



COALITION NEWS

June 2010

Working together to promote equality of
opportunity and independent
living for disabled people in Surrey

Issue 20

SURREY COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

Astolat, Coniers Way, Burpham, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7HL

☎ Phone & Minicom 01483 456558 ☎ Fax 01483 456561

✉ Email info@surreycoalition.org.uk

COALITION BOARD IN ACTION

Pictured here are some of the members of Surrey Coalition's Board of Directors at their meeting on 18th May, when they approved the budget for the coming year and the Coalition's Action Plan for 2010/11. The Action Plan was produced following a strategic review of the issues which will affect disabled people over the next three years. These include the radical shift in social care called, "Personalisation" which enables individuals to have more choice and control over their lives.



The Action Plan is divided into 12 sections each tackling the main issues which currently limit people's ability to access services on the same basis as everyone else. These we call the 12 Basic Rights of Disabled People, and include access to the Environment, Transport, Housing and Equipment, as well as to Healthcare, an adequate Income, Personal Support, Advocacy and to Leisure.

If you would like a copy of the Action Plan,
contact us in the Coalition Office - **01483 456558**

WHAT COALITION MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN

LAUNCH OF DEMENTIA TELECARE PILOT

Pictured here are Coalition Vice-Chair Anna Sartori and Christine Batham Chair of the N.W. Empowerment Board, with Cllr. Michael Gosling, Executive Member for Adult Social Care, at the launch on 21st May of an exciting new Telecare Dementia Project which will be piloted to begin with, in Elmbridge, Mole Valley and Spelthorne.



Several other members of our Telecare User and Carer Reference Group were also there and saw demonstrations of the range of equipment which will be available to support people with dementia living at home.

SURREY DEAF FORUM

When members of Surrey Deaf Forum met last on 24th March, they approved a constitution for the Forum which is for people living in Surrey who use sign language. They also elected their Committee, chaired by David Buxton, who are now setting up Surrey Deaf Forum as a Constituted Group to be able to raise funds to set up, for example, a Website, Facebook, and to produce regular newsletters. The Forum is supported by Surrey Coalition, Surrey LINK and Surrey's Deaf Services Team.



Pictured here are the new Committee discussing plans to develop the Forum and the agenda for the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 7th July from 7.30 to 9.30 at Parkhouse Leatherhead.

See also page 7 for more information.

WHAT COALITION MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN

COMMENTING ON SURREY'S BUS REVIEW

Work has continued since the update given in the April Issue of Coalition News, to ensure as far as possible that the needs and concerns of disabled people have been taken into account in the County Council's Review of Bus Services.

Following consultation last autumn on Phase 1 of the Bus Review, covering services in North Surrey and the Reigate area, amended proposals for changes to routes and services are going to SCC's Cabinet for approval on 2nd June.

We are very pleased to say that through negotiations with local Bus companies, certain routes which were proposed for removal altogether, are now to be kept. This includes the 557 from Stanwell via Staines to St Peter's Hospital, and also that people living in Horley will retain a bus route which will now go via East Surrey Hospital.

Full details of the changes and Route Maps are now on the Council website. During the past few months David Keen and Geoff Jelly, the Coalition Board Directors who lead on transport issues, have been meeting with Council officers to

- Stress the importance of keeping bus services to local hospitals
- Encourage if possible the retention of 'through buses' so people with mobility or sensory impairments do not have to change buses.
- Design a questionnaire to be sent to all disabled bus pass holders in Surrey, and
- Ensure the Equality Impact Assessment includes plans to mitigate any disadvantage to disabled people arising from the changes.

The next steps will be to review the results of the Survey and to be involved in the development of plans for Phase 2, work on which will start in September. This phase will cover Surrey Heath and Tandridge.

If any Coalition members who use buses in these two Boroughs would like to be involved, please contact us in the Coalition Office.

Tel 01483 456558 or email carol.pearson@surreycoalition.org.uk

WHAT COALITION MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN

ISSUES TACKLED BY THE EMPOWERMENT BOARDS

At their meetings during May, the 5 local Empowerment Boards gave their views on a number of consultation documents both national and local. These included:

- NHS Consultation on GP Choice
- Wheelchair Services provided by Surrey Community Health Services
- Service specifications for Home Improvement Agencies (Handyman Services) in Mole Valley and Reigate & Banstead.
- Views on improving access to Frimley Park Hospital, and their plans for a new A & E department



Pictured here are members of the North Surrey Empowerment Board talking to the Disability Officer with South West Trains

GIVING VIEWS TO IMPROVE ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Surrey Coalition members continue to respond to many requests for comments on plans to improve access to services. These have included:

- Commenting on the accessibility of the “Travel Surrey Website”.
- Giving views on Special Care Dental Services in Surrey.
- Giving views on the priorities for disabled people for inclusion in Surrey County Council’s Single Equality Scheme.
- Commenting on NHS Surrey’s reviewed Disability Equality Scheme
- Doing Equality Impact Assessments on NHS Surrey Services and policies

WHAT COALITION MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN

SURREY VISION ACTION GROUP – IN ACTION

The group are pictured here at their meeting on 20th May, where they discussed

- An RNIB Campaign which will be run here in Surrey in September, to promote the “Losing Patients Campaign” – aimed at ensuring GPs and hospitals communicate with vision impaired people in their chosen format.
- SAVI’s plans to recruit an Eye Care Liaison Officer (ECLO) to assist people at the point of diagnosis of a vision impairment to access the appropriate services – this exciting new initiative is being funded by SAVI and RNIB and will provide for one ECLO – to initially cover the East Surrey and Epsom Hospitals. We hope funding will soon be found to appoint ECLOs to cover Royal Surrey, Ashford & St Peter’s and Frimley Park Hospitals too in the near future.
- The new advocacy service being offered by NW Surrey Association of Disabled People for people with physical and sensory impairment across Surrey (See Page 12 for more information)
- SAVI’s Customer Charter
- The next meeting of Surrey Vision Action Group will be open to all other people with a vision impairment and will be held on 8th July (See Page 7 for more information)



OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY

SECAMB'S 'SHAPING THE FUTURE' EVENT

South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb) would like to invite you to an event where you can find out more about your local NHS ambulance service, and help us plan for the future. These 'Shaping the Future' days give our patients, members of the public, staff and people from organisations we work with a chance to hear from our Chief Executive, put questions to our Directors, take part in group discussions about how to improve our services, and meet other people with an interest in health services.

We are holding 6 events. The Surrey event will be held in The Hilton, Cobham, on Thursday 8th July, between 10am and 4pm. Lunch will be provided. In addition to SECamb staff, we are inviting a speaker from another organisation to talk about dementia.

To register for the event, please contact:

shapingthefuture@secamb.nhs.uk, phone 01273 8978409 add 18001 prefix to use Text Relay) or SMS 07770 685772

When you register, please tell us:

- you wish to register for the Surrey Shaping the Future event
- your name and postal and/or email address

REPRESENT DISABLED PEOPLE ON SURREY'S SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD AND GROUPS

We are looking for members interested in contributing to Surrey's multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding adults from abuse - which may be physical, emotional or even financial abuse. We need people to represent the interest of disabled people in many different ways.

Contact us in the Coalition Office if you are interested

Tel: 01483 456558 or email alison.white@surreycoalition.org.uk

OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY

GIVE YOUR VIEWS ON PRIORITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH SENSORY IMPAIRMENT

As part of the process of developing a Joint Commissioning Strategy for people with Sensory Impairment, Surrey County Council and NHS Surrey want to hear people's views at the next round of engagement events being held in early July. This is your chance to check that the list of priorities include everything that is important, and to rank the priorities in order of importance.

The following meetings are being arranged by Surrey Coalition together with SAVI, Deaf Services and the County Council.

FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HARD OF HEARING OR DEAFENED

- Wednesday 7th July
- 10.15 to 12.30
- Park House, Leatherhead

Booking forms will be sent out soon to everyone who attended the first meeting in March.

SURREY DEAF FORUM

- Wednesday 7th July
- 7.30 to 9.30 pm
- Park House, Leatherhead

This is for Deaf sign language users, being organised by the Deaf Forum Committee

SURREY VISION ACTION GROUP

- Thursday 8th July
- 10.15 to 12.30pm
- Park House, Leatherhead

This meeting of SVAG is being extended to include anyone with a vision impairment, and booking forms have been sent out by SAVI in their recent newsletter "Lines of Sight".

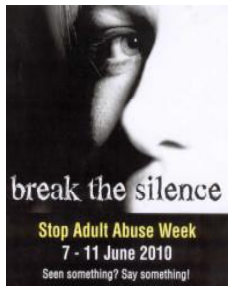
OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY

STORIES WANTED

BY FREEWHEELERS THEATRE COMPANY

Freewheelers brings disabled and non-disabled actors, supporters and the local community together. They are now planning their new production called "Audacity" which is about the 'understanding and interaction between disabled and non disabled people.' They are researching for this now and would welcome any personal stories about awkward, embarrassing or funny moments. Look on their website for more information www.freewheelerstheatre.co.uk or contact us in the Coalition Office.

JOIN IN SURREY'S STOP ADULT ABUSE WEEK (7 – 11 JUNE 2010)



Events are being held all over Surrey to promote awareness of the need to Stop Adult Abuse. Some of these are given below.

- Official Launch – 5th June
11 – 1 at Tunsgate Arch, High Street, Guildford
- Information Roadshows – 1st to 4th June

Find out more from the Safeguarding Adults Team between 10 and 3pm on

- 1st June – Woking Town Square
- 2nd June – Staines
- 3rd June – Epsom
- 4th June – Guildford High Street

During the week 7th to 11th June events are being held in 22 different towns across Surrey, from Caterham in the east to Camberley and Godalming in the west. Many events are showing the DVD called "Because you said something".

For more information contact Charles Robinson in the Safeguarding Adults Team. Tel: 01372 833520 or Email: charles.robinson@surreycc.gov.uk

Launch of DVD "Break the Silence"

- at Lockwood, Guildford from 2 to 3.30 on Tuesday, 8th June
- contact Terri King on 01483 532502

NEWS IN BRIEF

CONGRATULATIONS

To the following Surrey Coalition members on recent great achievements

- **NICK DANAGHER**

Has been appointed as one of 10 disabled people who will now form Equality 2025, and advise Government on how they can meet their objective of achieving equality for disabled people by 2025.

- **JENNY TEAGLE**

An active member who also chairs Guildford Access Group and is a member of Surrey Access Forum, has successfully qualified as an Access Auditor. We hope she will now undertake commissions, via Surrey Coalition, to do formal Access Audits of premises owned by public services in Surrey.



- **CLIFF BUSH**

Chair of Surrey Coalition and Surrey LINK, Cliff has been asked by the Cabinet Office to continue to provide independent advice on behalf of patients and disabled people to the Department of Health and Department of Work and Pensions.

NEW INFORMATION WEBSITE LAUNCHED

SID (Surrey's Social Information on Disability) secured Big Lottery funding last year to set up INDI – Information Network for Disability Information in the South East. This is an innovative disability website forum and they have now launched the website, which is

www.indi.org.uk

The website provides a one-stop resource on

- developments in the field of disability
- research
- useful links
- diversity and equality forums

Membership is free – look at the Website to find out more

ULO UPDATE

• THE ULO AND HUB IN EPSOM

Our Project to develop local User Led Organisations across Surrey, run jointly with SILC, North West Surrey Association of Disabled People, Action for Carers Surrey and Surrey County Council, is moving on apace in Epsom.

Local disabled people living in Epsom, Ewell and Banstead have come together to form a Steering Group and are just setting themselves up as a formally constituted User Led Group. Over 90 people responded to the letter we sent to all disabled people on the County Council's registers, inviting them to become involved. They will now be invited to join their local Epsom User Led Organisation.

Work will start very soon to adapt and refurbish the shop which SILC are leasing for the Hub, situated in a great location in the marketplace in Epsom High Street. The local Steering Group have been involved in all the planning and arrangements for equipping "THE HUB" so volunteers can run it to provide information, advice, advocacy and access to services for disabled people and carers. We hope to open the Hub in September.

In the meantime, the Epsom ULO and the Hub now have a website – just with a Home Page at present, but this will be developed over the next few months. See www.thehubepsom.org.uk

• A ULO AND HUB IN REDHILL

As part of the new "Right to Control" Trailblazer Project of which Surrey is one of only 8 sites in England, the User Led Organisations Project now has money to set up a ULO and Hub in the Redhill area.

We are just appointing a ULO Coordinator, for two years, to support disabled people living in the Redhill/Reigate area to set up their own User Led Group and to set up a Hub. The person will then support the work of both the Epsom and Redhill ULOs on a day to day basis, once they are up and running from December this year.

We will therefore be linking with disabled people living in the Redhill, Reigate, Merstham and Horley areas very soon, to encourage them to get involved.

If you want to put your name down for this now, please contact Carol in the Coalition Office. Tel 01483 456558 or Email carol.pearson@surreycoalition.org.uk

THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT

CABINET APPOINTMENTS

3 of our local Surrey MPs have been appointed to Ministerial roles in Cabinet. These are:

- Michael Gove (MP for Surrey Heath)
 - Education Secretary
- Philip Hammond (MP for Runnymede & Weybridge)
 - Transport Secretary
- Jeremy Hunt (MP for Waverley)
 - Culture, Olympics, Media and Sports Secretary

Anne Milton, MP for Guildford, has also been appointed as Minister for Public Health.

All these MPs have been strong supporters of Surrey Coalition and the local Empowerment Boards, and as they are all responsible for vital services for disabled people, we hope to engage with them a lot over the coming years.

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Below are the key issues in the Health Secretary's statement on the future of both health and social care:-

- Independent Commission on the funding of long term care
 - (to report in one year)
- Roll out of personal budgets for Carers
- Abandoning proposals for Free Care at Home (which were under the previous Government to have been introduced from October this year)
- Continuing to look at implementing Reablement and Carers Breaks, within available resources
- Increase in Direct Payments for Carers
- The NHS will be reformed to improve patient outcomes.

For the full Statement go to

http://www.dh.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/DH_116236

SERVICES AND INFO FOR YOU

NHS SURREY DENTAL HELPLINE

- Are you having a problem finding an NHS dentist?
- Do you currently have dental problems and no dentist?
- Do you have an urgent dental problem out of hours?

If the answer is Yes to any of these questions, call **0845 2712040**

No SMS Text number yet available – but we have asked NHS Surrey to provide one.

DEREK PARAVACINI CONCERT

Coalition member Jackie Cookson is organising a concert in aid of the HALOW PROJECT which is based in Guildford and supports young people with learning difficulties. The concert is being held on:

FRIDAY 18th JUNE

at Coverwood Lakes and Gardens, Peaslake
from 4pm when the gardens are open for picnics

5 to 7pm for live music

7.30pm - Derek Paravacini's concert

Tickets from Guildford Tourist Office.

Tel 01483 444334 or online@www.visitguildford.com

NEW SURREY WIDE ADVOCACY SERVICE

A new advocacy service for people with physical and sensory impairments is now available for everyone in Surrey, provided by North West Surrey Association of Disabled People. They are providing this service on an interim basis until April 2011, pending a tendering process by Surrey's Adult Social Care Service to provide advocacy on an ongoing basis. NWSADP is a user-led organisation run by disabled people and as its name suggests, has previously provided advocacy services for people with physical and sensory impairments living in the North West of Surrey. To reflect the new Surrey wide services they will shortly be assuming a new name. More about this in the next Issue of Coalition News).

If you need an independent professional Advocate to support you in sorting out any problem or issue affecting your day to day life, contact NWSADP: Telephone/Text – 01483 750973 or email: home@nwsadp.org.uk.

Advocacy helps people to say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain the services they need.

SERVICES AND INFO FOR YOU

BENEFITS ADVICE?

Do you need benefits advice - and cannot get to the CAB?

Did you know that if you are either a tenant or a lease holder with a Housing Association you can usually get help from their Welfare Benefit Adviser on all benefits, in total confidence.

BULLETINS FROM THE LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

ENCLOSED with this Issue for our members who are interested in issues for people with learning difficulties are 2 more Bulletins from the Partnership Board – for March and April 2010.

INTRODUCTION TO INCLUSIVE DRAMA PRACTICE

The Orpheus Centre in Godstone are offering one day training Courses for anyone looking to develop their skills and knowledge in using theatre and drama with disabled people. There are 2 days available:

- Monday 7th June - Monday 28th June

**For more information call Paul Margrave on
01883 741428 or email paulmargrave@orpheus.org.uk**

TRY OUT “INLINE SLEDGE HOCKEY”

A great activity for disabled and non disabled people – a derivative of the Ice Sledge Hockey which is part of the Paralympics. A Taster Session was held in Bisley in May, but it is not too late to find out more. Visit www.inlinegb.co.uk

INFORMATION ABOUT SURREY ISSUES

We also have copies of the following Updates on local issues – contact us if you want a copy.

- Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum – e-Newsletter
- Surrey LINK e-Newsletter
- ‘Money Matters for every child’ – first newsletter on the Child Poverty Campaign in Surrey being led by Surrey Welfare Rights Unit
- Transition Next Steps’ – quarterly newsletter from Partnership with Parents for your people with learning difficulties in transition

INFORMATION FOR YOU

CREATING A STRONGER VOICE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE IN SOUTH WEST SURREY

The South West Empowerment Board is holding an Open Event to encourage disabled people living in Guildford and Waverley to join the Board. This will also be a celebration of all they have achieved over the past 7 years. Please come

**on Weds 28th July
from 11am to 2pm
at Godalming Baptist Church**

Transport and support provided. If you want to attend please contact Yasmin Broome, Delivering Empowerment Coordinator.
Tel: 01483 517294 or email yasmin.broome@surreycc.gov.uk

NEWSLETTERS FROM NATIONAL DISABLED PEOPLE'S ORGANISATIONS (DPOs)

We receive newsletters regularly from all the main national DPOs, which we send electronically to those of you using email. However, we know that 90% of our members do not use email, so if you want us to send you a paper copy of any of these Newsletters, please just ask. The latest ones received include

- 'Independently' – produced by the National Centre for Independent Living (NCIL)
- 'Our Rights' published by DAA – the International Disability and Human Rights Network
- Disability Lib's E-Update
- Newsletters from the UK Disabled People's Council (UKDPC)

Blue Badge Parking Charges Consultation

The City of Lincoln is reviewing its plans to charge Blue Badge holders for parking after dropping its objections to a Judicial Review which was submitted by campaigner, Matt Smith. The council is now consulting BEFORE a new decision is made. Following that success Geoff Jelly, Chair of the Epsom and Ewell Access Group, has prepared and submitted an initial case regarding the lack of consultation and charging for possible Judicial Review. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council have asked Blue Badge holders to complete a questionnaire seeking views. Of the 27 questions, none asked for views on charging.

NATIONAL NEWS AND CAMPAIGNS

NATIONAL EYE HEALTH WEEK

THIS Inaugural event will be held from June 14th to 20th 2010, and will focus on the importance of having regular eye tests to prevent sight loss.

For the first time ever the UK Eye Care sector is joining forces with the eye care sector charities and health professionals to launch the Campaign to improve sight.

A press release from SEEABILITY highlights the fact that 50% of sight loss could be prevented by having regular eye tests, and also that people with learning difficulties are more at risk of sight loss than everyone else.

To help address this Seeability

- Runs the 2 Eye Campaign to help people with learning difficulties access eye tests and low vision support, and
- During National Eye Health Week they will be launching EasyRead downloadable factsheets on their Look Up website: www.lookupinfo.org

EQUALITY ACT 2010

The new Equality Act was given royal assent before parliament was suspended for the general election. The main provisions of the Act will come into place in October 2010 with further provisions coming into force over the next 2 years.

Details regarding the Equalities Act can be found at the link below

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/equality_bill.aspx

Some are welcoming this all encompassing Act whereas others are concerned that disability equality may be diluted within this piece of legislation.

We hope not, and we will be working with the main county-wide public bodies in Surrey on the implementation of this Act.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EMPOWERMENT BOARDS CONFERENCE 2010

“Information, Inclusion and Independence”

THURSDAY 17TH JUNE

10 – 3.30

DORKING HALLS

Use the Booking Form included with the April Issue of Coalition News
or contact Yasmin Broome Tel: 01483 517294

Email: yasmin.broome@surreycc.gov.uk

LAUNCH OF SAFEGUARDING ADULTS WEEK

SATURDAY 5TH JUNE 2010

11 – 1pm

**TUNSGATE ARCH
HIGH STREET
GUILDFORD**

Open Event – No tickets required

See Page 8 for more information

SOUTH EAST COALST AMBULANCE SERVICE

“Shaping the Future”

Surrey Event

THURSDAY 8TH JULY 2010

10am to 4pm

Cobham Hilton

Contact us in the Coalition Office for
a Booking Form. Transport can be
provided (See Page 6 for more info).

SILC AGM 2010

**Surrey Independent Living
Council are holding their AGM**

on

TUESDAY 27TH JULY

11am to 3pm

at Leatherhead Leisure Centre

For more information

Tel 01483 458111 or email
admin@surreyilc.org.uk

SURREY LINK OPEN EVENT

SATURDAY JUNE 19th

10 am to 3.30 pm

DENBIES, DORKING

Come along and find out more and
help identify the priorities which
Surrey LINK should tackle in the
coming year.

See enclosed invitation.