

Changing Futures Sussex Impact Briefing 3

Data & Evidence



A report outlining the transformational impact of Changing Futures Sussex in improving data, evidence and insights on Multiple Compound Needs

The Changing Futures Programme Sussex has improved data, evidence, and insights on Multiple Compound Needs (MCN)

Changing Futures Sussex has produced the strongest data yet on multiple compound needs (MCN), transforming how local partners understand the scale and prevalence of MCN, who is affected, and how people interact with services across health, care, housing, and the criminal justice system. This evidence base fills a longstanding data gap, enabling local partners to make targeted, data-led planning and commissioning decisions that direct resources where they will have the greatest impact.

"Clients not having to repeat their stories all the time...there is so much holistic information on that [CMS] that isn't on...our host organisations' systems, so to be able to go into that with that information already is helpful. And like I said before, you don't have to trigger things. You can be more careful about things that you are going to touch on."

"One of the biggest ethos is collective responsibility within the team. So yes, they might be allocated a key worker, but every client is the responsibility of everyone in the team. Eclipse [the CMS] has allowed that, because we can constantly share information."

(Changing Futures Sussex MDT workers on the shared CMS)

1) A clearer picture of MCN needs and prevalence

Nationally, figures on MCN are not routinely captured or collected, and very few datasets specifically identify whether an individual is experiencing MCN.

Across Sussex, our data has enabled a deeper and more accurate picture of MCN at District and Borough levels. While the dataset does not cover all services or areas, it provides clear estimates and insights into:

- number of people affected
- demographic profiles
- overlapping needs such as homelessness, mental health, substance use, domestic abuse, or history of offending
- client journeys over time
- public service usage, including patterns and costs

It has also enabled us to identify gaps in existing datasets and map emerging trends, for example high levels of GP registration yet poor mental and physical health outcomes.

Our Data Sources

Changing Futures Data Dashboard

The dashboard draws on programme client data and data from local authorities' case management systems (CMS) to track clients' profiles, needs, journeys, and service use.

Data sharing between local authorities, voluntary sector organisations, and the programme, enabled through a shared CMS, has been central to generating the insights presented in the dashboard. Further details on the positive impacts and challenges of this data sharing approach are set out in the [Data Sharing Evaluation Report](#).

The dashboard also presents outcome measures on client risk and wellbeing, including the New Directions Team Assessment (NDTA) and Recovering Quality of Life (ReQoL).

What the dashboard tells us...



86%

Homelessness



98%

Poor
Mental
Health



93%

Problematic
Substance
Use



66%

Current or
Historic
Offending



81%

Domestic
Violence
& Abuse

Our Data Dashboard (supported by the Multiple Needs Audit) show that the highest levels of overlapping needs are concentrated within a smaller cohort of individuals experiencing MCN. Over half (57%) of our clients face five needs simultaneously. The most common co-occurring needs among Changing Futures Sussex clients is a combination of homelessness, substance use, and mental health. A fuller breakdown of client data, including outcome measures (NDTA & ReQoL) is available in our Impact Evidence Pack linked at the end of this document.

Multiple Needs Audit (MNA)

The audit is a quarterly snapshot of MCN in West Sussex and Brighton and Hove, drawing on data provided by Local Authorities and voluntary sector homelessness and housing services. The MNA provides county, and District and Borough level insights into co-occurring needs, including whether people are accessing support.

East Sussex's Multiple Compound Needs Health Needs Assessment

Changing Futures Sussex contributed to the 2025 East Sussex MCN Health Needs Assessment, which used advanced data linking methodology from a range of data sources to identify residents with MCN and revealed a much higher prevalence of MCN than previously estimated. Full analysis, including prevalence, demographic characteristics, service experiences, and the hierarchy of needs, is detailed in the [East Sussex MCN Health Needs Assessment](#), which now provides the most comprehensive data on MCN in the county.



What the audits and assessment tell us...

Brighton and Hove

704 of 1,909 individuals supported by housing and homelessness services met the criteria of multiple compound needs (MNA Q4, Jan to Mar 2024/25)

West Sussex

519 of 1,233 people in contact with housing and homelessness services met the criteria of multiple compound needs (MNA Q3, Oct to Dec 2025/26)

East Sussex

1,360 residents in East Sussex identified with experience of multiple compound needs (MCN Health Needs Audit 2025)

Together, these insights and datasets have increased the visibility of MCN within mainstream planning, commissioning, and service delivery across Sussex. All three Sussex authorities have now identified local funding to continue dedicated multi-disciplinary teams focused exclusively on supporting individuals with MCN. These services did not exist prior to Changing Futures.

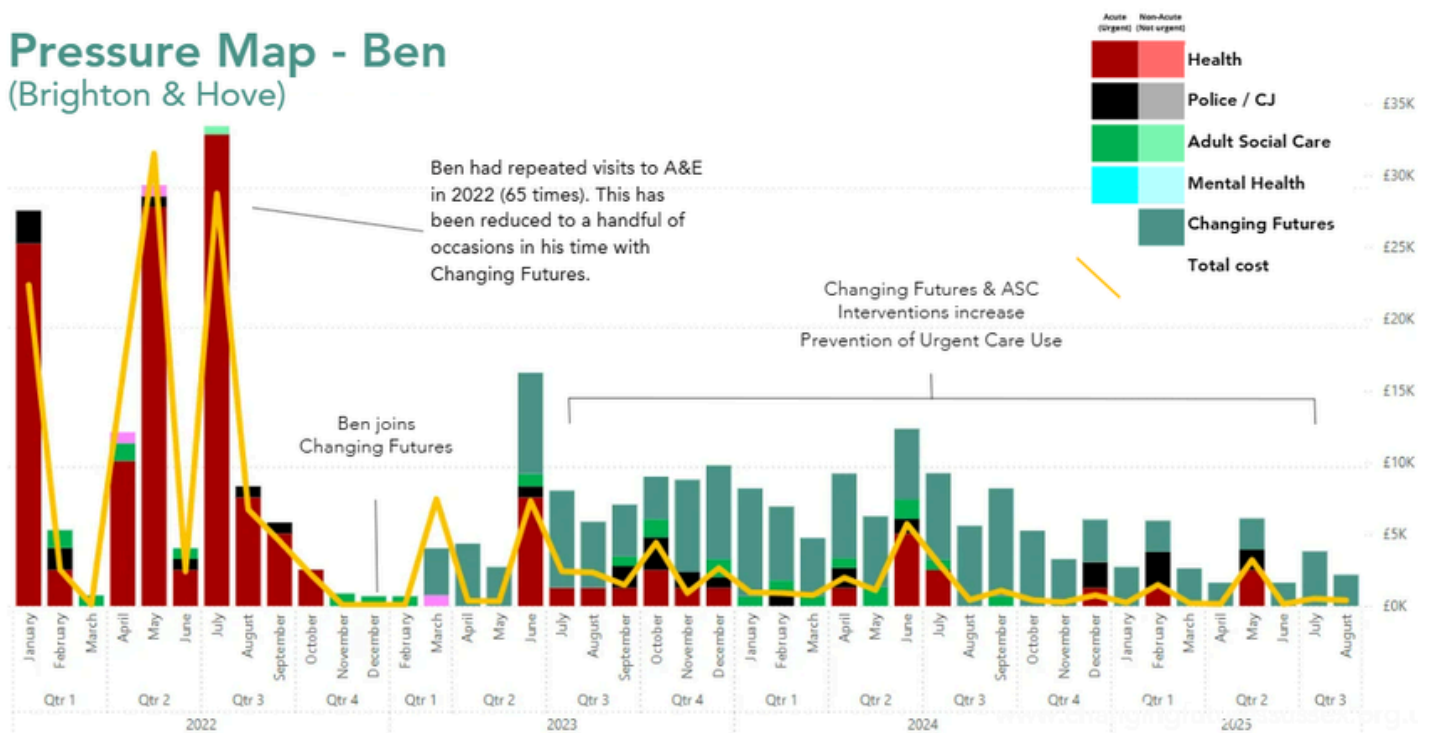
Further analysis of MCN needs, patterns, and service interactions is presented in the Brighton and Hove and West Sussex Multiple Needs Audit reports, [available on our website here](#).

2) Cost & demand analysis provides deeper insights into patterns of service usage

Our cost and demand analysis of clients' public service usage pre-, during and post-Changing Futures (Pressure Maps) provides clear evidence that people with MCN place sustained, high-cost pressure on crisis, acute and emergency services, and that proactive and coordinated multidisciplinary team (MDT) support reduces this demand over time.

Following structured MDT intervention, the analysis shows a marked reduction in reduction in crisis response episodes and associated costs, with notable decreases across acute health (A&E), police, prison & probation, and mental health services. For example see the Pressure Map for 'Ben' (Psuedonym) below:

Pressure Map - Ben (Brighton & Hove)



These insights now guide service planning, interventions, and resource allocation. For example, the pattern of emergency care usage highlighted in the 'Ben' Pressure Map (above) informed the development of the Homeless and Multiple Compound Needs Integrated Community Team, demonstrating how integrated, cross-agency working can break cycles of repeated emergency care use and support better outcomes for individuals.

Additional insights from this analysis are available in our [Pressure Maps Insights & Learning](#) report.

Enablers / Optimised Conditions

Below is a list of enablers and optimised conditions that have allowed the impacts to be achieved:

- Shared data system access through local authorities' case management systems (CMS)
- Cross-sector collaboration with voluntary sector, and County, District, and Borough councils
- Programme team analyst resource to compile and analyse data



Risks / Red Flags

Below is a list of risks and red flags that highlight a return to practice before Changing Futures:

- Loss of MCN-specific data and evidence, reducing the ability to understand MCN
- Reduced ability to inform service planning, design, and commissioning
- Reversion to siloed data sets, narrowing system-wide insight



Links for further reading

Changing Futures Sussex Impacts Reports:

1. [Introduction & Summaries](#)
2. [Service Transformation](#)
3. [Governance & Commissioning](#)
4. [Data & Evidence](#)
5. [Co-Production](#)
6. [Trauma Informed & Reflective Practice](#)

Impact Reports Supporting Data

Area Data Packs:

- [Brighton & Hove](#)
- [East Sussex](#)
- [West Sussex](#)

[Pressure Maps Insight & Learning](#)

'Voices of Changing Futures Sussex' - Client voice Project

[Voices of Changing Futures You Tube Playlist](#)

Further Learning & Resources

[Changing Futures Sussex Learning Archive](#)

[Changing Futures Sussex System Resources Archive](#)

Changing Futures Sussex

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