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Welcome

This is the first Coalition newsletter in 2020.

We have a busy few months ahead. We hope to see you at one of our events.

If you can’t come to an event, please stay in touch. We love hearing from members.

See page 20 for contact details.

Accessible pubs in Surrey

We are looking for people to help us to find the most accessible pubs, bars and nightclubs in Surrey.

Please get in touch if you want to help.

See page 20 for contact details.
Have your say

The NHS wants people to have their say about some changes to health services.

1. Building a new emergency care hospital at either Epsom, St. Helier or Sutton Hospitals.

   You can get more information by going to:
   
   www.improvinghealthcaretogether.org.uk/consultation

   They need you to tell them what you think by Wednesday, 1 April 2020.

2. Closing the Surrey Disability Register. The Register has information about disabled people in the county.

   The Coalition does not think it should be closed.
If you are on the Register you will hear from them around Monday, 27 January.

You will have 6 weeks to tell them what you think.

3. Changes to the Walk-in Services in North West Surrey.

You can go to a meeting and tell them what you think on:

**Wednesday, 5 February 2020**
10am to 12 noon
Hythe Centre in Staines

You can get more information by:

Email: nwsccg.bigpictureprogramme@nhs.net

Phone: 01372 232450

Text: 07880 091328
In December, we went with people from Sight for Surrey and Healthwatch Surrey to a meeting with NHS England, to talk about the NHS 111 service.

NHS 111 is a phone number you can ring to get help and advice about your health.

At our meeting, they agreed to start letting people contact them using text messages.

This is much better for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
Disability Empowerment Network Surrey (DENS)

Disability Empowerment Network Surrey (DENS) is a group of local disabled people and their carers.

They meet up to talk about issues that affect them.

At the last meeting in December, they talked about:

- Services for people who have been abused by their family at home
- Changes to public transport
- The libraries

The next DENS meeting is in March.
Hard of Hearing Forum

The Hard of Hearing group met in December.

They talked about:

- Bank scams - where people try to take money out of your bank account
- Services for people who have difficulties with hearing
Technology

Technology is new ways of working using computers, phones and the internet. Some people say ‘Tech’ for short.

Alexa Skill

You can get up-to-date information from us with your Alexa Echo device.

You just have to say ”Alexa, what’s my flash briefing?” And the machine tells you.

TAAT

TAAT stands for the ‘Talk about Assistive Tech group’.

We had our first meeting in December.
We are looking at ways to use new computers, phones and the internet to help disabled people.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, 19 February from 6pm to 7pm.

Tech to Community Connect

We will start 2 new projects in 2020:

1. A project that looks at ways to use technology to stop people from being lonely

2. A project in Farnham and Aldershot, to find new ways to help people to have a say when they aren’t able to come to meetings.
Google Live Transcribe

We have been looking at this free app.

An app is a computer programme that you put on your phone or computer.

With Google Live Transcribe, you speak into your phone or computer, and it turns your words into text on the screen.

It is a useful way to have a conversation with someone who can’t hear very well.
Exercise

Active Surrey is an organisation that encourages everybody to take part in physical activity.

We went to a meeting of Active Surrey in January.

The meeting looked at mental health and keeping fit.

You can find ways to keep fit by going to: www.getactive.io/surrey
Mental Health

Many people find that having a pet helps with mental health problems.

But people can have problems when their pet dies.

Blue Cross

The Blue Cross helps people who need support after losing a pet.

Phone: 0800 096 6606

Email: pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk

Paws to Listen

Cats Protection have a service called Paws to Listen.

Phone: 0800 024 9494

Or by going to: www.tinyurl.com/ta8zpf5
Fundraising

We got some money for a project with Action for Carers in East Surrey.

We have just applied for some money from the Community Foundation for Surrey.

We will find out if we get the money in April.
Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to be:

- The Vice Chair for the Mid Surrey Disability Empowerment Network

The Vice Chair will be the assistant to the Chair person. The Chair person runs the network and takes charge of meetings.

- Helpers on our stalls at events in different places in Surrey

- Helping us with new technology
Dates for your diary

February

Tuesday, 11 February
10:30am to 1pm
At Park House Leatherhead
A meeting of the group that is for people with a long lasting condition that affects their brain.

Tuesday, 18 February
At Astolat Burpham
A meeting for people who represent the IMHN (independent mental health network) at other meetings.

Wednesday, 19 February
6pm to 7pm
At Astolat Burpham
A meeting of TAAT
March

Monday, 2 March
10:30am to 12:30pm
At Addlestone Community Centre
A meeting of North Disability Empowerment Network Surrey (DENS)

Monday, 2 March
12:30am to 3:30pm
At Holy Trinity Church, Redhill
A meeting of East and Mid FoCUS

Wednesday, 4 March
10:30am to 12:30pm
At Park House Leatherhead
A meeting for people who help with the Disability Empowerment Network.

Wednesday, 4 March
12:30am to 3:30pm
At Godalming Baptist Church
A meeting of South West FoCUS
Monday, 9 March
10:30am to 1:30pm
At Hythe Centre
A meeting of North West FoCUS

Wednesday, 11 March
10:30am to 12:30pm
At Godalming Baptist Church
A meeting of South West Disability Empowerment Network Surrey (DENS)

Thursday, 12 March
12:30am to 3:30pm
At Aldershot centre for Health
A meeting of West FoCUS

Monday, 16 March
11am to 1pm
At YMCA East Surrey
A meeting of East Disability Empowerment Network Surrey (DENS)
Wednesday, 18 March
A meeting of Surrey Coalition Board Meeting

Thursday, 19 March
10:30am to 12:30pm
At Park House Leatherhead
A meeting of the Hard of Hearing Forum

Friday, 20 March
10:30am to 1:30pm
At Park House Leatherhead
A meeting of the IMHN Coordinating group

Monday, 23 March
10:30am to 12:30pm
At Park House Leatherhead
A meeting of Mid Disability Empowerment Network Surrey (DENS)
For more information

If you want to come to any of these meetings for the first time, or if you need any other information please contact us by:

Phone: 01483 456558

Text: 07780 933 053

Email: info@surreycoalition.org.uk

Website: www.surreycoalition.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SurreyCoalitionOfDisabledPeople

Twitter: twitter.com/SurreyCoalition

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