SURREY COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

COALITION NEWS

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

June 2011 **Issue 25**

SURREY COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

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OPENING OF "THE HUB REDHILL"

The Hub Redhill

Our second user led Hub opened in Redhill High Street on 10th May, where disabled people are now providing information and support for other disabled people and carers living in the area. As at The Hub Epsom, this new Hub is also offering drop in services and appointments with an Independent Living Adviser from SILC, and an advocate from Surrey Disabled People's Partnership, as well as access to many other advocacy and support services. The Hub Redhill is also displaying and selling a wide range of equipment for mobility and daily living, supplied through VASD (Voluntary Association for Surrey Disabled) and SAVI (Surrey Association for Visual Impairment).

Pictured here are some of the volunteers in action, and a view of The Hub – situated at 41 High Street, Redhill – near to the Belfry Shopping Centre.

Call in or contact The Hub by phone 01737 761614 or text 07704 288772 or email info@thehubredhill.org.uk to get the information and support you need – or to become a volunteer.

UPDATE ON ADULT SOCIAL CARE

THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE IMPLEMENTATION BOARD – which includes representatives of Surrey Coalition and Action for Carers Surrey, met again recently to review progress on all 13 Projects being implemented to transform services in Surrey. Some of the key points to note are as follows:

PROJECT TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF BENEFIT CHANGES – on people, on local authorities and on advice services in Surrey

This important piece of work was commissioned by the Implementation Board and will be completed by mid July. Detailed work is being done to identify the number of people potentially affected by the welfare reform changes which include:

- Changes to housing benefit
- Plans to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with Personal Independence Payments (PIP)
- Plans to introduce Universal Credit (UC) replacing many other existing benefits, and
- The re-assessment of people on Incapacity Benefit (IB) for Employment Support Allowance (ESA)

We look forward to seeing the report in July.

COMMISSIONING

- The Quality Assurance Team are now in place to monitor the quality of commissioned services, involving disabled people and carers through 4 Area Quality Assurance Groups.
- Work continues on several Commissioning Strategies, again involving disabled people and carers (see pages 11 & 12 for more details)

UPDATE ON ADULT SOCIAL CARE

• INDEPENDENT LIVING

- Joint Accommodation Strategy launched in April.

- Partnership funding allocated to implement the Telecare and Telehealth Strategy, to help promote people's independence at home.

PERSONALISATION

- Now that the roll out of Self Directed Support training across Surrey has been completed, the Personalisation Team are now working with local teams to ensure that people are being offered choice and control in doing their supported self assessment and support plan based on indicative budgets.

- Further evaluation of Self Directed Support is being planned.

IN HOUSE SERVICES

- Work continues to ensure that the Council's In House Services (Day Services, Residential Homes etc.) are cost effective and value for money

- Options are being developed for setting up small Social Enter prises involving service users, instead of traditional day service activities.

ASC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Former Care Management teams have now been reorganised and staff will have moved to their new roles and locations by the end of June. Many of the teams are being co-located in Borough and District Council offices.

UPDATE ON ADULT SOCIAL CARE

- The teams are:
  - 11 Locality Teams based in each Borough and District
  - 4 Long Term teams, and
  - Hospital Social Work Teams
- Staff are now called:
  - Social Work Practitioners, or
  - Assistant Social Work Practitioners
- All clients will receive a letter explaining the changes and a postcard giving the name and mobile phone number of their allocated Social Work Practitioner.
- Hospital Teams will operate from 8am to 8pm and at weekends from September.
- Extra funds are being spent to create Reablement Teams which will provide an equitable service across Surrey.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

- In May, Adult Social Care launched a campaign to publicise Surrey Information Point, under the banner “Live Life Your Way”.

Visit the website: www.surreyinformationpoint.org.uk to obtain the information you need to live more independently.

Or - by phone:

- call the Adult Social Care Helpline on 0300 200 1005 or,
- call SID (Social Information on Disability) on 01372 372888

Or - in person, visit the Hubs in Epsom and Redhill High Streets.

WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN

CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH WATCH

Surrey LINK held a very successful event on 9th May to discuss the issues which need to be addressed in setting up a Healthwatch in Surrey in 2012. If you were unable to go, you can catch up by requesting a 'Healthwatch catch-up Pack' – email admin@surrey-link.org.uk, or Tel 01483 447131.

A second workshop on Healthwatch will be held
on Tuesday 14th June 2011
from 9.30 to 1pm
at Dorking Halls

Use the contact details above to book your place.

SURREY CARERS FORUM

Action for Carers Surrey held another very successful Carers Forum on 24th May at Dorking Halls, attended by over 130 carers and representatives of partner organisations (pictured here manning information stands)

Carers heard the good news that this year NHS Surrey has agreed to allocate all of the £1.9 mil Carers Grant given to them by Government to developments to support carers in Surrey. They also heard of new ideas to improve communication and engagement between Action for Carers and carers across Surrey, so that as many voices as possible are heard and can influence service improvements. Carers then joined small workshop discussions on issues including Benefit changes; Personalisation and SDS; Commissioning Carers Services and Health & Community

WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN

SURREY VISION ACTION GROUP

Pictured here in action are the members of Surrey Vision Action Group at their meeting in May discussing how services can be better accessed and improved for people with sight impairment. The issues included:

- Employment support services provided by the Council's Employability service
- Progress on the tender evaluation for the new contract for vision impairment services in Surrey.
- The Joint Commissioning Strategy for advocacy services
- Improving awareness of the needs of sight impaired people whilst in hospital, including the design of notices

SVAG now also has a logo (shown here) which will go along side other contributors to 'A Vision for Surrey' – produced by Surrey Strategic Advisory Group (Vision Impairment) giving Best Practice Guidance based on the UK Vision Strategy launched in 2010. For a copy of 'A Vision for Surrey' contact SAVI, Tel: 01372 377701 or email estewart.morton@sa-vi.org.uk

SURREY DEAF FORUM

Members of Surrey Deaf Forum (for people who use sign language) gathered together on 13th April to give their views on the Implementation Plan for the Sensory Services Commissioning Strategy. They also discussed the new structure for Surrey Deaf Services Team and the Independent Social Work Practice Pilot which they will be part of (on secondment from the County Council) for two years. Deaf Forum members were concerned that Deaf Services should retain the knowledge understanding and experience of Deaf culture and their needs as a separate linguistic community. They are pictured here giving their views to senior managers in Adult Social Care.

WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN

SURREY LINK MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITIES GROUP

Pictured here are members of the Group at a recent meeting working together to develop Work Plans for 2011/12 on Mental Health issues and on Learning Disability Services.

The Mental Health Work Plan includes :-

- Pressing for and monitoring necessary improvements to the "New Thoughts" psychological therapies service which was introduced last September, and for which the waiting times are still 18 weeks.

- Monitoring the effects of recent changes to Community Mental Health Teams to create Recovery Teams, and particularly to ensure people do not fall in a gap between these services and 'New Thoughts'

- Undertaking a project to review and improve the care pathway for people in crisis.

We really need more people, particularly those with experience of receiving mental health services, to join the Group and get involved in all these Projects. Please contact Hilary Lombard in the Surrey LINK office – Tel: 01483 447131 or email: hilary.lombard@surreylink.org.uk

IMPROVING ACCESS AT WISLEY

Coalition Chair, Cliff Bush has continued to press for access improvements at Wisley Gardens. Scooters are now bookable for 4 hour slots from opening to closing time, and can now be used in the Garden Centre too. Wisley will also be paying our Access Auditor Jenny Teagle to do a full access audit of the shop and plant centre.

NEWS AND UPDATES

UPDATE ON SURREY LINK

Surrey LINK activities will continue until Healthwatch is set up, and the Business Group has been given an indicative budget for activities during 2011/12. Each Sub Group is producing a costed work plan so that the Business Group can allocate funds to each Group and for approved LINK volunteer activities. (See page 6 for the work being done by the mental health and learning disabilities group)

A new website is being developed and will be launched in July. The address will be www.surreylink.org.uk

Surrey LINK now have a new office based here in Astolat, enabling us in Surrey Coalition and Action for Carers Surrey, to work much more closely as active partners in the Surrey LINK Network.

NEW WELFARE BENEFITS ADVICE SERVICE

Surrey Disabled People's Partnership (SDPP) now has two part-time Benefits Advisers in post offering benefits advice to any disabled person in Surrey. The service offers comprehensive benefits checks as well as help to complete benefit claim forms.

The benefits advisers are based at:

- **The Hub, Epsom** 131 High Street, Epsom. Tel/Text: 01372 744479, and
- **The Hub, Redhill** 41 High Street, Redhill. Tel/Text: 01737 761614

Visit or contact the Hubs to arrange to see a benefits adviser or:

- Contact SDPP's office in Woking to arrange a **Home Visit** or to see a benefits adviser at their **Woking Office.** Tel: 01483 750973 email: home@sdpp.org.uk or look on the website www.sdpp.org.uk

These posts have been funded by SDPP for one year – as a pilot scheme to meet known current needs and to demonstrate future need to potential funders. Please publicise the service to friends and colleagues.

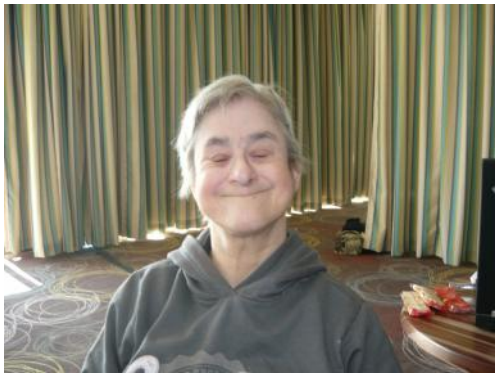
GCSE IN BSL?

Signature (an organisation promoting excellence in communication with deaf people) is promoting the need for a GCSE in British Sign Language. Support the initiative by visiting www.signature.org.uk/gcse and complete the online form.

NEWS AND UPDATES

LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Enclosed with this Issue, for members interested in services for people with learning difficulties, are copies of the Bulletin for March, and a special bulletin on the Public Value Review of Learning Disability Services in Surrey. (see the April Issue of Coalition News for more details)



Pictured here is Linda Stonestreet, co-chair of the Partnership Board and an active member of Surrey Coalition of Disabled People.

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

This came into force on 5th April 2011. It replaces the three existing duties covering disability, race and gender and extends to cover other protected characteristics. The duty requires public authorities, when carrying out their functions, to consciously consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity between different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

Here in Surrey we are working with public bodies in a range of ways to influence how they meet their duties under the Equality Act. We are doing this through the County Council's Equalities Advisory Group, regular meetings of our Disability Equality Steering Group with NHS Surrey and Surrey County Council, and through the Surrey Diversity and Equality Network (SuDEN). If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us in the Coalition Office.

WOKING SOCIAL GROUP (WSG)

- is a new Group for young disabled people to help them meet others, have fun and get out and about. Treloars Moving On project has helped the group to set up and it is now run by the disabled young people themselves.

For more info, contact Dexter James Tel: 07729 415088 Email: dexterjames1@yahoo.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT?

FREE 'ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL' BOOKLET

DPTAC (Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee) has produced a Booklet on Accessible Travel which can be downloaded from their website. Internet access is required to get most of the information, but help with this is available from libraries and local information services including The Hubs in Epsom and Redhill.

To download the booklet or read it online go to http://dptac.independent.gov.uk/pubs/at/index.htm

NEW 'TRANSITION TEAM' INFORMATION LEAFLET

This leaflet explains the 'transition' phase young people go through from children's to adults services and what the Transition Team can do to support young people through this important phase of their lives. It was written and designed in association with TEEN TALK EAST Forum for young people. For a copy email adult.communications@surreycc.gov.uk or contact us in the Coalition Office – Tel/Text: 01483 456558

HIGHWAYS HELP ONLINE

Surrey County Council are promoting their online service to encourage Surrey residents to find out about Highways work and to report any local concerns. Go to www.surreycc.gov.uk/highwaysinfoonline

CHANGES TO BLUE BADGE SCHEME

From April this year changes are being introduced to:

- provide Local Authorities with on the spot powers to recover badges that have been misused
- introduce online applications and reduce admin costs
- make wider use of Independent mobility assessments to determine eligibility
- replace handwritten badges with standard electronic ones which are harder to change, and
- to extend the scheme to more disabled children under three

Use the link below to obtain the new **Blue Badge Newsletter** http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/bluebadge/reform/newsletter/

INVOLVEMENT IN COMMISSIONING SERVICES

Work continues with Adult Social Care and NHS Surrey, to ensure the active involvement of disabled people and those with long term health conditions in the commissioning and procurement of services.

AGEING WELL STRATEGY

Adult Social Care and NHS Surrey have started work on developing a new Joint Strategy on Ageing Well. Initial work is focussing on an analysis of needs and current services, and on collating all the previous work done by Surrey 50+ Network and others on peoples views on what they want Engagement Work with existing groups including the Empowerment Boards, will take place once the mapping and analysis stage has been completed. Events will also be held at local level across Surrey to involve older people, carers and service providers in developing the Strategy.

COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR PEOPLE WITH SENSORY IMPAIRMENT

Now that the Commissioning Strategy has been completed, work is now concentrating on implementation plans and the procurement of services. The work is now being coordinated through Surrey Sensory Partnership which replaced the Commissioning Project Team and had their first meeting in April (pictured here)

Membership includes representatives of the three user-led groups which have been and are continuing their involvement on an ongoing basis – Surrey Deaf Forum, Surrey Hard of Hearing Forum and Surrey Vision Action Group.

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY

Work is starting shortly on a new Joint Health and Social Care Commissioning Strategy on Social Inclusion and Wellbeing for Adult Mental Health Services in Surrey. This will start this month and be completed by November, for implementation from April 2012.

More information in the next issue of Coalition News.

INVOLVEMENT IN COMMISSIONING SERVICES

COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR ADVOCACY SERVICES

Over the past two months many individuals and groups have been visited by members of the Project Team to get their views on what they think of advocacy services, (if they have used them) and the issues which people feel they would like an advocate to support them to address. All their views are being collated into the Needs Analysis, and the next stage will be to present the results to people attending the Empowerment Boards Conference on 22nd June. People will be asked further questions about how the services should be provided in future and how demand should be prioritised. The Conference will be looking at the importance both of independent professional advocacy and Self Advocacy/Peer support groups.

JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR PEOPLE WITH LONG TERM NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

A new User and Carer Reference Group has been set up to continue the involvement of people with long term neurological conditions and their carers in developing the Joint Commissioning Strategy being produced by NHS Surrey and Surrey County Council. Work started last October when we helped to run a number of Focus Groups for people with multiple sclerosis, acquired brain injury, epilepsy, parkinsons and motor neurone disease. Since then a comprehensive needs analysis has been completed and the Commissioning Strategy is being finalised.

Pictured here are members of the User and Care Reference Group at their recent meting where they looked at and started to rank them the priorities for action in order of importance to them.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY

JOIN YOUR LOCAL EMPOWERMENT BOARD

Come along to the next meeting in your area to join other disabled people in discussing matters such as:

- Issues for people with sight impairment
- Hate Crime – and how to report it
- Changes in Adult Social Care in your area

The next meetings are being held in:

- North West Surrey on Weds 6th July in Woking
- Mid Surrey on Mon 11th July in Leatherhead
- South West Surrey on Weds 13th July in Godalming
- East Surrey on Mon 18th July in Godstone
- North Surrey onTues 19th July in Egham

Contact Yasmin Broome for more information and to request transport.
Tel: 01483 517294 Text: 07812 104490
Email: yasmin.broome@surreycc.gov.uk

GET INVOLVED IN HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

The University of Surrey's Health and Social Care Division is inviting service users and carers to participate in the preparatory work and then ongoing development of their new graduate pre-registration curriculum. This is a really important opportunity for service users and carers to influence the basic education and training of Health and Social Care professionals.

People can be involved in many different ways and can choose how much to do. The University are holding a number of Focus Groups for people to find out more. These are being held in the Duke of Kent Building at the University from 2 to 4pm on the following dates:

- 21st June
- 19th July
- 22nd September
- 22nd November

The University will pay your travel costs. For more details please contact us in the Coalition Office. Tel/Text: 01483 456558,
or email alison.white@surreycoalition.org.uk

OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY

ATTEND SECAMB'S BOARD AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

Unlike some NHS Foundation Trusts, South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmb) will hold public meetings of the Trust Board and Council of Governors. The inaugural meetings were held on 2nd June, and members of the public are welcome to attend future meetings, and ask questions. The dates of future meetings are:

- 28th July
- 28th September
- 28th November
- 30th January 2012
- 28th March 2012

The meetings will take place at different venues across Kent, Surrey & Sussex – details to be announced nearer the time.

For information about the meetings, contact Isobel Allen on isobel.allen@secamb.nhs.uk or Tel/Text: 07770 685772

JOIN THE SURREY LINK MENTAL HEALTH GROUP

We really need more people with experience of mental health services to join this Group and to give their views. See Page 7 for more information on what the Group plans to do this year.

Contact us in the Coalition Office if you would like to talk about your possible involvement. Tel/Text: 01483456558, or email carol.pearson@surreycoalition.org.uk

GIVE YOUR VIEWS ON UN CONVENTION REPORT

The ODI (Office for Disability Issues) wants your views on a draft Government Report on the UK's implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of disabled persons. Comments required by 20th June. Contact us in the Coalition Office for a copy of the Report.

IN MEMORY OF TOM BANNISTER

We were all very shocked and saddened to hear that Tom had died on Sunday 5th June. Tom endured ill health for many years, but he retained his lively wit until the end. Tom was an active member of many organisations in his local area of Tandridge including the Lions, Talking Newspaper and SAVI - as a Trustee, a Braille teacher and a great advocate on behalf of people with visual impairment. More recently Tom played an active role as a member of the East Surrey Empowerment Board, and he will be greatly missed by all his friends and colleagues all over Surrey.

ADVERTISING IN COALITION NEWS

The Surrey Coalition Board has agreed a policy on advertising in order to raise extra funds towards the production costs of Coalition News . Our first advert is below:

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE HEART OF SUNBURY FOR THE OVER 55's

MITCHISON COURT is a new development in the heart of Sunbury, Surrey, offering affordable apartments exclusively for the over 55's. 12 shared ownership homes are available to buy through Notting Hill Housing, providing affordable living to older people looking for security, peace of mind, and reassurance that their future will be taken care of in their next property purchase.

While Mitchison Court is fully equipped to cater for residents with care needs and idea for those looking for additional support in their later life, eligibility criteria for the development has now been opened up to include all over 55's. Notting Hill Housing is selling a 75% share of each apartment, with no rent to pay on the remaining 25 per cent.

To arrange a viewing, interested buyers or relatives and carers of potential buyers should call Notting Hill Home Ownership sales team on 0208 357 4444, or visit www.nhhg.org.uk/mitchisoncourt

If you wish to place an advert please contact us in the office.

'Surrey Coalition does not endorse any product or service advertised.'

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EYE HEALTH WEEK

13th – 17th June 2011

Theme this year is 'Promoting the importance of regular eye checks'

SAVI is organising events across Surrey:

13th June – Redhill
14th June – Staines
15th June – Leatherhead
16th June – Farnham
17th June – Guildford

For more details contact SAVI, Tel: 01372 377701 or email dsaunders@sa-vi.org.uk

ASHFORD & ST PETERS HOSPITAL

DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK

4th to 8th July 2011

Displays, interactive demos and information provided by North Surrey Empowerment Board, SAVI, Deaf Services, SDPP and many others.

Surrey & Borders Partnership NHS Trust

SPORTS DAY AND BBQ

Wednesday 13th July
in the Abraham Cowley Unit Sports Hall

For more information contact Jos Sartain, Community Network Coordinator. Tel: 01784 410743 or email: jos.sartain@sabp.nhs.uk

LAUNCH OF BOCCIA 2012 & TASTER DAY

Wednesday 13th July

12pm – 2pm

Leatherhead Leisure Centre

An opportunity for anyone with a physical or learning disability to try out this Paralympic Sport

If you would like to attend, contact Rita Wright on 01737 784 976

IT'S FREE – AND TRAVEL EXPENSES WILL BE PAID TOO

Surrey Independent Living Council (SILC)

are holding their 13th AGM 2011

on Tuesday 26th July

from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

at Leatherhead Leisure Centre

For more information Tel: 01483 458111 or email admin@surreyilc.org.uk