



# COALITION NEWS

Working together to promote equality of  
opportunity and independent

JUNE 2008

living for disabled people in Surrey

Issue 8

## SURREY COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

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### UPDATE FROM THE COALITION BOARD

The Coalition Board of 12 elected at the launch of Surrey Coalition last October, have been very busy both individually and as a team, influencing services and representing the interests of disabled people both within Surrey and at national level. Some of their recent activities include:

- **Receiving training** on their governance roles and responsibilities.
- Helping to set up the **Transition LINK** (Local Involvement Network) for Surrey and influencing future organisational, governance and communication processes for the LINK.
- Being part of the Procurement Team to select and appoint the LINK **Host** organisation which will provide administration support to the Surrey LINK from October.
- Active participation in the **County Council's Transformation Programme** and in particular the processes and plans for the roll-out of **Self-Directed Support** (Individual Budgets) in Surrey. Activities have included:
  - regular meetings with programme head, David Lenihan
  - input to the SDS Reference Group overseeing all the plans.
  - Helping to develop a voluntary sector consortium to provide independent advice, information, advocacy and support for people going through the SDS process.
- Coordinating the work of the local **Partnership Boards** to join up work on County wide issues such as Access, Highways etc.
- Developing plans for **special interest groups** for Deaf people, vision impaired people and those interested in mental health issues.

**More News on all these activities next month.**

# OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

## JOIN A SURREY POLICE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP (IAG)

Surrey Police set up a Surrey wide IAG in 2001 to engage with minority communities and groups. They also have local Independent Advisory Groups in each of the three Divisions in Surrey.

Disabled people are already represented on the South West Surrey IAG by Coalition members John Welsman and Cliff Bush, and Surrey Police would welcome representatives from Surrey Coalition members on the other two IAG's:

North Surrey – Covering  
Runnymede  
Spelthorne  
Elmbridge

East Surrey – Covering  
Epsom & Ewell  
Reigate & Banstead  
Mole Valley  
Tandridge

If you are interested in becoming a member of your local Surrey Police IAG and feel you can represent the interests of disabled people, please contact us in the Coalition Office Tel: 01483 456558

You must be able to help and advise the police in dealing with major crime or critical incidents. IAG members are appointed for their specialist knowledge, experience and/or links with specific minority groups or special interests, across the six strands of diversity, including disability.

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON “SUPPORTING PEOPLE”

The Supporting People service in Surrey allocates over £19 million per year to schemes to provide housing-related support for vulnerable people. These include disabled people, victims of domestic violence and homeless people).

Surrey Supporting People is managed by Surrey County Council and they have recently commissioned work to find out what you think of the service you receive and how much service users are involved in, and are encouraged to give their views on, the services they receive. Providers of supported housing schemes across Surrey have been asked to encourage their residents and service users to complete a questionnaire to give their views.

Please ask your Service Provider for a questionnaire if you have not already received one. If you have any queries or want to find out more, contact us in the Coalition Office Tel: 01483 456558.

# OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

## JOIN YOUR LOCAL AREA GROUP OF FOCUS

FoCUS (Forum of Carers and people who Use Services) is run by Surrey & Borders Partnership Trust to seek the views of people on the mental health and learning disability services they provide. The local Area Groups meet monthly and want people to attend and give their views.

The next meetings are as follows:-

- East & Mid Surrey**
- **Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> July**
  - 10.30 to 12.30
  - Holy Trinity Church Hall, Redhill
- South West Surrey**
- **Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> July**
  - 1.30 to 3.30
  - Guildford Adult Learning Centre, Guildford
- North West Surrey**
- **Tues 8<sup>th</sup> July**
  - 1.30 to 3.30
  - Chertsey Halls, Chertsey

Travel expenses paid, and support provided if required.

Contact Lucy Darlow

Tel: 01883 383707 or Email: [lucy.darlow@sabp.nhs.uk](mailto:lucy.darlow@sabp.nhs.uk)

## ARE YOU A WHEELCHAIR USER?

If so, and you would like to give your views on how the local service and wheelchair maintenance service could be improved, then contact us in the Coalition Office.

### IF YOU LIVE IN CENTRAL SURREY

(Mole Valley, Epsom & Ewell and East Elmbridge) – you could attend the first meeting of a Wheelchair User Group with Central Surrey Health, on

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

11.30 am to 1 pm

Leatherhead Hospital

### IF YOU LIVE IN THE REST OF SURREY

Contact us to become part of an existing Wheelchair User Group with Surrey PCT's Community Health Services.

Tel: 01483 456558

# **OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED**

## **JOIN THE “JUNIOR CITIZENS” TRAINING TEAM**

One of our Coalition Directors, Suzân Lewis-Jones, has for several years been helping on the Junior Citizens Scheme run by Surrey Fire and Rescue, Surrey Police and local Councils to teach Year 6 school children about safety. She has been giving sessions on “Disability Awareness and Safety” to pupils in Waverley, and now wants to expand the scheme across all Boroughs in Surrey.

Several other Coalition Directors have already volunteered to help in the Borough where they live, and Suzân needs more disabled people to help. She can provide training for the trainers, with a standard 10 minute presentation and demonstration materials provided. The Junior Citizens Scheme takes place for all primary schools between February & November each year running for about 3 weeks in each Borough or District.

Please contact us in the Coalition Office if you would like to help. We really need enthusiastic people to help these 10 and 11 year old school children understand more about disability issues Tel: 01483 456558

Although all primary schools are invited to participate in this invaluable programme, not all choose to do so. We hope with your help to encourage all schools to join in.

## **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

The Surrey Health and Social Care Joint Training Partnership are again running a series of training courses for service users, carers professionals and people working in the voluntary and community sector.

Subjects include:

- Thirst for life (Effects of dehydration)
- Continuing Care Eligibility
- ‘The bug stops here’ (preventing health care related infections in the community)
- ‘Someone to watch over me’ (Safeguarding procedures)
- Improving Patient Interactions

Courses are being held on various dates all over Surrey.

Contact us in the Coalition Office for more details Tel: 01483 456558

# INFORMATION FOR YOU

## **SID – SECONHAND DISABILITY EQUIPMENT**

SID (Social Information on Disability) has just published another CATALOGUE of Second Hand Disability Equipment – to buy or sell.

Enclosed with this Issue is a Bookmark from SID about their Equipment Service. Contact SID for more information

## **NEW LEAFLET FROM SID – FOR FAMILIES & YOUNG DISABLED CHILDREN**

SID have produced a new leaflet giving contact information for young disabled children and their families.

Contact SID for a copy Tel: 0800 043 9395

## **UPDATE ON ACCESS TO WISLEY GARDENS**

Following the successful campaign led by Eric Knibbs and the SW Surrey Partnership Board last year, to re-instate scooter hire at RHS Wisley Gardens, a new and more collaborative relationship has been developed with Wisley management.

Members of the SW Surrey Partnership Board received an update from Chris Tank from Wisley, at their last meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May, and were told of new plans to improve access in 2008, including:-

- 2 more scooters, in addition to the existing fleet of 4
- 2 smaller scooters for access to the Garden Centre facilities
- Reviewing and replacing existing manual wheelchairs (Eric suggested they consider purchasing electric wheelchairs as well).
- Producing information in braille as well as in large print
- Refurbishment of toilet facilities

Congratulations to Eric and the SW Surrey Board members for all they have achieved.

# INFORMATION FOR YOU

## OLDER PEOPLE'S NEWSLETTER

The May 2008 Issue of Surrey County Council's newsletter is now available – updating people on issues affecting older people in Surrey. These include:-

- The **Inspection of Adult Social Care Services** in Surrey which will be undertaken by **CSCI** (Commission for Social Care Inspection) from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2008. During their visit they will be talking to service users and their carers, through Surrey Coalition of Disabled People and Action for Carers Surrey, Age Concern Surrey and others.
- Launch of the Government's **National debate on the future of social care**. Views are being sought until November 2008, on new ways to help people stay active, care for family members, retain maximum dignity and respect, and have the best possible quality of life. Surrey County Council wants to work with Surrey Coalition and Action for Carers Surrey, to explore all these issues over the next five months. More information on how you can contribute your views will be published in future Coalition News.
- **Multi-Agency Information Sharing Protocol for Surrey**. This provides guidance for professionals on a framework for exchanging information in a way that is legal and efficient, and in the interests of individuals. For more information contact:-

**[grisilda.ponniah@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:grisilda.ponniah@surreycc.gov.uk)**

Tel: 0208 541 9915

For a copy of the Older People's Newsletter (by email or hard copy) contact us in the Coalition Office. Tel: 01483 456558

## HIGHWAY CODE FOR MOBILITY SCOOTER USERS

We have been sent a really accessible and helpful version of a Highway Code for Mobility Scooter Users – full of great graphics!

If you would like a copy (by email or post) please contact us in the Coalition Office Tel: 01483 456558

# UPDATES

## CHANGES TO DIRECT PAYMENTS

During the last few months work has been underway within Surrey County Council to improve the way that Direct Payments are provided and supported.

This work, which has involved input from SILC (Surrey Independent Living Council) has included a review of the Councils Policy and procedures to make the setting up, payment and monitoring more straight forward for people using Direct Payments and for Council Staff.

One extremely important development has been the introduction of the Self Directed Support Monitoring Team which is now responsible for the making and reconciling of all Direct Payments. This will hopefully bring consistency to the way that payments are made and how the reconciliation and monitoring of payments is carried out.

SILC is now hoping to set up a forum where people using Direct Payments can meet directly with officers of the Council so they can share with them how they experience Direct Payments and the way that they are provided.

If anyone using Direct Payments would like to be part of this or wants to let SILC know their views, please contact Richard Davy on 01483 458 111.

**(Reprinted from SILC's Newsletter, Spring 2008)**

## FOUNDATION STATUS FOR SURREY & BORDERS PARTNERSHIP

On 1st May Surrey & Borders Partnership NHS Trust were approved by Monitor, the Independent Regulator, to become a Foundation Trust.

Congratulations to the Trust on this achievement. The Trust will now be known as **Surrey & Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.**

## ACCESS TO ASTOLAT

Surrey Community Action are creating a new accessible conference room on the ground floor at Astolat and we hope soon to be able to start using Astolat again for meetings, involving wheelchair users and others with mobility problems.

# WHAT COALITION MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN

## CONTRIBUTING TO RESEARCH

Young people with mental health issues are contributing to research being undertaken by a student at the University of Surrey on mental health promotion. This is being coordinated by Michael Sellors, Independent User Involvement Facilitator with Together, on behalf of Surrey Coalition.

## COUNTY COUNCIL'S INFORMATION PROJECT

This Project, started last autumn in conjunction with the Office for Disability Issues and has just been completed.

The final Update on the Project will be published shortly. Contact us in the Coalition office if you would like a copy.

The Project has produced an Action Plan, agreed by Surrey County Council Executive, to improve the accessibility of information provided by the Council both internally and externally.

It is expected that the ODI (Office for Disability Issues) will shortly launch the results of the Project here in Surrey and at other sites across the country. The Information Project Reference Group, which involved several Coalition members, will meet again in November, to monitor progress in implementing the action plan.

For a copy of the Action Plan and/or the Update,  
contact Coalition Office Tel: 01483 456558

## DOING EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS WITH SURREY PCT

Several of the 20 Coalition members who received training in EIA's with Surrey County Council last year, have been putting their training into practice with Surrey Primary Care Trust. Working with Equality Lead, Tina Gull, members have been reviewing numerous policies to ensure they do not adversely affect disabled people. Policies so far include:-

- Alcohol & Substance Misuse
- HIV and other blood born infections
- Clinical Excellence Awards policy

# **WHAT COALITION MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN**

## **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES**

A team of 'EIA experts' from Surrey Coalition spent a day last month reviewing the equality impact of several social care services including:

- Acute Hospital Social Care Teams
- Emergency Duty Team
- Community Teams for Older and Disabled People

We hope to increase our involvement in doing EIA's with other departments and services across Surrey County Council. Carol Pearson, Coordinator for Surrey Coalition has been invited to join SCC's Equality and Diversity Strategic Management Group and she will be working with E & D Lead, Monica Wambu, to ensure disabled people are fully involved in the Council's policy making, planning and service delivery reviews.

## **LIVING WITH PARKINSONS**

Did you hear Coalition member Gill Haworth on Southern Counties Radio 'Real Lives' Programme last week, talking about her views on living with Parkinsons? Despite her illness Gill actively works to help others, through the local Parkinsons Society Group in South West Surrey, contributing on disability issues through Surrey Coalition, and as a Tutor on the Expert Patient Programme.

If you missed the broadcast and would like to hear Gill's moving account of life with Parkinsons, we can send you it – on CD or by email.

Contact us in the Coalition Office Tel: 01483 456558

## **SOCIAL CARE VALUES & DISABILITY EQUALITY TRAINING**

We are just piloting a new scheme to input to training for social care staff - leading interactive group discussions on how staff can implement the Social Model of Disability in their day to day work. Feedback will be given next month.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### NEW 'EVENTS COORDINATOR' JOINS THE SURREY COALITION TEAM

Thanks to Surrey County Council we have been able to appoint a part-time member of staff to Surrey Coalition to help coordinate and run user involvement events with public bodies across Surrey.

**Alison White** joins us on 16<sup>th</sup> June, having previously worked as a Support Assistant with the Waverley Social Care Team. Alison is keen to build relationships between social care staff and the recipients of social care services. She has also much experience in training so will be helping to develop empowerment and skills training for Coalition members as well as developing opportunities for disabled people to be involved in disability awareness training for professionals in public services.

We look forward to having Alison join our small team in the Coalition Office. Her contact details are email - [alison.white@surreycoalition.org.uk](mailto:alison.white@surreycoalition.org.uk)  
Tel: 01483 456558

### GUIDANCE ON ARRANGING ACCESSIBLE EVENTS

Last summer Surrey County Council's Equality Project Team produced an excellent Guide (with help from Surrey Coalition) on arranging accessible events. This does not seem to be widely known so we are publicising it.

For a copy contact Monica Wambu, SCC's lead on Equality & Diversity – email [monica.wambu@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:monica.wambu@surreycc.gov.uk) or contact us in the Coalition Office, Tel: 01483 456558.

### CAMPAIGN FOR A COMMUNITY ALLOWANCE

The CREATE Consortium has launched a new campaign to establish the Community Allowance within the UK Benefits system. This would enable people to receive some payment for work within their communities without affecting any of their benefits.

See a 5 minute film "Benefits Rule" which explains the current problems, download the CREATE Report, at [www.communityallowance.org](http://www.communityallowance.org)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## DisCASS

(Disabled Citizens Advice & Support Service – Godalming)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Weds 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

12.30 to 2.30

United Reform Church  
Bridge Road, Godalming

For more information:  
Tel 01483 860551

## WORKSHOP ON SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT

Surrey County Council are holding a series of workshops to update and involve disabled people, carers, and partners in the voluntary sector, PCT, local councils and the private sector, in their plans for rolling out **Self Directed Support** in Surrey.

The next event for people who will receive Self Directed Support is being arranged with Surrey Coalition of Disabled People and will be held

**on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm

at Leatherhead Leisure Centre

**If you would like to attend please complete the enclosed Booking Form and return it to Coalition Office by 19<sup>th</sup> June.**

## SURREY INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

### SILC's 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July

10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Leatherhead Leisure Centre

Come and hear about Self Directed Support in Surrey and give your views on how Direct Payments are working for you.

For more information contact  
Richard Davy at SILC

Tel: 01483 458 111

Email: [admin@surreyilc.org.uk](mailto:admin@surreyilc.org.uk)

## SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AWARENESS WEEK

**16th to 20th June 2008**

Final reminder - please see all the events listed in last month's Coalition News.

Also see enclosed the information about what to do if you suspect abuse.