutrients to feed your soil and nourish your garden.

Read more about composting on our [waste reduction page](#).

[Buy a subsidised compost bin](#)

Get crafty in your local library



Craft and story activities called 'Spring into Libraries' will be held across the county during the Easter holidays.

Places are limited so pre-booking is essential.

[Spring into Libraries events](#)

How to contact us over Easter

Check out our contact centre opening times and how you can get in touch with our services out of hours during the Easter period on the link below.

You'll also find details of our online services including how to report a problem with a road or pavement, raising a concern about a vulnerable adult or child and renewing a library item.



[Easter opening hours](#)

Children's Services to remain within West Sussex County Council



We are pleased to share with you the news that the Department for Education (DfE) has issued a new statutory direction stating Children's Services should remain within West Sussex County Council pending a reinspection by Ofsted.

This decision by the DfE was taken as a result of the continuous improvements made in recent months, over the course of four Ofsted monitoring visits and the work staff have undertaken over the past year since our move to a Children's Trust was paused.

We do not underestimate the work still needed to raise the standards to the best they can be for our children, young people and families. Our teams in Children's Services remain focused and committed to continuing our improvement work.

The information related to this decision is available [here](#). The report from Children's Commissioner, John Coughlan has been published by the DfE and is available on this [link](#).

Children and Young People plan consultation

Working with children, young people, families, and partners we have developed a draft Children and Young People plan for 2022 to 2025.

The plan sets out key priorities focused on making life better for children and young people.

To help inform and develop the plan please take a few minutes to [complete this short survey](#) which is open until 26 June.

Living with Covid-19



As part of the government's ['Living with Covid'](#) plan, free Covid-19 testing has now ended.

If you experience Covid-19 symptoms, you will no longer be told to take a test and should instead isolate at home until the symptoms end.

Who can now get free symptomatic Covid-19 tests?

New government guidance states that free symptomatic Covid-19 PCR testing will be available to specific groups.

- Patients in hospital, where a PCR test is required for their care and to provide access to treatments and to support ongoing clinical surveillance for new variants.
- People who are eligible for community Covid-19 treatments because they are at higher risk of getting seriously ill from coronavirus.
- People living or working in some high-risk settings.

Get guidance and the outlines of the [Government's next steps](#) for living with Covid for more details.

The best way you can keep yourself safe from the virus is to get vaccinated. Those eligible for vaccination include people

- aged 75 years and over
- aged 12 years and over and who are immunosuppressed
- aged 5-11 years including those in clinical risk groups and those who are contacts of an immunosuppressed household member.

- who were previously eligible can continue to book their first, second or booster dose of vaccination or visit a walk-in clinic where they can get vaccinated without needing an appointment.

You can help [prevent the spread of Covid-19](#) in your community by continuing to wash your hands regularly, letting fresh air into enclosed spaces, meeting others outdoors where possible, wearing a face covering and staying at home if you are unwell.

[More local information on Covid-19](#)

Got a few spare minutes? Share your views with us



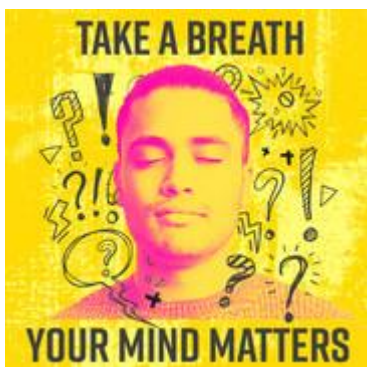
We need your views and ideas about **bus services in West Sussex**, to help us understand where the service is running well and where improvements are needed.

To find out more and share your ideas, visit the [#WestSussBus project page](#) or email westsussbus@westsussex.gov.uk.

Click on the link below to take part in more consultations, including **walking and cycling improvements**, **post-16 transport policy** and **River Basin Management Plans**.

[Give us your views](#)

Mental health support



The Easter break is a great time for children to take a breather and have some fun.

It can also be a good time to check in with a child or young person about how they're feeling.

Exam pressure and being away from friends can have an impact on their emotional wellbeing.

Our [Your Mind Matters](#) website offers information, resources and details of organisations that can help you look after your child's mental health.

If you are concerned for your own or another adult's mental health, there is help available as well. Get [help and advice for your mental wellbeing here](#).

Easter holiday clubs

Free holiday activities and food are again on offer for eligible West Sussex children during the Easter break (8 to 25 April).

The holiday club places are free of charge and now open to book for all children aged four to 16 who receive benefits-related free school meals. Families can pick from a range of sports, crafts and activities on offer near them and all children taking part will also be given a nutritious meal.



[Book a holiday club place](#)

More news

- A [trial booking system has been made permanent at some Recycling Centres in West Sussex](#) after a public consultation showed support for the measures. Since April 2021, Book to Recycle has been in operation at Bognor Regis, Crawley, Horsham, Littlehampton, Shoreham-by-Sea and Worthing Recycling Centres to manage demand at peak periods and reduce queuing vehicles.

- [Recycling Centres across West Sussex have switched to extended opening hours](#) – meaning residents will have extra opportunities to recycle their household waste.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

The spring term ends tomorrow (Friday 8 April) and restarts on Monday 25 April. Half term will be Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June. [Find all the term dates here.](#)

Know someone who would like to receive this eNewsletter?

If you know anyone who would like to sign up for this bulletin, please forward this eNewsletter to them and they can [sign up here](#). Thank you for your support.



YOUR MIND MATTERS

Support and advice
for young people
and families

Click for more information
[westsussex.gov.uk/
YourMindMatters](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/YourMindMatters)