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

COALITION NEWS

February 2018

SURREY COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE
Astolat, Coniers Way, Burpham, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7HL
Phone 01483 456558   Text 07780933053
Email: info@surreycoalition.org.uk Web: www.surreycoalition.org.uk
Follow us on Facebook Twitter QR Code

SURREY COALITION’S AGM 2018
Please put this date in your diaries: Thursday 18th October 2018.

WORKING WITH DISABILITY RIGHTS UK

Pictured here, Surrey Coalition Board members were very pleased to welcome Kamran Mallick, the new Chief Executive of Disability Rights UK, to discuss matters of concern to disabled people both locally and nationally.

Kamran was very keen to build closer relationships with local Disabled People’s Organisations, like ourselves, so that we can contribute local evidence and examples to influence work that DRUK do at national level.

We are also working with DRUK to provide evidence for their current research project to demonstrate that user involvement in commissioning can achieve better outcomes and services.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working with Surrey Police</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What members have been doing</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to have your say</td>
<td>7-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News in Brief</td>
<td>11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with the NHS</td>
<td>13-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information for you</td>
<td>15-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Updates on Mental Health</td>
<td>19-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More information about support available to you</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We continue to work with Surrey Police in many ways, and some recent examples are as follows:

**DISABILITY WORKING GROUP**

The most recent meeting of this long standing Group, led by Detective Chief Superintendent Jon Savell, was held on 9th January (pictured here). Some of the important developments discussed were:

- Reviewing progress on implementing the 6 recommendations agreed in light of the Feeling Safe Survey of disabled people in Surrey, undertaken last year. These will be presented to the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board in May.
- Seeing whether Surrey Police could link in with One Stop Surrey.
- The training provided to police officers on all aspects of disability.
- A video being produced in BSL about contacting and reporting to the Police.
- Plans to make their website easy to access from the front page to the accessible information for disabled people.
- Suggestions from Sight for Surrey for having personal hearing loops at all Police counters for people wearing hearing aids, and iPads to aid communication with BSL users.
- Plans to promote Pegasus more widely through GP surgeries.

**DISABILITY SUPPORT OFFICERS**

Surrey Police have now recruited 17 police officers and staff to take on an additional role as DSOs. They received initial training on 15th January, which included presentations on the Social Model of Disability and communicating with disabled people, given by Surrey Coalition board members, Jenny and Anna (pictured here).

The 17 new DSOs are based across Surrey:

- 8 at HQ (including the Contact Centre)
- 5 in North Division
- 2 in East Division, and
- 2 in West Division

There is more to do to help them embed their new role, and a progress report will be given in the next Newsletter.
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

CHALLENGING PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GUILDFORD TRAIN STATION

Gemma Roulston, Coalition Board member and Co-Chair of Guildford Access Group, gave detailed evidence at the Public Inquiry in December to the Planning Inspector considering Guildford Borough Council’s appeal against plans for the Station redevelopment.

The Inspector however decided the plans could go ahead with only minor accessibility improvements.

Members of the South West Disability Alliance Network and Guildford Access Group have been supporting Gemma to again challenge the plans from Network Rail, which will make the station even less accessible for disabled and elderly people and parking more than 50 meters away. A press statement was issued earlier this week which resulted in Gemma being interviewed on BBC Surrey on 29th January.

We are pleased that our concerns have been echoed by the Council’s Leader and by Anne Milton, MP for Guildford.

LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Learning Disability Partnership Board met again on 4th January and discussed a number of important matters, including:

- The joint strategy for 2016-2020 which includes Staying healthy, Living my life, and Keeping safe
- Update on the Sustainable Transformation Partnerships (STP)
- The implications of the withdrawal of County Council funding of Housing Related Support
- Eligibility for Free Disabled Persons Bus pass for people with learning disabilities

Pictured here are two Surrey Coalition members who attend the Partnership Board regularly.
Co-Chair Nick Markwick regularly attends the Adults and Health Select Committee to present evidence on behalf of people using services to County Councillors who are there to scrutinise the performance of NHS and Social Care Services.

At their last meeting on 25th January, Nick contributed to discussions on issues such as:

- The Surrey Shared Care Record proposals
- The new online portals for Adult Social Care
- Home Based Care contracts since they were re-commissioned last October

CHECKING HEARING LOOPS

Pictured here is Ted Pottage, our lead Board member on communications for people with hearing loss, having checked the loops at Guildford’s Friary Centre recently.

Ted was able to advise where the loop should be placed, and tested the loop signal to ensure it worked properly. He also raised awareness of the staff about the communication difficulties faced by people with hearing loss.

This followed a recent Access visit to the Friary Centre by Guildford Access Group, to which Coalition members also gave their comments.

AUTISM PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Members of the Autism Partnership Board met again on 23rd January and the main topics discussed were:

- The County Council’s Accommodation with Care and Support Project, which includes support for people with autism and mental ill health issues
- Nescot College Update – which included autism training for staff and an autism champions
- Blue badge consultation, which extends eligibility to people with autism
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

WORKSHOP ON WHEELCHAIR SERVICES

We have been working with the Surrey Downs CCG Programme Director on the process for procuring a new Integrated Wheelchair Service across Surrey and North East Hampshire, to start in April 2019. Our Co-Chair Nick Markwick has joined the Programme Board together with a parent carer from Family Voice Surrey.

A workshop to co-design the specification for the future service was held at Leatherhead Leisure Centre on 7th February, which was attended by over 42 wheelchair users and carers (pictured here with Richard Nicholson).

If you want to keep involved with progress please let Yasmin know. Tel./Text 07455 267424, or email Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk

TACKLING PAVEMENT OBSTRUCTIONS

The 18 members of Surrey Vision Action Group have continued to work closely with Surrey Highways and Surrey Police to clarify who to report pavement obstructions to for problems such as:

- Parking on pavements
- A Boards and other street furniture
- Refuse bins
- Overhanging branches

Actions achieved:

1. Together they have produced guidance for people about tackling parking on pavements, which can be seen using this link: https://tinyurl.com/yczq8pm8
2. A poster about the proper placing of refuse bins has also been produced with Surrey Highways, which is being distributed to waste operators across Surrey for the information of their refuse crews. Use this link: https://tinyurl.com/yashggez
3. Another information sheet is also being finalised and will provide people with information about the respective Roles and responsibilities of County, District and Borough Councils for Highways and pavement matters

If you have a visual impairment and would like to join the group to help make a difference, then please contact Yasmin Tel/Text 07455 267424, or email Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

PATIENT TRANSPORT ADVISORY GROUP

The Patient Transport Advisory Group (which monitors the non emergency patient transport service with North West Surrey CCG) met on 25th January at the South Central Ambulance Service contact centre in Dorking. Following the usual meeting business which covered performance updates, monitoring information, recruitment update, and the work of staff in the call centre, the group were given a tour of the call centre, which gave them a better picture of how the call centre operates on a daily basis.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL GROUP OF THE DISABILITY ALLIANCE NETWORK

The 4 Disability Alliance Network (DAN) Group across Surrey welcome all disabled people to join them and influence the services provided in their local areas. Their next meetings are in February, where they will be discussing:

- Plans by their local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Scam awareness
- What Surrey Police do to respond to the concerns of disabled people, including information about the newly recruited Disability Support Officers (see page 2 for more information).

They will meet next during May, on the following dates:

- **Mid Surrey DANS**
  - Monday 14th May
  - 10.30-12.30
  - Park House, Leatherhead

- **North Surrey DANS**
  - Tuesday 15th May
  - 2-4 pm
  - Addlestone Community Centre

- **South West DANS**
  - Wednesday 16th May
  - 10.30 to 12.45 pm
  - Godalming Baptist Church

- **East Surrey DANS**
  - Monday 21st May
  - 11 am to 1pm
  - Venue TBC

To find out more and join the DANS contact Sandy Frean, Tel./Text 07976 864 082, or email Sandra.frean@surreycc.gov.uk. The DANS Groups are also hoping to arrange First Aid sessions for their members at a future date.
OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY

BLUE BADGE CONSULTATION
Give your views on Government proposals to extend the criteria for eligibility for a Blue Badge.
Currently the guidance focusses on people with physical disabilities, and the proposals are to address any equality issues and ensure parity for non-physical and physical disabilities.
The Government are proposing to change the criteria, which focus on people with a permanent and substantial disability which causes difficulty in walking, to a person who has an enduring and substantial disability, the effect of which is that the person is unable to:
- Walk
- Undertake any journey without it causing very considerable difficulty
- Undertake any journey without there being a risk of considerable harm to the health and safety of themselves and others
- Follow the route of any journey without another person, assistance animal or orientation aid
Lastly the consultation is seeking views on producing automatic badge eligibility to those who receive 12 points for the “planning and following journeys” activity of PIP.
The proposals could include people with Alzheimer’s, mental health issues and autism.
Give your views directly to Government using this link: http://tinyurl.com/yamxmw98.
Please also let us have your comments to enable us to prepare a response by the deadline of 18th March 2018. Contact Yasmin Broome: Tel/Text 07455 267424, or email Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk

GIVE YOUR VIEWS TO CQC
The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is consulting on their next phase of regulation of Independent Healthcare. CQC has been given the powers to award ratings to some Independent Healthcare services, which is important for people who use services, as it will provide transparency about the quality and safety of services provided by the Independent sector.
Read the consultation document and give your views online here: http://tinyurl.com/yblklnz5, or contact Yasmin Broome: Tel/Text 07455 267424, or email Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk

The closing date is Friday 23rd March.
OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY

PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE TRANSPORT NETWORK AROUND GUILDFORD

“Unlocking Guildford” proposals have been produced by Guildford Borough Council and public consultation is open until Saturday 4th March.

Use this link to find out more: http://tinyurl.com/zqdj76u

The proposals aim to:

- Encourage more people to use the bus
- Ease congestion at key hot spots in the West of the Borough
- Enable traffic to be managed more effectively during incidents
- Alleviate flooding around the town centre

For more information if you cannot use the internet, please contact us in the Coalition office.

SURREY HEARTLANDS JOINT PLANS FOR 2018/19

Surrey Heartlands (which include the parts of Surrey covered by Guildford & Waverley, North West Surrey and Surrey Downs CCGs) have launched a consultation on their Joint Commissioning Interventions for 2018/19 with Surrey County Council.

These plans reflect their priorities for health and social care and how they will achieve the NHS national priorities as set out in the Five Year Forward View.

They want your views, particularly if you feel there are any issues or areas they are not addressing.

Comment on their plans and priorities through the online survey using this link: http://tinyurl.com/ybccf597

The survey closes on 18th February.

Contact us in the Coalition office if you need any assistance to do so.
The Recovery College is organising an event for people with diagnosis of bipolar or schizophrenia, and their carers on

**Wednesday 28th February**
9.30 am to 4 pm
At HG Wells Centre, Woking

Go along to this interactive workshop to help improve physical wellbeing for people with mental illness. Use this link to the flyer giving more information: [http://tinyurl.com/y87x4zoq](http://tinyurl.com/y87x4zoq)

Free lunch, activities, fun stalls, healthy food, and help can be given with transport. To book your place call 01372 216 158, text 07786 202 545, or email: communications@sabp.nhs.uk

**CQC ADULT SOCIAL CARE CAMPAIGN**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) are launching a campaign aimed at people who are choosing care at home or in a care home, for themselves or a loved one. They believe the information they gather from regulating and inspecting care homes can help people make the right choice for them.

They are looking for people willing to share their advice and tips with other people to help CQC with their campaign.

If you are interested in participating, either by providing a written story or participating in a film, please use this email: engagementandinvolvement@cqc.org.uk, or contact Yasmin if you do not have internet access: Tel/Text 07455 267424, or email Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk

**WHEELCHAIR SERVICES USER GROUP**

Whilst the plans are underway to procure a new Integrated Wheelchair Service from April next year, Virgin Care are holding another meeting of their wheelchair services user group, which is on **Wednesday 28th February**, 1-3 pm at the Jarvis Centre in Guildford. Please contact Yasmin if you are a current user of the Virgin Care’s wheelchair service, and would like to attend. Tel/Text 07455 267424, or email Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk
## OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY

### WARD BOUNDARIES IN R&B COUNCIL

The Local Government Boundary Commission is consulting on ward boundaries for Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. Give your views using the online portal here: [https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/).

The consultation ends on 9th April 2018.

### ORGAN DONATION

The Government plans to change organ donation to an “opt out” system and want to find out what people think about how the changes should be made. Use this link: [https://engage.dh.gov.uk/organdonation/](https://engage.dh.gov.uk/organdonation/)

The consultation ends on 6th March 2018.

### DO YOU HAVE A LEARNING DISABILITY?

Healthwatch Surrey are interested in hearing about the experiences of those with a learning disability as they believe this group of people are seldom heard. They would like people to answer the 3 questions below, and also ask carers or others to support individuals to do so.

1. How does having a Learning Disability affect your experience of being able to access local health services? This could be your GP surgery/ hospital/ NHS support group etc.

2. What do you want local health and care services to know about the needs of those with a Learning Disability?

3. What is your experience of having an Annual Health Check at your GP surgery?

You can share your feedback by Telephone: 0303 303 0023, SMS Text 07592 787 533 or by email: engagement@healthwatchsurrey.co.uk

BY THURSDAY 1ST MARCH
HEALTHWATCH REPORTS CONCERNS ABOUT HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

Healthwatch Surrey have just published an important report about what they have been told by patients which is that the lack of clear information and communication is causing unnecessary worry when leaving hospital. This project was announced in recent press release and for a copy use this link www.healthwatchsurrey.co.uk, or for more information contact Healthwatch Surrey: Tel: 01483 533 043 / Text 07545 433465 or email lauren.terkuile@healthwatchsurrey.co.uk

GOVERNMENT BACKS DOWN ON PIP

The Government announced on 26th January that it will not be challenging the High Court’s decision to overturn the DWP’s discriminatory changes to Personal Independence Payment (PIP). This means that many people severely affected by mental illness will now be eligible for higher rates of PIP after the High Court said that the Government’s changes were ‘blatantly discriminatory’ against people with mental ill health. This could improve the lives of more than 164,000 people. Great news.

Use this link to the BBC News item: http://tinyurl.com/y88rzk3j

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

We are pleased to hear that Joanna Killian has been appointed as SCC’s new Chief Executive, and that she will be joining Surrey on 1st March. We look forward to meeting her and working with her.

WORD SEARCH WINNER

The winner of our Christmas word search competition was Gary Girnes, from Woking.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANNA!

Anna, our Vice-Chair, turned 80 in December. Happy Birthday!
NEWS IN BRIEF

SHELTERED HOUSING CONCERNS

A recent BBC News item revealed that many people get accommodation but not care in sheltered housing. More than 30,000 allegations of abuse and neglect concerning sheltered housing residents were received by UK Councils between 1st April 2014 and 1st November 2017. The File on 4 investigation also found the number had increased by 30% over the period. We hope this was not due to many Councils having ceased funding of Housing Related Support services, which the County Council will be doing in Surrey at the end of March this year.

For more information use this link: [http://tinyurl.com/ydxhuluo](http://tinyurl.com/ydxhuluo)

NEW MINISTER FOR LONELINESS

A new Minister has been appointed to continue the project first started by the late MP Jo Cox.

Tracy Crouch said she was proud to take on this ‘generational challenge’ affecting 9 million people in the UK, both young and old.

Use this link to find out more: [http://tinyurl.com/y729ysqu](http://tinyurl.com/y729ysqu)

GODALMING HUB CLOSES

We are all extremely sad that the Godalming Hub will close on 2nd March, after providing such an excellent information and support service to the local community, as well as offering many disabled people the opportunity to volunteer and get work experience. We thank them all.

IN MEMORY

We were so very sad to hear that Linda Stonestreet had passed away unexpectedly after a short illness on Saturday 16th December. Linda had been a Coalition member for over 11 years, and had also been a very active member, and former Co-Chair of the Learning Disability Partnership Board. We will all miss her very much.
WORKING WITH THE NHS

Many Coalition members are involved with their local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to help shape their local health services. Current examples include:

- Procuring new **Wheelchair services** with the Lead CCG, Surrey Downs (see page 5 for more information)
- Mobilising the new **Adult Community Health service** for the Surrey Downs area, which will start on 1st April
- Monitoring the Non Emergency Patient Transport service now provided by South Central Ambulance Service
- Procuring a new **NHS 111 and GP Out of Hours service** for Surrey, led by NW Surrey CCG
- Joining local Practice Participation Groups in East Surrey and attending the next **CCG Patient Reference Group** on Thursday 22nd February
- Attending the **NW Surrey CCG PPEF** meetings (Patient and Public Engagement Forum)
- Attending **Surrey Downs CCG PAN** meetings (Participation Action Network)

MORE GP EXTENDED ACCESS CLINICS

NW Surrey CCG have decided to extend their GP Access Clinics for a few more months following the success of these clinics over the Christmas period. Clinics will be available Monday to Friday, between 5-8 pm, and on Saturdays 8.30-11 am.

Patients can pre-book appointments at a local GP practice where the GP will have access to your records, if they really need urgent help, to alleviate demand on A&E.

CCG NEWSLETTERS

- **Surrey Downs CCG** January 2018 Newsletter  
  [http://tinyurl.com/y8qdep8p](http://tinyurl.com/y8qdep8p)
- **East Surrey CCG** Patient Round Up, February 2018  
  [https://tinyurl.com/ybgcrfpd](https://tinyurl.com/ybgcrfpd)
Members of the Hard of Hearing Forum, Surrey Deaf Community and Surrey Vision Action Group have met with NW CCG Commissioners to give their views on how these services could be improved, to ensure they have the information and communication support they need to access their GP. The CCG has been given devolved responsibility by NHS England to commission these new services locally, and Guildford & Waverley CCG will be doing so soon as well.

Surrey Healthwatch ran a survey on people’s views about accessing GP online services and more information about this can be found here: https://www.healthwatchsurrey.co.uk/. Their recently published report includes things which could be improved, including:

- Greater awareness of the range of services now available through GP online
- Reducing delays in signing up due to difficulties with user names and passwords
- Increasing the range of services to include booking appointments to see a nurse or for flu jabs

Healthwatch have passed on suggestions to local GP practices about how to increase the use of GP online. Anyone who has a comment or experience about GP Practices, social care or other NHS services can contact Healthwatch on 0303303 0023, Text 07592 787 533, or email enquiries@healthwatchsurrey.co.uk

Complete a short survey here: http://tinyurl.com/yadskgww to help them do a reflective review of what their stakeholders know and think about their work.

The survey closes on Monday 19th February.
INFORMATION FOR YOU

TAXI CHARGES FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS

A recent BBC News article stated that, confusion over new rules for disabled taxi passenger fares has led to "discriminatory" price differences. A test in Nottingham saw a wheelchair user quoted up to five times more than non wheelchair caller.

‘In one case, a journey from his home to the local hospital, a distance of 2.5 miles (4km), a non wheelchair user was quoted £3-4 while Mr Shah was quoted £15’.

The article further states that for an existing ban on charging more to come into force Councils must compile a formal list of accessible taxis but many have not done this.

Following this Surrey Coalition has made enquiries about the policy in Surrey and found the following:

Surrey County Council states that if the taxi is a Hackney Carriage metered rates should apply when plying for trade on the street or at the ranks. However, if the transport is booked through Private Hire Operators the price is variable and negotiable. A fixed quote should also be requested at the point of booking.

Guildford Borough Council’s position is that no customer using a wheelchair should be charged extra, whether they are using a taxi or private hire vehicle. The Council sets taxi fares, the rates are available on the website at www.guildford.gov.uk/taxi. Guildford Borough Council does not set rates for private hire, however, the above principle applies.

If you feel you are being charged more for taxi fares as a wheelchair user please check your local Borough or District Council policy to ensure taxi drivers in your area are complying and ask them to follow up your concerns with any relevant Operators.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT BRIEFING

The newly configured engagement team have started to produce Monthly Briefings for user groups and health networks. Please use this link for a copy of the January Briefing: https://tinyurl.com/y929nbs5, or contact us in the Coalition office for a paper copy. They have also just published their February Briefing, which can be seen here: https://tinyurl.com/yaee98gtv
### INFORMATION FOR YOU

#### NEW GUIDANCE ON ASSISTANCE DOGS

The Equality and Human Rights Commission have published new guidance on Assistance Dogs, which complies with the Equality Act 2010:

- **All Business Guide to Assistance Dogs**: [http://tinyurl.com/y6vely3b](http://tinyurl.com/y6vely3b)
- **“Take the Lead” guide for tourism**: [http://tinyurl.com/ycya05kf](http://tinyurl.com/ycya05kf)

#### COMMUNICATION GUIDE FOR TRAIN PASSENGERS

See information below about the communication and support available and used across the GTR Network and Southern Railway. Use this link: [http://tinyurl.com/yd8f4eyw](http://tinyurl.com/yd8f4eyw)

#### SIGN UP FOR THE PRIORITY REGISTER

If you would need extra support if you had a power cut, then you can register to be a priority customer. Use this link for information on how to register: [https://tinyurl.com/yb25cdtf](https://tinyurl.com/yb25cdtf), or contact Yasmin for a paper copy and for more information: email Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk, or Tel/Text 07455 267424.

#### SURREY LAW CENTRE

There have been some recent changes in the free legal advice service offered by Surrey Law Centre.

- They will now do a quick financial check with new clients, and if they have savings, ISA or shares worth more than £8000 then regrettably the Law Centre will not be able to assist them
- They also now have a ‘no children’ policy at their offices

Please use the links below for their updated flyer and leaflet with details of clinics, or contact us in the Coalition office for a paper copies. Please note they are now offering support with Personal Injury and Immigration to the service they offer.

[https://tinyurl.com/y9lhk9ay](https://tinyurl.com/y9lhk9ay)
[https://tinyurl.com/ya8265k4](https://tinyurl.com/ya8265k4)
[https://tinyurl.com/y8swwfv5](https://tinyurl.com/y8swwfv5)
INFORMATION FOR YOU

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Did you know you can obtain a free plastic Bottle in which you keep your medical and personal details in a recognised common place (in your fridge door), where it can easily be found in an emergency.

Contact your local Lion’s Club or your doctor or social worker for your FREE message in a bottle. See leaflet from this link or contact us in the Coalition office for a paper copy. https://tinyurl.com/yc8y872h

NEW DEMENTIA STRATEGY

Surrey Heartlands Partnership and East Surrey have jointly agreed a new Dementia Strategy which covers all of Surrey except for Surrey Heath, which is part of the Frimley Health STP.

Use this link for a copy of the Strategy, or contact us in the Coalition office.

https://tinyurl.com/ybhdv9w6

MOTABILITY CARS

A BBC News item recently said that 100 disabled people a week were losing their adapted mobility cars due to the changes in benefits introduced with PIP (Personal Independence Payment). The Motability scheme allows severely disabled people to loan an adapted car, scooter or powered wheelchair using part of their benefit. PIP has resulted in many people losing their independence, which the DWP fails to recognise or understand. Use this link for more information: http://tinyurl.com/ybmylpz5

POLUTION HOT SPOTS

We all know that air pollution seriously affects people’s health, particularly those with asthma. You can now see what the air quality is like in your area by entering your postcode in the search using the link below (the data shows an average for 2016).

http://tinyurl.com/yb94zskd
INFORMATION FOR YOU

WHY YOU SHOULD GET YOUR HEARING CHECKED

10 million people in the UK—1 in 6 of us—have some degree of hearing loss. Hearing loss can be a result of a number of causes, such as hereditary factors, noise exposure, trauma and ear disease, and of course, age.

The bad news is that there are potentially serious consequences if you ignore hearing loss, including dementia.

The good news however is that you can do things about it-so you must have a hearing check.

For more information about hearing loss, use this link or contact us in the Coalition office for a paper copy. http://tinyurl.com/ycxpqq7h

UNDERSTANDING BENEFITS

Do you know about the range of benefits available for older and disabled people, or those that need help with care? Some are means tested, whilst others are available for people who meet certain criteria.

For more information use this link, or contact us in the Coalition office for a paper copy. http://tinyurl.com/y8n9lwk6

OTHER NEWSLETTERS

Other recently published newsletters which may be of interest include:

- **NHS England Learning Disability** Winter newsletter: http://tinyurl.com/y7ol78vl
- **Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum** January 2018 newsletter: http://tinyurl.com/y98lemzr
- **Surrey Faith Links** February 2018: https://tinyurl.com/ydn4n7n
- **Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board** Winter newsletter: http://tinyurl.com/yabb9ln2

Use links above to see copies of the newsletters, or contact us in the Coalition office for a paper copy.
NEWS FROM THE IMHN

The Independent Mental Health Network (IMHN) for people with experience of mental ill health, and carers, across Surrey and NE Hampshire, is growing in size and influence.

See the recently published **February 2018 Newsletter** for more information about what the Network members have been doing over recent months. Use this link: [http://tinyurl.com/y7b63khn](http://tinyurl.com/y7b63khn), or contact us in the Coalition office for a paper copy.

JOIN THE IMHN

5 more people have joined over the past week, so please join the IMHN and help make our voices stronger and more influential!

See the Flyer and Joining form on Surrey Coalition’s website using this link: [http://tinyurl.com/jx6svdm](http://tinyurl.com/jx6svdm) or contact us in the Coalition office for a paper version.

Contact Joanna MacPherson, our Network Coordinator to discuss the benefits of joining and attending the bi-monthly meetings. Email: Joanna.macpherson@surreycoalition.org.uk, Tel/Text 07801 239 859.

ATTEND NETWORK MEETINGS

Come to the Network meetings to meet with other service users and carers and tell Commissioners and Providers what the mental health services are really like for people using them. The meetings during 2018 are on:

- Friday 16th March
- Friday 18th May
- Friday 20th July
- Friday 14th September
- Friday 16th November

All from 10.30 am to 1 pm at Park House in Leatherhead.
UPDATES ON MENTAL HEALTH

JOIN FOCUS

The Forum of Carers and people who Use their Services of Surrey & Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SABP).

Attend your local group of FoCUS to meet with others, share experiences of mental health services and give your views to SABP.

Members of the West FoCUS Group are pictured here, working on ideas to further improve the way people’s voices could be heard, listened to and acted upon.

The next meetings are on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East &amp; Mid Surrey</td>
<td><strong>Monday 5th March:</strong></td>
<td>1pm to 3pm</td>
<td>Reigate Baptist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West Surrey</td>
<td><strong>Wednesday 7th March:</strong></td>
<td>1pm to 3pm</td>
<td>Guildford Baptist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>North West Surrey</td>
<td><strong>Monday 12th March:</strong></td>
<td>1pm to 3pm</td>
<td>Woking Christ Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td><strong>Thursday 8th March:</strong></td>
<td>1pm to 3 pm</td>
<td>Theta Building, Frimley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JOIN FoCUS: by contacting Jane Ahmed, our FoCUS Involvement Facilitator, email: jane.ahmed@surreycoalition.org.uk, or Tel./Text 07426 022 279, or use this link to the leaflet and joining form:

http://tinyurl.com/yccnk2qo

JOIN FoCUS ON FACEBOOK

https://www.facebook.com/FoCUS.SABP.

NEW TWITTER PAGE

- To keep informed about what is happening at local meetings
- Help you have your say about SABP’s services, and
- Provide you with helpful information on mental health topics

@FoCUS_SaBP
HEALTHWATCH MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

Have you accessed Mental Health Care in Surrey? Healthwatch Surrey have a new project on mental health, which they are working on together with the Independent Mental Health Network.

They want to hear the views of working age adults who currently, or have in the past 18 months, accessed community or inpatient mental health services. They are holding drop-in sessions to provide a friendly environment for people to share their experiences with Healthwatch staff and volunteers.

Please go along to one of these drop-ins to chat informally or find out other ways of sharing your experiences to help share what is going well and what could be better.

Mon 19th Feb 5:00pm- Safe Haven Redhill, Wingfield Day Centre, Redhill, RH1 4AA
7:00pm
Wedn 21st Feb 6:30pm- Safe Haven Guildford, 101 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4UQ
8:30pm
Tues 27th Feb 2:00pm- The Brickfield Centre, Room 5, Portland Place, Epsom, KT17 1DL
4:00pm
Mon 5th March 10:30am- Corner House Woking, 2 Courtenay Rd, Woking, GU21 5HQ
12:30pm
Tues 6th March 10:00am- Theta Frimley, SABP reception, Lyon Way, Frimley, Camberley, GU16 7ER
12:00noon

Go along for an informal chat. All experiences will be kept confidential.

JOIN A NEW NICE COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH REHABILITATION

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) needs people with lived experience of mental health rehabilitation to help develop guidelines on rehabilitation services for people with complex mental health needs. For more information see the NICE website here: https://www.nice.org.uk/ or email sally.taylor@nice.org.uk, or telephone 0161 870 3022
UPDATES ON MENTAL HEALTH

HEALTHWATCH HAMPSHIRE

Have launched a new survey about the information and advice available from pharmacists, the NHS 111 service and A&E Departments to find out how good their self care support is.

Use this link to complete the survey or visit a CAB in North East Hants for a paper copy. https://tinyurl.com/y87kpckr

SINGING AIDS RECOVERY

See this news item about how singing “speeds up” recovery from postnatal depression. https://tinyurl.com/ycv2adu5

THE HEALING POWER OF MUSIC

Another recent news item describes the extraordinary healing powers of music. See this video using the link: http://tinyurl.com/y9d2vsme

JOIN THE INCLUDE CHOIR

Why not add your voice? Wednesdays from 7.30 to 9 pm at Reigate Baptist Church. Contact Alix: Tel./Text 07446 897 833 or email includechoir@include.org

No auditions. Everyone welcome.

SURVEY ON THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1993

As part of an Independent Review of the Mental Health Act they want to hear about the experiences of people who have been sectioned under the Mental Health Act, or have supported someone who has been sectioned. Use this link to complete the survey: https://tinyurl.com/y9xbnhz9

The survey is also available to download and complete. https://tinyurl.com/y9xbnhz9.

The survey closes on 28th February.
Our Payroll Services

At dhdirectpayments we provide a simple payroll solution that offers a comprehensive range of payroll services to all direct payment users.

Our range of services include:

- Set up or Transfer a Payroll
- Complete management of the payroll processing
- paySAFE, our online portal for all your payroll documentation
- Text messaging reminder service
- Complete Auto Enrolment pension solution
- Managed account service
- Payroll Training support
- Excellent support service for all your payroll queries

We are committed to providing solutions to all the challenges you may face with your payroll and will provide you with full support along the way.

You can choose from our full range of services and build up a service that best suits your needs.

For more information on how we can help you, please contact us as

(t) 020 8977 3559 (e) payroll@davidhoward.co.uk
(w) www.dhdirectpayments.co.uk

Surrey Coalition does not endorse any product or service advertised.
FIND OUT ABOUT THE SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR YOU

HELP AT HOME

Use this link to find more about the Help at Home service provided by Age UK Surrey: https://tinyurl.com/ycd9v5mr.

The service offers help with cleaning, shopping, gardening and companionship. Email enquiries@ageuksurrey.org.uk or Tel: 01784 444 200, or contact us in the Coalition office for a copy of the flyer.

HALLOW LEARNING PROGRAMME

Halow have announced their new Programmes starting in September 2018, on:

- Building Futures (a four per week offer)
- And
- A Reason to Get up (for either full or half day options)

Both programmes are aimed at young people with a learning disability—providing the opportunity for further learning and meaningful occupation.

Register your interest or find out more by going to their Information Evening on Wednesday 21st March from 6.30 to 8 pm, at Founders Studio, Millbrook, Guildford.

RSVP to graham.o’connor@halowproject.org.uk, or aisha.ariakutti@halowproject.org.uk, or Tel.: 01483 447 960

LAUNCH OF EPSOM HEALTH & CARE STROKE CENTRE

This new centre will bring together existing services into a single integrated service, including social care as well as community rehab teams and inpatient rehab provided by CSH Surrey, and the hyper acute stroke unit provided by Epsom & St. Helier.

The launch is being held on

- Wednesday 7th March 2018
- 2-5 pm
- At St. Mary’s Church Hall in Stoke D’Abernon Centre

Contact Yasmin if you would like to attend: Tel/Text 07455 267424, or email Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk