



COALITION NEWS

September
2009

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

Issue 16

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

SURREY COALITION AT EQUALITY 2025 CONFERENCE

The group of members pictured here represented Surrey Coalition at the Equality 2025 South East Conference held in Southampton on 9th July. The event was organised by Coalition Board member Nick Danagher who is also Equality 2025 South East representative.

Members had a very enjoyable and productive day - meeting members of other Disabled People's Organisations from other counties in the South East, and working together to discuss the Government's consultation on 'Right to Control'.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Opportunities to have your say	P 2-4
Progress in Adult Social Care	P 6
Social Event for Disabled People's Organisations	P 7
Training Opportunities	P 9
Giving Views to Government	P10
National News	P13
New Services	P15
Dates for your Diary	P16

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

FoCUS ON-LINE

FoCUS (Forum for Carers and people who Use Services) is run by Surrey and Borders Partnership Foundation NHS Trust to enable service users and carers to influence the services they provide in Mental Health across Surrey.

FoCUS has 4 local Area Groups which meet monthly to discuss current issues and concerns. Now FoCUS is going Online as well to enable those who cannot attend meetings to still have their say. It will be updated each month to enable people to comment on current issues being discussed at the Area Groups.

FoCUS Online goes live on 1st September at: www.sabp.nhs.uk
For information about the FoCUS Area Groups contact Lucy Darlow
Email lucy.darlow@sabp.nhs.uk or Tel: **01883 383707**

‘SUPPORTING PEOPLE’

Surrey Supporting People are holding another Advisory Group meeting to seek people's views on plans for coping with forthcoming budget cuts and to ensure a more consistent service across Surrey - in the provision of housing related support for people in independent living and residential care. This event is being held

**on Friday 11th September
from 10 to 12.30 plus lunch
at Ebbisham Centre, Epsom**

Contact Sarah Thomas if you are interested.
Email sarah.thomas@surreycc.gov.uk or Tel: **01372 832983**

SOUTH EAST COAST AMBULANCE SERVICE

SECamb are holding another series of public meetings, to seek your views on their future plans and to hear about their aim to become a Foundation NHS Trust. The Surrey Event is being held

**on Wednesday 16th September
from 10 to 4
at Dorking Halls**

Contact us in the Coalition Office for more information or
email ftmembership@secamb.nhs.uk or Tel **01273 897840**

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

RAISE ISSUES WITH YOUR LOCAL MP

Over the past year the 5 Empowerment Partnership Boards for people with physical, sensory and cognitive impairments have been inviting their local MP to one of their bi-monthly meetings to raise issues of concern to disabled people.

The next opportunities to meet your local MP are on

Tuesday 15th September with **Michael Gove MP**

- at North West Surrey Board
- High Cross Church, Camberley
- 2pm to 4pm

Monday 21st September with **Peter Ainsworth MP**

- at East Surrey Board
- White Hart Barn, Godstone
- 1.30 to 4pm

The other 3 Partnership Board meetings this month are on:

Monday 7th September

- Mid Surrey Board
- Park House, Leatherhead
- 1.30 - 4pm

Weds. 16th September

- South West Surrey Board
- Godalming Baptist Church
- 10.30 - 12.30pm

Tues 22nd September

- North Surrey Board
- Hythe Community Centre, Staines
- 2pm - 4pm

For more information about all these events contact
Yasmin Broome, Coordinator

Email: yasmin.broome@surreycc.gov.uk or Tel: **01483 517294**

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

GREEN PAPER ON REFORM OF SOCIAL CARE AND SUPPORT

The Government Green Paper “Shaping the Future of Care Together” was launched on 14th July and consultation ends on 13th November. This contains radical proposals for change in adult social care and support, including the concept of a ‘National Care Service’ like the ‘National Health Service’.

Surrey Coalition are working with Action for Carers Surrey and Surrey County Council on arranging consultation events to prepare a Surrey Response to Government. We will also be sending our own separate responses to reflect any differing views.

The main **JOINT EVENT** is being held

**on Friday 18th September
from 10.30 to 3.30
at Dorking Halls**

This is for all stakeholders in public and voluntary services.

Contact SCC Health and Social Care Policy Team on **0208 541 7066** or email **health.socialcare@surreycc.gov.uk** for more information.

The **SPECIAL EVENT FOR SERVICE USERS AND CARERS**
is being held

**on Monday 12th October 2009
from 10.30 to 3.30
at Dorking Halls**

ENCLOSED please find the Flyer and Booking Form, which should be returned to the Coalition Office by 25th September. We do hope all our disabled members will come.

For a copy of the Green Paper visit:
www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk or
contact us in the Coalition office: Tel: **01483 456558**

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

HELP SHAPE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES IN SURREY

NHS Surrey are holding an engagement event to consider their Commissioning Strategy to transform community health services. This is being held

**on Tuesday 15th September
from 1.30 (for lunch) and then from 2 to 4.30
at HG Wells Centre, Woking**

to book a place email: **Georgina.Margetts@surreypct.nhs.uk**
or Tel: **01372 201719**

WHEELCHAIR USER GROUP

We are re-establishing the Wheelchair User Group with Surrey Community Health Services to give our views on the Wheelchair and Maintenance Service (with A J Mobility). If any wheelchair user living in West or East Surrey (not Mid Surrey, who are served by Central Surrey Health and Millbrook) would like to attend, the meeting is being held

**on Tuesday 22nd September 2009
from 10.15 to 12 noon
at Woking Community Hospital**

Please contact us in the Coalition Office.

Email **alison.white@surreycoalition.org.uk** or tel **01483 456558**

GIVE YOUR VIEWS ON EYE CLINICS

The RNIB Campaign Team have asked Geoff Jelly, the Coalition's lead on visual impairment, to do some research to get an idea of the level of support which exists across London and the South East at eye clinics. Geoff has agreed to collate data relevant to Surrey in the first instance.

They are particularly keen to find out if hospitals have an Eye Clinic Liaison Officer or something similar, perhaps provided by a local society. If not, does the hospital provide emotional support through some other means or not at all?

RNIB would like a snapshot picture through personal knowledge and experience. If you have experiences you wish to share please reply to Geoff by email: **g.jelly@btopenworld.com** with 'RNIB Research' in the subject line. If you wish to comment in writing by post, send your views to Geoff, c/o Surrey Coalition of Disabled People. See address on front cover.

INVOLVEMENT WITH ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

With the appointment of Sarah Mitchell as the County Council's new Strategic Director of Adult Social Care, we are beginning a new era of involvement as Adult Social Care Services aim for significant improvement in the quality of services provided.

WORK SO FAR

We have already seen a shift in focus towards enabling people needing social care and support to take more control of their lives. Members of Surrey Coalition and Action for Carers Surrey have already been involved in several new projects which aim to provide:

- Universal access to relevant, accurate and timely information
- More advocacy services
- Improved benefits advice

More details on these initiatives will be given as they emerge.

NEXT STEPS

The Council is launching two major processes to review, transform and improve Adult Social Care:-

• Public Value Review

Starting with Adult Social Care, the County Council will be carrying out this major Review over the next three years. The first stage will review community care support for people with physical and sensory impairments. Starting in September, the process will follow 5 steps which review existing services, analyse options for improvement and ends in the production of a Report with Recommendations by January 2010. Disabled people, carers and partners are to be involved throughout the Review.

• Transformation Programme

To enhance the momentum for change which was started last year with the introduction of Self Directed Support, a new Transformation Board is being set up to steer and implement a number of projects to deliver the whole personalisation agenda. Service users and carers are to be at the centre of this new Transformation Programme, and opportunities for you to get involved will be publicised when details are known.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR DETAILS OF HOW YOU CAN REALLY INFLUENCE AND IMPROVE THE SERVICES YOU NEED AND USE.

TOGETHER IN SURREY

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIVERSITY IN SURREY

In mid October, the County is launching 'Together in Surrey' – a festival to raise awareness of diversity in Surrey and coinciding with One World Week. Planned by representatives of public and voluntary bodies together with those of us from all the equality strands, this Festival will mark the start of an ongoing celebration of the diversity of people and culture in the county. The website, promoting the Calendar of Events from October onwards, will be available on the County Council's website from 1st October.

CELEBRATE WITH US

To celebrate the work and achievements of all the Disabled People's Organisations in Surrey, a **SOCIAL EVENT** is being held

on Tuesday, 20th October 2009
from 11am to 3pm
in Dorking Halls

The idea was inspired by SILC (Surrey Independent Living Council) and is being organised jointly with Surrey Coalition of Disabled People and North West Surrey Association of Disabled People - the three largest DPO's in Surrey

See the Flyer and Booking Form ENCLOSED with this Issue. This event is for disabled people in Surrey and we would especially welcome people from other minority groups so we can develop links and work together more closely in future.

Please book early for this special event.

Contact us in the Coalition office if you have any queries.

INFORMATION FOR YOU

DO YOU KNOW HOW ICAS CAN HELP YOU?

The Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICAS) is funded nationally to support people with concerns or complaints about health services. Take up of the service seems particularly low in Mental Health, so we want to encourage people to use ICAS if you have a concern about the treatment or care you receive from local health services in Surrey.

Tel: **0845 600 8616/ 01424 437491** Minicom: **01424 457601**

Email: **southeast.icas@seap.org.uk**

Website: **www.seap.org.uk/icas**

AUDIO DESCRIBED AND SUB-TITLED FILMS

Despite the fact that UK cinemas lead the world in providing films accessible for Visually Impaired and deaf people, attendance at cinemas remains low. A campaign to raise awareness started recently. Check out availability at your local cinema.

NEW BUILDING FOR HEADWAY SURREY

Headway Surrey, which provides support and rehabilitation for people with brain injury and their families and carers, have moved into their new purpose-designed building, Headway House, in Guildford. Their new address is:

Headway House

North Road

Guildford

GU2 2PU

Contact them to find out more about the services they offer,

Tel **01483 455225**

OPEN DAY AT RENDEZVOUS

FRIDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER

Come along to White Lodge Centre, Holloway Hill, Chertsey, to see what their new Resource Centre for physically disabled adults has to offer. Try out a range of 'Taster' activities from art and computers to the gym.

Contact Catherine to book your place or find out more.

Email **cthurston@whitelodgecentre.co.uk** or tel **01932 567131**

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RIGHTS

Would someone like to go on behalf of Surrey Coalition to a weekend training event on Human Rights? This is completely free, including transport and hotel accommodation at the Novotel at Waterloo.

**from 2 pm on Friday 25th Sept
to 12.30 on Sunday 27th Sept**

Organised by Disability Lib, this is a great opportunity to meet people from other Disabled People's Organisations and to find out how the Human Rights Act can help achieve disability equality.

Contact us in the Coalition office if you are interested. email:
alison.white@surreycoalition.org.uk or Tel: **01483 456558**

CAMPAIGNING

We are organising some training events for November/December with trainers from the Campaign Team at RNIB. The training is being funded by the Surrey Health and Social Care Joint Training Partnership and will be open to members of disabled people's organisations and Surrey Access Forum.

Contact us if you are interested in putting your name down.

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

USER INVOLVEMENT IN TRAINING

Members of the Coalition continue to input to the training of health and social care staff on a regular basis, including

- Care Managers Induction
- Induction of new social care staff
- Social Work Students training at Kingston University

We are always looking for more people to give the service users perspective at these training events.

Please contact Alison in the Coalition Office if you are interested in joining the Coalition's Training team.

WHAT COALITION MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN

RESPONDING TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

We have all been overwhelmed recently by the number of Consultation Documents issued by different Government Departments (so much for joined up government!) Coalition members are working together to produce responses on the following:

- **A BETTER FUTURE – Future Strategy for Adults with Autistic Spectrum conditions.**
 - A group of interested members and carers are meeting on 11th September to agree a Response by the 15th September deadline.
- **RIGHT TO CONTROL – DWP Consultation Document on making choice and control a reality for disabled people**
 - A Focus Group was held on 2nd September to respond to 17 questions to help Government implement the introduction of Individual budgets. This included saying which income streams should be included and what kind of support people want to enable them take control of their income and their lives. The deadline for responses is 30th September.
- **PRIORITISING NEED IN THE CONTEXT OF ‘PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST’ (including Self Directed Support) – DH consultation on Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care)**
 - A small group of experienced members of the Coalition, SILC and N W Surrey Association of Disabled People are meeting on 10th September, to try to understand the complexities of the proposed new Guidance, and to prepare a Response by the deadline of 6th October.
- **NEW HORIZONS – Towards a shared vision for Mental Health – DH Consultation**
 - Surrey LINK Mental Health Sub Group and Surrey Coalition are considering how best to respond to the 12 questions in this Consultation, on which comments are required by 15th October.
 - If you want to see the document and complete the online questionnaire go to: **www.info.doh.gov.uk/questionnaire/newhorizons.nsf** or for a paper copy Tel **0300 123 1002**

If you are interested in our responses to any of these Consultations, contact us in the Coalition Office.

WHAT COALITION MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN

DEVELOPING SURREY ACCESS FORUM

Surrey Access Forum (SAF) was set up last year by a partnership between Surrey Coalition, the 5 Partnership Boards, SID (Social Information on Disability) and local Borough Access Groups.

SAF is there to share good practice by local Access Groups and enable us all to work together on county wide campaigns to improve access to buildings and the environment across Surrey.

Current work includes:-

- Setting up the Website: www.surreyaccessforum.org.uk
- Developing the Website to make it interactive and allow people to add their views and experiences on campaign issues
- Developing a Work Plan – current campaigning issues are
 - Against shared surfaces (the first challenge being in Woking against a shared cycle and footpath)
 - To ensure there are an equitable number of Blue Badge parking bays in all communities in Surrey
 - To encourage Borough Councils to provide more support for local Access Groups and to appoint Access Officers and consider using Disabled Go - online access information (as in Woking, Elmbridge and Tandridge)
 - Against the use of A Boards on pavements by shops to publicise their business. SAF plan to use a leaflet on business disbenefits to tackle this problem through local Councils.

If you want to get involved in your local Access Group,
look for details on the SAF Website or
contact us in the Coalition Office.

Tel: **01483 456558**

WHAT COALITION MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN

DOING EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Several Coalition members have undertaken EIA training with the County Council and with Surrey and Borders Partnership Trust, and are now regularly involved helping public services to do EIA's on their policies and services. These have included:

- Surrey County Council (Adult Social Care, Culture and Customer Relations)
- NHS Surrey
- Surrey Adult Linked Disability Register (SALDR)
- Surrey Probation Service

If you are interested in this type of involvement, please let us know.

RESPONDING TO NATIONAL STROKE SURVEY

Several members completed a recent Survey of people with stroke (and their carers) carried out by the National Audit Office. The aim of the Study, carried out between June and August, is to assess improvements to stroke services since 2005 and to identify gaps in services.

The results of the Study will be publicised on the NAO website as a VFM (Value For Money) Report, later in 2009.

SARAH'S STORY

Sarah Cookson, one of our active members, gave a very moving interview on BBC Surrey Radio a few weeks ago. She described how she manages with aspergers syndrome, and about the independence she has now achieved through living in her own home for the past three years. She particularly wanted to promote the opportunities given to people with learning difficulties and mental health problems by Advance Housing's shared ownership scheme. For more information look on their website: www.advancehousing.org.uk or tel **01993 172885**

Sarah also spoke about the new social opportunities she has been offered, such as salsa dancing, through the HALOW Project - set up by parents of children with learning difficulties which now provides support for young adults. For more information contact Yvonne Hignell email: yvonne.h@halowproject.org.uk

Well done! Sarah - for giving such a fantastic interview and for promoting such important services.

NATIONAL NEWS

FAIRER CONTRIBUTIONS GUIDANCE

The Department of Health have issued new guidance to Local Authorities on "Calculating an Individual's Contribution to their Personal Budget." This follows consultation earlier in the year, to which the Coalition sent a formal response. This reiterates the Council's duty to assess and ensure care is arranged even if people are self-funding. Councils are to implement the guidance by March 2010.

For a copy visit www.dh.gov.uk/publications or contact us in the Coalition Office for an electronic or paper copy.

NEW BENEFITS IMPOSE HARSH REGIME ON DISABLED PEOPLE

The following was reported in Disability Lib Newsletter, "Our Rights" August 2009.

"The Employment and Support Allowance, that has just replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support, has made life extremely difficult for many disabled people. Up to 90% of people claiming the new sickness benefit have been told that they are fit to work under a new government regime that was introduced last year.

Ministers are said to believe that as much as two-thirds of the 2.6 million people currently signed off sick, costing the British public an estimated 12.5 billion a year, are capable of working in some capacity.

Ruth Patrick, a disabled researcher from Leeds University said: "It is concerning that the personal capability assessments are based on the benefit claimants health on the day of the assessment alone. Those with fluctuating conditions, including many with mental health issues, may find that they are refused benefits purely because they were having a 'good day' on the day that the assessment took place.

What is more the onus of these assessments seems to imply that many are seeking to dupe the system by claiming disability benefits when they are actually in good health. This dangerous rhetoric reinforces the popular and false stereotype of benefit cheats who should be out of work."

See also: <http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/latest-news2/201cfit-for-work201d-test-unfit>

NATIONAL NEWS

DISABILITY RIGHTS CHAMPIONS RESIGN FROM HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Equality and Human Rights Commission, the UK body set up in 2006 to enforce equality legislation and promote human rights, has been shaken by the resignations of five of its 16 commissioners. Among those leaving were the organisation's two disabled commissioners, Baroness Jane Campbell and Sir Bert Massie. Both were apparently unhappy about the recent reappointment of Trevor Phillips as chair. Although Campbell has made no public comment, Massie has said that the Commission was not a happy place and this was a clear reflection of divisive leadership. Sir Bert told the Guardian,

"How much has the EHRC done on age discrimination? Not a lot. Disability stakeholders feel the same way about disability, and I suspect if you talk to the gay and lesbian community you would find the same thing. We could have done things, we could have improved services dramatically, and that is the tragedy." See <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/jul/20/Trevor-phillips-watchdog-split-leadership>

DAA NEWSLETTER

Disability Awareness in Action (DAA) produce a regular e-newsletter, which we send to members who have email. They focus on information on Human Rights. To contact DAA and see the Newsletter, click <<http://www.daa.org.uk>>. Contact us in the Coalition Office for a paper copy.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

North West Surrey Association of Disabled People need more volunteers - particularly disabled volunteers:

Do you have a few spare hours? Do you like talking to people?

Are you interested in helping others?

Do you enjoy researching - using computers, files etc

WIDE requires volunteers to work as Information Officers at our accessible offices in Woking. The role of Information Officer is never boring! You should have an interest in disability, be flexible and willing to learn new skills. If this sounds like you, give us a call.

Tel/TEXT: **01483 750973** or Email: home@nwsadp.org.uk

NEW SERVICES

SERVICES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE - BY DISABLED PEOPLE

North West Surrey Association of Disabled People (a leading organisation member of Surrey Coalition) is delighted to announce the appointment of two new people providing new services:

- **ADVOCACY** - for people with physical and sensory impairment living in Runnymede, Spelthorne and Elmbridge
- Robert Boyle is the new Advocacy Worker
- **FOOTCARE** - for disabled adults in their own homes in Woking. Following cessation of funding by NHS Surrey, the service has now to be paid for by clients, but at £12 per visit is still cheaper than elsewhere.

To find out more or to access these services contact NWSADP
Tel: **01483 750973** or visit the website: **www.nwsadp.org.uk**

BUY WITH CONFIDENCE

ENCLOSED with this Issue is a leaflet from Surrey County Council Trading Standards to help you choose an approved trader. For more information contact Consumer Direct on **08454 04 05 06** or visit **www.surreycc.gov.uk**

NHS CREDIT CRUNCH STRESSLINE

The NHS has set up a new Helpline for people “worried about the recession? - so much that you can’t sleep”. Call them on **0300 123 2000**. We have a few leaflets if you would like one. Contact us in the Coalition Office.

NEW EMAIL SUPPORT SERVICE FOR FAMILIES

Family Line Surrey already provide a valuable telephone helpline for families needing encouragement and support to deal with their problems. Tel: 0808 800 5678

Now they have also launched an Email service for families wishing to seek support in an alternative confidential way. The email address is: **help@familyline.org.uk**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SURREY COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

2009 AGM

**on THURSDAY,
5th NOVEMBER**

10.30 to 3pm

LEATHERHEAD LEISURE CENTRE

Information will be sent out in early October. Contact us in the Coalition office with any queries in the meantime.

GREEN PAPER CONSULTATION

A special event for Users and Carers to produce responses to Government on the Reform of Social Care and Support

MONDAY 12th OCTOBER

10.30 TO 3.30

DORKING HALLS

See enclosed flyer to book your place (Transport provided)

SILC AGM

Surrey Independent Living Council (SILC) are holding their 11th Annual General Meeting

on WEDS. 30th SEPTEMBER

from 10.30 to 3pm

at WOKING LEISURE CENTRE

For more information contact
Joan Cumber at SILC
email: joan@surreyilc.org.uk
Tel: 01483 458111

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

A SOCIAL EVENT to celebrate the work of Disabled People's Organisations and their members in Surrey.

TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER

11 TO 3pm

DORKING HALLS

See enclosed Flyer and Booking Form.

We hope to see you there

FREEWHEELERS THEATRE COMPANY

Performing

“Your Call is important to us”

**at Leatherhead Theatre
on Thursday 22nd October**

Tickets from box office