PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY

Enclosed with this Newsletter is an important letter for our members.

PLEASE READ IT

It is a Privacy Statement explaining about the information we hold about you and what we do to ensure it is kept safe and not shared with anyone else, It also tells you about your RIGHTS. We are giving you this letter because of new laws which come into force on 25th May, called the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

COALITION BOARD MEMBERS IN ACTION

Pictured here are our Board members, who meet every two months to oversee the finances and management of the organisation. At their last meeting they discussed and agreed the Coalition’s approach to GDPR (as above) and agreed the priorities for Surrey Coalition during the coming year. The Business Plan for 2018/19 will be published on our website in May.

The Board members also reviewed the organisation’s finances and shared updates on all of their many recent activities, and these of our members.
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

SABP CARE AWARDS

Several Surrey Coalition Members won awards at the CARE Awards Ceremony held on 20th March by Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

DAVID MUIR

(pictured here) won the Silver award for Volunteer of the Year for his dedication in helping the Trust achieve its aims and values through his involvement as a Trust Governor for people with learning disabilities and as a FoCUS Representative.

THE RECOVERY COLLEGE VOLUNTEERS

won the Gold Award for Volunteer of the Year. Pictured here are some of the team, most of whom have lived experience of mental or physical conditions. The Recovery College also won the Gold Award for CARE Team of the year.

THE RECOVERY COLLEGE

run courses that cover a variety of physical and mental health concerns. These courses are co-developed and co-facilitated by people with lived experience of these conditions. Their aims include helping people to become expert in their own care, building a sense of self and purpose, and to set and meet personal aspirations and goals.

The Timetable of courses for the Summer 2018 term (http://tinyurl.com/y852hwpu), and Newsletter (http://tinyurl.com/ya63ppqo) are available using these links.

Or contact us in the Coalition office for a paper copy.

For more information Tel. 01276 454 150, Text 07920 207 046, or email recovery.college@sabp.nhs.net
The launch of this new Integrated Stroke Service was held on 7th March, attended by patients, practitioners, GPs, the Service Association and a representative of Surrey Coalition of Disabled People.

Epsom Health & Care have brought together existing stroke services into a single Stroke Service, including:

- The Acute and Hyper-Acute stroke units, and TIA services provided by Epsom & St. Helier NHS Trust
- The Inpatient Stroke Rehabilitation service provided by Central Surrey Health and
- The Community Neuro Rehab Team and Supported Discharge service.

The integration of these services hopes to provide continuity of care through a patient’s journey from acute care through to care at home. This includes the coordination of primary, community and voluntary services supporting people with “life after stroke”.

The launch included examples of personal journeys, both ‘good’ and ‘not so good’, and information about what the new joined up service will be like for patients and their families. During discussions on the role plays, we raised the importance of a person centered approach and patient inclusion in their care (Nothing about us without us).

Pictured here are members of Guildford Access Group and South West Disability Alliance Network at Guildford Train station, where they were interviewed about plans for the redevelopment, before going on to inspect the Council’s plans for improving transport and congestion in and around the town.

They raised concerns about the train station plans which will make it even less accessible for older and disabled travellers, and did not feel that plans for Unlocking Guildford took into account separate plans both for the train station and relocation of the bus station.

A formal response to the Unlocking Guildford consultation was sent jointly by South West DANS, Guildford Access Group and Surrey Coalition.
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

DISABLED PERSON’S BUS PASSES

We have been working with Cass Brewer from SCC’s Travel and Transport team to ensure that eligibility for a disabled person’s bus pass was not affected for those moving from the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to Personal Independence Payment (PIP), which particularly affected many people with learning disabilities.

We have together reviewed all the proof required under the 7 categories of eligibility and up to date information and guidance is now available on the SCC website, using this link: http://tinyurl.com/yby6gnyt

Thanks to Cass and colleagues from Adult Social Care and the Contact Centre, they have introduced a new process to assess people’s eligibility for a bus pass if they are already known to Social Care Services.

We will continue to monitor the fairness of the eligibility process so if you have any concerns, please let Yasmin know: Tel./Text 07455 267 424, or email Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk

NHS ENGLAND SURVEY

People with a learning disability and carers were encouraged to respond to a survey by NHS England about whether placing a flag on their health record would be desirable, and what information this should include.

If introduced, the flag could tell NHS staff:
- About your disability and how it affects you
- What help and support you would need to use health services, and
- What NHS staff can do to make things easier for you, e.g. give you longer appointments

The survey closed on 30th March but we look forward to hearing the outcome.

OVER THE COUNTER DRUGS

Coalition members gave their views to NHS England in response to their recent consultation on whether low cost drugs that can be purchased over the counter for common minor ailments should remain available on prescription. The consultation closed on 14th March, so we wait to hear the outcome.
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

SURREY HARD OF HEARING FORUM

Pictured here are members of the Surrey Hard of Hearing Forum, including representatives of Surrey Deaf Community (a forum of people who use British Sign Language).

At their most recent meeting on 8th March, they discussed several important issues with Social Care Commissioners and Sight for Surrey’s Hearing Loss services. These included:

- Lip reading classes provided by Guildford Diocese’s “Hear Here” project and Adult Community Learning
- Sight for Surrey’s new pilot to provide a HALO service (Hearing Advice Liaison Officers), who would be Hearing Loss Advisers based in Audiology Clinics, like an ECLO (Eye Care Liaison Officer) in Eye Clinics
- A draft Hospital Passport for people who are Deaf, to help them communicate with hospital staff
- Sight for Surrey’s new Employment Support service aimed at building confidence and providing training for people with hearing or sight loss to help them get a job

For more information contact their Help Desk: Telephone: 01372 377 701, Voice Line for Deaf/Hard of Hearing: 01372 869961, SMS: 07860 026269, Minicom: 01372 361 517, or email info@sensoryservices.org.uk

To join Surrey Hard of Hearing Forum please contact Yasmin: Tel./Text 07455 267 424 or email yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk

SURREY POLICE DISABILITY TRAINING

Through our membership of Surrey Police Disability Working Group we were invited to participate in their training of Police Officers and staff on understanding autism and learning disability.

The first day of the 3 day training course was attended by more than 60 people. Pictured here behind Mike Patey, who will be recognised by many of you as having been the previous Disability Lead in the Surrey Police Diversity Team.
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

COMMUNICATING WITH CQC

Despite repeated attempts, we have still been unable to persuade the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that they should provide an SMS Text number as well as other ways in which people can communicate with them. So far we have been advised that the matter will be discussed at their next Accessible Standard work group meeting, but CQC could not give any timescales for this.

In the meantime they ask that people continue to share their experiences of health and social care services with them. You can do so by using this link: http://tinyurl.com/y8bdaf7n or by writing to Care Quality Commission: 151 Buckingham Palace Rd, Victoria, London SW1W 9SZ.

We will continue to enquire about progress in providing an SMS number.

LET’S LOOP SURREY

The Let’s Loop Surrey group met again in March and took the opportunity to visit Sight for Surrey’s resource centre to look at the varied equipment available for people with a hearing impairment. Following the visit, the group discussed working with the NHS to implement the Accessible Information Standard and Access Assessments of Surrey County Council buildings.

The group agreed to actively look for new members including those without a hearing impairment to ‘buddy’ with a loop checker. If you would like to join the Let’s Loop Surrey Group or become a Buddy please contact Yasmin: email: Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk or Tel./ Text 07824 992289.

NEW WHEELCHAIR SERVICE FROM APRIL 2019

Following the successful workshop on 7th February enabling wheelchair users to co-design what the new service will be like, two of our members have joined the Wheelchair Services Programme Board to oversee the procurement process. More news in the next Newsletter.
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

SURREY DEAF COMMUNITY

Pictured here are 32 members of Surrey Deaf Community at their meeting on 9th February, where they heard from Dave Christian at Surrey Police about the support they offer to Deaf people who use British Sign Language. These include PLOD (Police Liaison Officers for the Deaf), Pegasus, and SMS contact numbers for 999 and 101 services.

They also heard from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service about what is available to keep Deaf people safe at home.

For more information about Surrey Deaf Community email: surreydeaf16@gmail.com

ACCESSIBILITY OF SOUTHERN RAILWAYS

BBC Radio Surrey ran a campaign in mid February to challenge Southern Railways about the difficulties disabled travellers face when trying to book assistance. This followed criticism by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson that the booking process is too lengthy and difficult, and said that train staff needed to be available to assist passengers.

One of our Board members, Jonathan Fisher, gave an interview on BBC Surrey, agreeing with these concerns and also mentioning other access problems, including the variable height of platforms (creating large steps and gaps), and the stress caused when train staff are not there to help.

GTR have apparently apologised for the problems but have made no commitment to change their policy on booking access support in advance. They say they want people to report individual cases which they will investigate.

To report a problem you can call 03451 27 29 20, fill in an online contact form: http://tinyurl.com/y8z6jsau, or write to Govia Thameslink Railway, PO Box 10240, Ashby-De-La-Zouch, LE65 9EB.
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

LONG TERM NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS GROUP

The group had a very full attendance at their meeting on 13th February, where discussions focussed on their concerns about the process for obtaining NHS Continuing Health Care (CHC). We were very pleased to have several key leaders of Continuing Care services at the meeting so that we could share case studies illustrating the problems and hear what they are doing to address these. We were joined by Sara Parker, Head of NHS Continuing Care, and Eileen Clark, the Chief Nurse at Surrey Downs CCG, together with Paul Morgan, the Head of Adult Social Care Continuing Care services. They were clearly all very committed to making the process better for parents and carers, and will be giving regular updates on progress at future meetings.

Madeline Ludeman from Surrey Downs CCG has also set up a User and Carer CHC Reference Group, which met for the first time on 13th March. If anyone has had experience of CHC or feel they may need it in the future, and would like to join this group, then please contact Yasmin, Tel./Text 07455 267 424 or email Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk

The group also heard from the various providers of Community Health Services in the county, including CSH and First Community Health, and about the specialist nurses and neuro-rehab service they provide.

Please contact Yasmin (details above) if you have lived experience of conditions such as MS, MND, Parkinson’s, Brain Injury and Epilepsy and would like to join our Surrey LTNC Group. The next meeting is on Tuesday 22nd May at Park House, Leatherhead.

BLUE BADGE CONSULTATION

As mentioned in the February Issue of Coalition News, the Department for Transport launched a formal consultation on proposed changes to the eligibility for a Blue Badge, which would potentially help more people with autism and mental health conditions to receive one. The closing date was 18th March, and Surrey Coalition submitted a response supporting these positive proposals. We now have to wait to hear the outcome.
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

SCC WORKING TOWARDS BECOMING A DISABILITY FRIENDLY EMPLOYER

This article has been prepared by Abid Dar from Surrey County Council.

The Council has an Equality, Fairness and Respect Strategy, that includes a workforce objective, that is aiming to become a disability friendly employer of first choice. To get there the Council has an ambitious Disability Plan, that looks at all the different ways to make positive changes for disabled people.

This includes a programme that is trying to make the Council`s 204 workplaces more accessible. Following an access visit of County Hall in 2016, Surrey Coalition worked with the Council to design the approach and an Access Assessment process for further visits.

James Chilton, a long standing Coalition member, is now part of the Wellbeing and Inclusion team and is a wheelchair user. He is delivering this programme, assessing whether disabled people have access to buildings around Surrey. This includes site visits and meeting site managers and completing access check lists. This normally takes one visit, but James can visit a site on a number of occasions, depending on the work needed. Sites include libraries, fire stations and social care settings. He then makes recommendations on possible changes that could be simply implemented. More significant access problems are being collated for inclusion in SCC Property Services plans. James has been doing this project since August 2017 and has completed 42 site visits so far.

We have recently conducted another staff survey and will share the results from those SCC members of staff who have declared they have a disability, with Surrey Coalition so that they can help us plan further actions to ensure any concerns are addressed.

Abid Dar, Senior Equality, Inclusion & Wellbeing Manager

GIVING VIEWS ON PHYSIO SERVICES

Our members completed a survey undertaken by Guildford & Waverley CCG about Physiotherapy services in Surrey - what works well and what could be improved.
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

DISABILITY ALLIANCE NETWORK SURREY (DANS)

CHAIRS FORUM

Pictured here are the DANS Chairs and Vice Chairs at their meeting in March. The photo was taken for use in new leaflet and flyer, which are being produced to promote the Network more widely. Also discussed were revisions to the Terms of Reference and a possible new name, which will be discussed at the next Area Group meetings in May (see page 11 for dates).

DANS AREA GROUP MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Members of the 4 local groups discussed a range of subjects, including:

- Scam awareness - with Trading Standards
- Future plans for health services in North West Surrey, with the Clinical Commissioning Group
- New Disability Support Officers - with Surrey Police
- Health services in Guildford and Waverley - with the Clinical Commissioning Group
- Ideas for encouraging more regular attendance at meetings
- Changes to the commissioning arrangements for health services in East Surrey

For more information about the Network contact Sandy: Tel./Text 07976 846 082, or email Sandra.frean@surreycc.gov.uk
OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY

TECHNOLOGY ENABLED CARE (TEC)

The County Council have a small innovation fund to provide grants for new ideas for using technology to support people in their homes (formerly called Telecare). Nick Markwick, one of our Co-Chairs, will be assisting in the evaluation of bids for these grants.

To find out more and be involved in improving the equipment and technology available for you at home, join our Community Equipment and TEC Group (pictured here at their last meeting).

The next meeting is on Monday 21st May, 10.30 to 12.30 in Guildford. Transport can be provided. Contact Yasmin: Tel./Text 07455 267424, or email Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk

DISABILITY ALLIANCE NETWORK (DANS)

Join your local Area Group and go along to their meetings to share your views with others on issues affecting disabled people in your area. These range from care at home to all forms of transport, access to shops and facilities and health and social care.

The next meetings are being held on:

- **East Surrey DANS**
  - Thursday 10th May
  - 1.30 to 3.30
  - Coleman Redland Community Centre, Reigate

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

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

- **South West DANS**
  - Wednesday 16th May
  - 10.30 to 12.30 pm
  - Godalming Baptist Church

To find out more and to attend a meeting contact Sandy: Tel./Text 07976 864 082, or email Sandra.frean@surreycc.gov.uk.

Transport can be provided.
As part of the integration and development of Drug and Alcohol services across Surrey from 1st April 2018, Public Health, Catalyst and Surrey & Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust have begun a period of consultation around the provision of Tier 4 inpatient detoxification services, following the moving of inpatient services out of Windmill House, the current facility.

Consultation is from **Monday 19th March until Sunday 20th May**.

The aim of the Consultation is to ensure that anyone who could be affected by the proposed changes has the opportunity to look at these and contribute to their development. **GIVE YOUR VIEWS.**

- **Complete the online survey:** [http://tinyurl.com/yd3rl22j](http://tinyurl.com/yd3rl22j)
- **Go along to an event to find out more**
  - **Thurs 10 May**, 10am - 12pm
    Wingfield Resource Centre, St. Anne’s Drive, Redhill, RH1 1AU
  - **Fri 11 May**, 10am - 12pm,
    The Prop, 30 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6JT
  - **Thurs 17 May**, 2pm - 4pm,
    St. Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom, KT19 8HA
  - **Friday 18 May**, 2pm - 4pm,
    Guildford Action, Beverley Hall Community Centre, 71 Haydon Place, Guildford, GU1 4ND
- **Let the Independent Mental Health Network know** what you think of the proposals - contact Joanna, Network Coordinator, Tel./Text 07801 239 859, email Joanna.macpherson@surreycoalition.org.uk

**For a copy** of the Consultation document and leaflet, if you cannot access the online information, please contact Jane: Tel. 01483 590 160, Text: 0786 782 681, or email jane.delarosa@catalystsupport.org.uk
HEALTH SERVICE UPDATES

NEW PATIENT TRANSPORT SERVICE IN SURREY DOWNS

Surrey Downs CCG have arranged for Patient Transport to be provided by Epsom & St. Helier’s NHS Trust from 1st April. Patients already booked have been notified.

EAST SURREY JOINS CENTRAL SUSSEX COMMISSIONING ALLIANCE

From 1st April East Surrey CCG will form part of the Central Sussex Commissioning Alliance, although the East Surrey CCG Governing Body remains accountable for services in the area. This does however mean that East Surrey will remain separate from Surrey Heartlands, as does Surrey Heath.

UPDATE ON WEYBRIDGE HOSPITAL

Following the fire in July 2017, and the interim reduction of services to Walton Hospital, the 2 GP Practices and associated community services moved back to interim facilities on the Weybridge Hospital site in January 2018.

The CCG now plans to carry out a public consultation over the summer on proposals for the future provision of out of hospital services. Further updates will be given soon on how you can get involved and give your views.

NEW ADULT COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES IN GUILDFORD & WAVERLEY

From 1st April 2018, Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust together with Procare Health will be providing Community Health Services for people living in Guildford & Waverley (Procare Health is a GP Federation). Services include:

- District Nursing, Community Matrons and specialist nurses
- Podiatory
- Rehabilitation beds in Milford and Haslemere Community Hospitals
- Haslemere Minor Injuries Unit
- Community Rehab team, including physiotherapists, OTs and speech & language therapists

Find out more https://tinyurl.com/yd8cyxu3
OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON MENTAL HEALTH

There are several ways in which people using mental health services and carers can get involved and have their say:

- **JOIN THE INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK** for Surrey and North East Hampshire to influence the planning, commissioning and delivery of services (see page 15)

- **JOIN FoCUS** to give your views on the services provided by Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (see page 17)

- **JOIN YOUR LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH STAKEHOLDER FORUM** to engage with local NHS Commissioners and providers of mental health services, including GPs and Voluntary sector organisations.

The next meetings are:

- **East & Mid Surrey Mental Health Stakeholder Forum**
  - **Tues 17th April**, 10 - 12, Park House, Leatherhead
  For more information contact Lucy: Tel./Text 07727 273242, or email lucy@lf-solutions.co.uk

- **North West Surrey Mental Health Stakeholder Group**
  - **Wed 18th April**, 10 - 12, Hythe Centre, Staines
  For more information contact Lucy, as above.

- **NE Hants, Farnham and Surrey Heath Mental Health Forum**
  - **Tues 1st May**, 10.30 - 1 pm, High Cross Church, Camberley
  For more information email linklight.contact@yahoo.co.uk

- **Guildford & Waverley Mental Health Stakeholder Forum**
  - **Wed 23rd May**, 12 - 2, Guildford Borough Council offices
  For more information contact Kerry: Tel: 01483 504 626, Text 07825 417 204, or email k.brown@vasw.org.uk
The number of members of the IMHN is growing all the time, and we now have 83 people with experience of mental ill health and carers involved and attending the bi-monthly meetings.

Pictured here at their meeting on 16th March, they discussed:

- The new Suicide Prevention Strategy for Surrey, which is being developed by Public Health. The Strategy will include the new National guidance, identify gaps in the current prevention programme and the next actions to be taken. The draft strategy will be considered at the next Multi Agency Suicide Prevention Group, and then be issued for a 3 month consultation.

- The work of a new Independent body called the Health Care Safety Investigation Branch, who are currently investigating the provision of mental health care to adults in the emergency department. Several members of the group outlined their experiences which were noted and welcomed by the Investigators. Use this link to see their Interim Bulletin on the work they have done so far:
  [http://tinyurl.com/ydy2pz4o](http://tinyurl.com/ydy2pz4o)

- Monitoring reports on IAPT services were discussed with NHS Commissioners who also gave updates on the Single Point of Access which has now been given approval to be implemented, and plans for the expansion of the Autism and ADHD diagnostic service.

- Adult Social Care Commissioners also provided an update on the Accommodate with Care and Support Project, and sought the involvement of IMHN members in a Task and Finish Group to develop key outcomes which will be expected from the service providers.

The next meeting of the Network will be held on Friday 18th May, from 10.30 am to 1 pm at Park House, Leatherhead. See next page for more information.
UPDATES ON MENTAL HEALTH

NEW IMHN WEBSITE
Use this link to see the new Independent mental Health Network website, and to complete an online joining form: https://www.useyourinfluence.website/

IMHN NEWSLETTER
Use this link to see a copy of the February Newsletter: https://tinyurl.com/y7b63khn and contact Lucy if you would like a paper copy: email lucy@lf-solutions.co.uk, Tel./Text 07727 273242

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact Joanna, IMHN Coordinator, Tel./Text 07801 239 859, email Joanna.macpherson@surreycoalition.org.uk.

NEW DEBT ADVICE SERVICE
The charity Mental Health UK has set up a new debt advice service for the many people who have mental health and money problems. They offer impartial advice via their website, which can be found at www.mentalhealthandmoneyadvice.org/en

NEW CRISIS OVERNIGHT STAY SERVICE
A new Crisis Overnight Support Service, which launched on 1st February 2018, is now running across Surrey and North East Hampshire, as an additional alternative to home treatment or a hospital admission for those who could benefit from a short stay away from home to support their recovery. The new service is accessed via Surrey and Borders Partnership’s Home Treatment Teams and the accommodation is provided by three supported living partner providers.

These changes have enabled funding to be diverted to secure the ongoing future of the four Safe Havens in Surrey and there is more information about this on their website.

SOUTH EAST MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK
The Transformation and Sustainability Network’s Conference is on Tuesday 15th May, at the Holiday Inn in Guildford, from 12.15 for lunch then from 1 to 5 pm. To book your place use this booking page link: https://tinyurl.com/y8mdfp4w
UPDATES ON MENTAL HEALTH

The Forum for Carers and people who Use the Services of Surrey & Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

FoCUS members meet 8 times a year in their local Areas to engage with the Trust on their plans and to give feedback on their services. The Area Groups are supported by our FoCUS Involvement Facilitator, Jane, here at the Trust’s Members Day recently on Autism and ADHD, where she was encouraging more people to join.

FoCUS NEWSLETTER

Use this link to see the latest Newsletter telling people about FoCUS members’ activities and achievements over recent months: http://tinyurl.com/y9x5ftl8, or contact Lucy for a paper copy: Tel./Text 07727 273242, or email lucy@lf-solutions.co.uk.

THE NEXT FoCUS MEETINGS

The area groups meet next during early April and the next ones in June are as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Group</th>
<th>Venue Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East &amp; Mid Surrey</td>
<td>Park House, Randalls Road, Leatherhead KT22 0AH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 4th June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West Surrey</td>
<td>Riverside 4, Guildford Baptist Church, Millmead, Guildford, GU2 4BE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>North West Surrey</td>
<td>Room 2, Hythe Centre, Thorpe Road, Staines, Surrey, England, TW18 3HD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11th June</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>West Surrey &amp; North East Hampshire</td>
<td>The Creche, High Cross Church, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3SY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 14th June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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To find out more and to join your local FoCUS Group, please contact Jane Ahmed, email jane.ahmed@surreycoalition.org.uk or Tel./Text 07426 022279

OTHER ACTIVITIES

As a FoCUS member you will also receive information about other ways you can get involved and hear more about local mental health services. Examples include:

- Working as a Recovery College Volunteer, helping to run courses to provide peer support to others
- Representing others on various Trust Committees and in recruiting senior staff
- Joining a new Working Group to improve the support given to people bereaved by suicide.
OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

FARNHAM WALKING FESTIVAL 2018

This year’s Festival is over 2 weeks from Sunday 20th May to Sunday 3rd June. As in the past, one of our members, Suzân, will be leading some of the walks using her powered wheelchair. These will be on the first 2 days, although many of the walks will also be suitable for wheelchair users. Suzân says that her second walk should be beautifully scented with lots of bird song so could be enjoyed by visually impaired people too.

Use this link to see what Suzân said about last year’s walks: http://tinyurl.com/ycureely. For more information about Farnham Walking Festival 2018 use this link: http://tinyurl.com/y7bc3xd9

CARERS WEEK 12-18 JUNE 2018

The Reigate and Banstead Adult Social Care Locality Team are holding 2 Information Fairs during Carers week to give carers the opportunity to explore some local services.

**Weds 13th June, 10 - 3**
Belfry Shopping Centre, Redhill

**Fri 15th June, 10 - 12**
Woodhatch Centre, Reigate

Contact Action for Carers Surrey for more information on what’s happening during Carers Week: email info@actionforcarers.org.uk or Tel: 01483 302748, Text 07714 075993

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW

We need members to help us run our joint stand again with Sight for Surrey at this year Hampton Court Flower Show, which will be from Tuesday 3rd to Sunday 8th July. Pictured here are some of the team who ran the stand last year. Volunteers receive free entry to the flower show after doing their stint on the stand.

If you would like to help please contact Yasmin: Tel./Text 07455 267 424 or email Yasmin.broome@surreycoalition.org.uk.

We will also have a stand again at RHS Wisley Gardens for their Freedom Days on 1st and 8th August, and the Flower Show from 4th to 9th September. Again, please contact Yasmin if you can help.
A new “Discharge Checklist” has been produced by Healthwatch Surrey to help patients and their families and carers plan and prepare for leaving hospital.

The easy to use checklist will help people request and keep track of the information they should be given in hospital. Topics covered include symptoms to watch out for, changes to medication, help at home and planning for new living environments.

The Royal Surrey Hospital is an early adopter of the checklist and started using it with their older patients from early April. We hope other hospitals in Surrey will adopt it soon too.

A copy of the checklist can be downloaded from the Healthwatch Surrey Website: [http://tinyurl.com/yb2p4bke](http://tinyurl.com/yb2p4bke). For an alternative format please contact Lauren on 0303 303 0023, Text 07592 787533 or email enquiries@healthwatchsurrey.co.uk

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**SIGHT FOR SURREY’S INFORMATION DAYS 2018**

Go along to one of Sight for Surrey’s Information Days which they are hosting with Independent Vision, together with many other organisations, to find out more about what is available to support Visually Impaired, Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing people.

These are taking place on:

- **Tues 5th June**, 10 am to 2 pm
  - Redhill Harlequin Theatre
  - Redhill, RH1 1NN

- **Wed 27th June**, 10 am to 2 pm
  - Shalford Village Hall,
  - Guildford, GU4 8JU

- **Wed 25th July**, 10 am to 2 pm
  - Addlestone Community Centre, Addlestone, KT15 2NJ
FREE INDEPENDENT HELP WITH YOUR HEALTH CARE COMPLAINT

The Provider of Independent Health Complaints Advocacy Service for Surrey changed on 1st April 2018. The service previously provided by SDPP is now being provided by Healthwatch in partnership with Surrey Independent Living Council (SILC).

The service will continue as before, to support people through the NHS Complaints process, and two advocates will be transferring from SDPP to SILC to continue the service, supported by SILC’s Independent Living Advisers.

ENCLOSED is a copy of the new leaflet giving the new contact details, and please use this link for an electronic copy: https://tinyurl.com/ycpe7h2a.

To ask for help with an NHS complaint: Tel.: 01483 310 500, Text 07704 265 377 or email nhsadvocacy@surreyilc.org.uk

HOW EXERCISE IN OLD AGE PREVENTS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM DECLINING

Doing lots of exercise in older age can protect people against infections (Scientists say).

To see the news article click this link: http://tinyurl.com/ycbxg5du or contact us in the Coalition office.

GOVERNMENT AGREES TO IMPROVE BUS ACCESS FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS

On 8th March 2018 the Department for Transport published a commitment to introduce new measures to ensure that wheelchair users can safely access onboard wheelchair spaces on buses. This followed a Supreme Court Judgement last year about the reasonable adjustments bus operators should provide, and also challenged the many barriers which disabled people face when trying to use buses. Use this link to find out more or contact us in the Coalition office for a paper copy: http://tinyurl.com/yaws6245
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NEW MEMBER OF THE SURREY COALITION TEAM

We were delighted to welcome Angie Taylor as a new member of our team, on secondment, who started work on 26th February. Angie is taking up a new role of Engagement Officer and will be attending events and meetings to promote Surrey Coalition and the services provided by our other user led partners, including SILC and SDPP. Angie can be contacted by email angie.taylor@surreycoalition.org.uk or Tel./Text 07908146167.

KEEP PLASTIC STRAWS CAMPAIGN

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson has added her voice to concerns about businesses changing plastic drinking straws for eco-friendly alternatives, which is having unforeseen consequences for disabled people. She said that paper or glass alternatives are not always suitable or safe. Plastic straws enable many disabled people to drink independently.

Use this link to see the BBC news item: http://tinyurl.com/ya9vgwg5 or contact us in the Coalition office for a paper copy.

FUNDING INCREASE FOR ACCESS TO WORK

We were pleased to hear the DWP announce on 20th March an increase in the maximum amount of support a disabled person can receive for Access to Work. The cap has gone up to £57,000 a year. The Minister said this was part of the Government's commitment to have one million more disabled people in work by 2027.

Access to Work can fund support workers, specialist equipment and the extra costs of travel which many disabled people have to pay.

For more information use this link to the BBC News item: http://tinyurl.com/y96to8pz or contact us in the Coalition office.

SCC’S SAVINGS PLANS 2018/19

Use this link to the Surrey County Council’s website to see full details of the cuts / savings which they have to make this year: http://tinyurl.com/ya4yt4jk