



Coalition News

September 2022



easy
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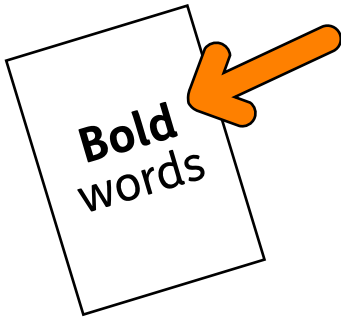
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In this Easy Read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after we have used them.



Some words are blue and underlined. These are links that will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



The Surrey Coalition of Disabled People has written this newsletter to explain what we have done over the past few months.

Welcome from Clare



Clare is the **Chief Executive Officer** of the Surrey Coalition of Disabled People.

The **Chief Executive Officer** is the person in charge.



Our members have been doing lots of good work to support disabled people in Surrey.



But a lot of people are having difficulties paying for everything they need.



Some members have told us about ideas for saving money.



Please contact us if you have any ideas to share with people.



Thank you to everyone who supports the Coalition.

News



The BIG Coalition Catch-up!

It has been a while since we have been able to get together for a big catch-up!



We are having a big meeting on Friday, 14 October.



There will be:

- Tea and cake.



- Guest speakers - these are people from other organisations who will tell us about their work.



If you are a member, you can book your place here:

www.surreycoalition.org.uk/2022/09/09/the-big-coalition-catch-up-and-2022-agm-booking-form/



If you work at an organisation that supports disabled people, you can book your place here:

www.surreycoalition.org.uk/2022/09/09/the-big-coalition-catch-up-and-2022-agm-booking-form-professionals/



You can also call our office to book your place on:

01483 456 558

Parking at Aldi



We spoke to Aldi to get them to let disabled people park for longer.



They are changing their rules.



Disabled people can send them a photo of their blue badge, and they will let you park for 3 hours instead of 1 hour.



You need to do this before you go.

Household Support Fund



Many of you received help from the Household Support Fund with the cost of gas, electricity and food.



If you have any ideas on how we can help people pay for the things they need, please contact us at:
info@surreycoalition.org.uk

New website



We are making a new website.



You will be able to start using it after our big catch-up in October.



If you would like to help us finish making the new website, contact Nikki at:
nikki.roberts@surreycoalition.org.uk

New staff



Naomi

Naomi is a Technology Trainer. This means she will help members to use technology, like computers.



Erhan

Erhan is a Tech to Community Connect Area Coordinator. This means he will help members learn about new technology.



Kirsty

Kirsty is a Trainee Peer Researcher. This means she will work with members to find out new ways to support disabled people and those with mental health issues.



Alex

Alex is a Lead Peer Researcher. This means she will be working with our members to find out ways of helping disabled people.



Alex is working on crisis houses - these are places where people can get help with their mental health for a short amount of time.



Fiona

Fiona is our FoCUS Involvement Coordinator.



This means she is going to help local people to make new things, like art.

Technology update



Technology is computers, phones and electronic equipment.

Tech Angels



Tech Angels help people with their technology.



In May, 15 people who work at Woking Council said they would become Tech Angels.



We spent a day training them. It went so well we are going to do it again in September.



We are also working with Woking Council to put more technology into local care homes.



If you feel a bit scared of technology, get in touch and we can support you to use it.

Tech to Community Connect



Tech to Community Connect help people to get in touch with each other and using the internet.



We lend people the equipment they need to get in touch with each other.

Independent Mental Health Network (IMHN)



This is a group of people with mental health illness, their families and carers.



People in the group discuss issues and support each other.



Megan Siarey and David Muir are the new people in charge of the IMHN.



The IMHN met with some people with mental health illnesses and learning disabilities to talk about the different mental health hospitals in the area.



Salem from IMHN worked with people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller groups from around the country to support their mental health.

What do you think?

The IMHN wants to know what you think about mental health services in Surrey if you:



- Have spent a long time in A&E with the police.



- Have had mental health illnesses and have used drugs or alcohol.



- Have been in a mental health hospital since 2017, and lived in Surrey at the time.



If you would like to tell us what you think, please email Guy at:
Guy.Hill@surreycoalition.org.uk

New hospitals



We have been finding out about plans for a new mental health hospital.

Get involved

Hard of Hearing Forum



The Hard of Hearing Forum supports people who have difficulty with hearing.



They sent a letter to complain about there not being enough services to remove ear wax in Surrey.

Surrey Vision Action Group (SVAG)



Surrey Vision Action Group (SVAG) help people who cannot see or have difficulty seeing.



They talked about whether the new REACT system should be used in Surrey.



The REACT system reads out information at bus stops, like when the next bus is coming.

We hope to know more by October.

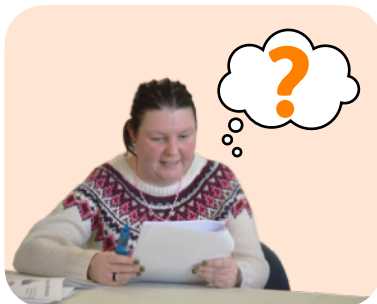
Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment (PDSI) Strategy



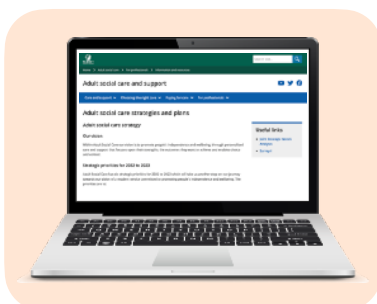
Surrey County Council are writing a new plan called the 'Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Strategy'.



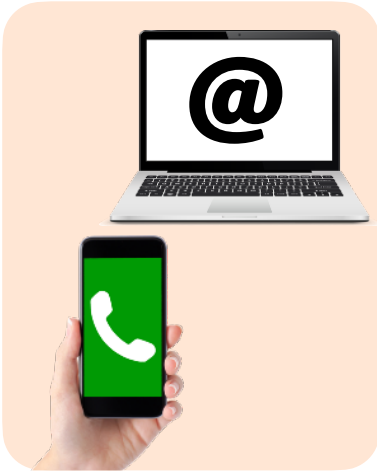
This will look at what support disabled people in Surrey need.



They would like you to look at their plan and let them know what you think.



You can read the plan here:
www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/professionals/information-and-resources/commissioning-strategies



You can contact Surrey County Council by:

- Email: psd.strategy@surreycc.gov.uk
- Phone: 0300 200 1005
- Text: 07527 182 861

Access All Areas



Access All Areas is where a group of people visit different shops and cafes to find out if everyone can use them.



We will do Access All Areas visits in different parts of Surrey several times a year.



If you would like to take part, email: involvement@surreycoalition.org.uk

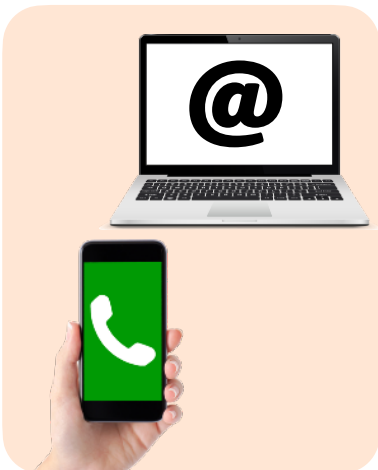
Books Beyond Words



Books Beyond Words are books that tell stories made up of pictures, instead of words.



We will start a new club for Books Beyond Words this autumn.



If you would like to take part, contact us by:

- Email:
charlotte.payne@surreycoalition.org.uk
- Phone:
07492 249 513

Disability Empowerment Network (DENS) Groups



The **Disability Empowerment Network (DENS) Groups** are groups of disabled people in different areas of Surrey.



The groups help people speak up about problems with health and care services.



This September, we will hear about getting an appointment at the local doctor.



The East DENS group will meet in September at YMCA East Surrey.



You can find out about taking part by emailing us at: involvement@surreycoalition.org.uk

Activities



We have at least one activity a day for our members. These include online cafes, book clubs and a quiz.



To find out about joining these activities, contact us at:
involvement@surreycoalition.org.uk

Out and about



We have been out and about in Surrey a lot.



We went to:

- The Cranleigh show in June.



- Belfry Centre, a local shopping centre - this was so we could talk to local people and get new members.



- Surrey Pride - this is an event to support **LGBTQIA+** people.

LGBTQIA+ means lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and others.

Learning about computers



We are having a session in Leatherhead where you can learn more about using computers.



This will be on Wednesday, 21 September.



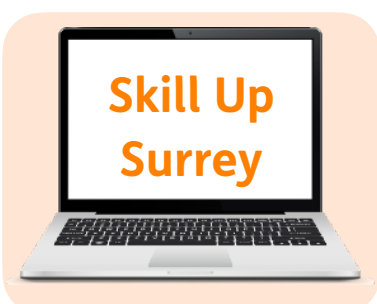
It will be at:

- Fairfield Centre
Leret Way
Leatherhead
KT22 8AH

Skills



We are making a website for people who want to learn new skills to help them get a job.



It will be called Skill Up Surrey.

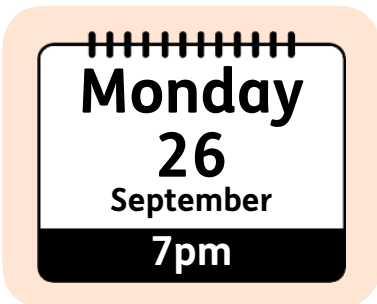
Young Adults Group



We are starting a new group for disabled adults aged between 18 and 25.



The group will meet on the last Monday of each month.



The first meeting will be on Monday, 26 September at 7pm at YMCA East Surrey.



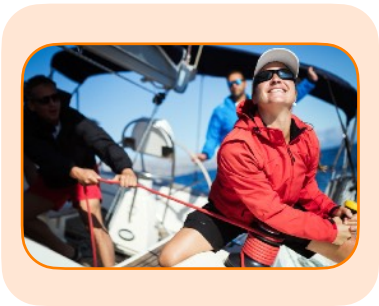
If you are a young adult and would like to go, please contact us at: involvement@surreycoalition.org.uk

Physical activity news

Sailability



We went sailing with an organisation called Sailability.



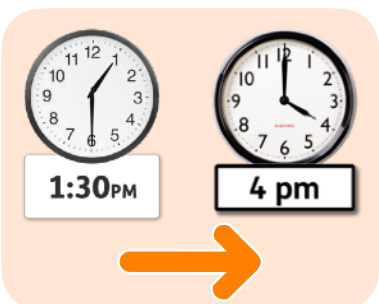
Everyone had the chance to have a go at sailing a boat.



If you go, you do not have to sail a boat.
You can just watch instead.



If you would like to try it out, you can go on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday of every month, from April to October.



Sailing is from 1.30pm until 4pm.



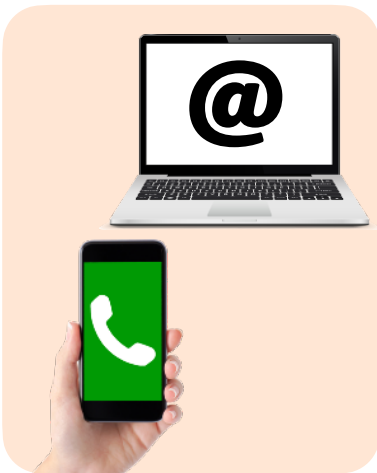
You can find out more about sailing at:

www.papercourt-sc.org.uk/sailability



Active buddies

Active buddies is a project to help disabled people to take part in activities.



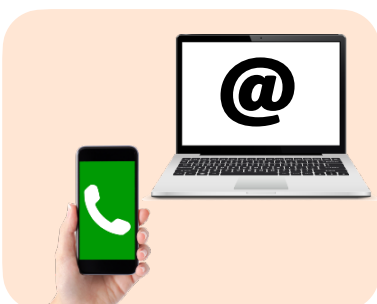
To find out more about Active Buddies, contact us by:

- Email:
getactive@surreycoalition.org.uk
- Phone or text:
07434 865 062

What's next



We will be having another activity in October called Autumn Colours walk and wheels.

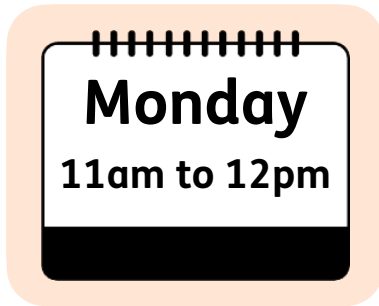


You can find out more by:

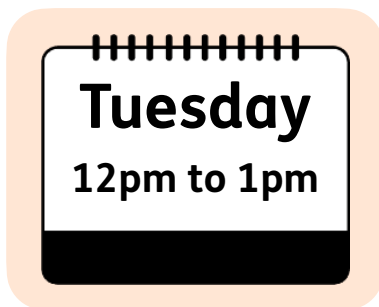
- Emailing Katy at:
katy.hubbard@surreycoalition.org.uk
- Coming to a virtual cafe on Fridays.

Events every week

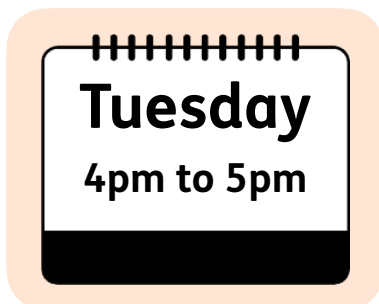
Every week we have these events and activities:



- Monday
11am to 12pm
Virtual cafe



- Tuesday
12pm to 1pm
Craft club



- Tuesday
4pm to 5pm
Glee club



- Wednesday
2.30pm to 3.30pm
Book chat



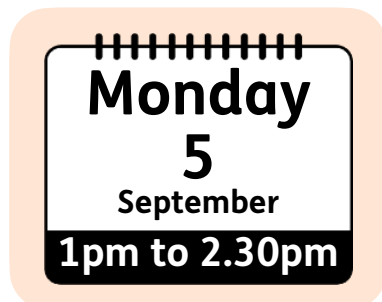
- Thursday
2.30pm to 3.30pm
Quiz



- Friday
11.30am to 12.30pm
Virtual cafe and Get More Active

Other Events in September

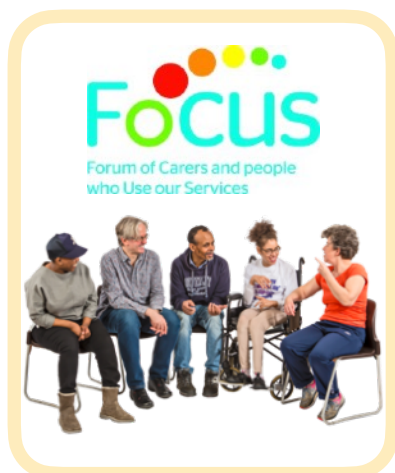
Monday 5 September



1pm to 2.30pm
North DENS



1pm to 3pm
East and Mid FoCUS



FoCUS is the **Forum** of Carers and people who Use Services from Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

A **Forum** is a regular meeting where people can talk and share ideas.

Wednesday 7 September



1pm to 3pm
South West FoCUS

Thursday 8 September



1pm to 2.30pm
West FoCUS

Monday 12 September



1pm to 3pm
North West FoCUS



6pm to 7.30pm
Surrey wide DENS

Wednesday 14 September



10.30am to 12pm
South West DENS

Monday 19 September



10am to 11.30 am
East DENS

Thursday 22 September



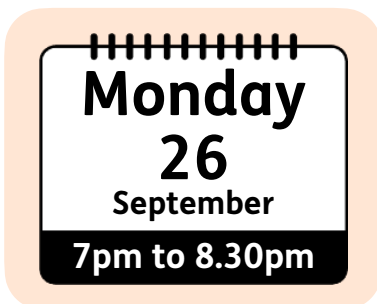
10.30am to 12pm
Hard of Hearing Forum

Friday 23 September



1pm to 3pm
IMHN Coordinating Group Meeting

Monday 26 September



7pm to 8.30pm
Young Adults Social Group

Other events in October

Monday 3 October



1pm to 3pm
East and Mid FoCUS

Wednesday 5 October



1pm to 3pm
North West FoCUS

Thursday 6 October



10am to 11am
Mid and East Mental Health
Stakeholder Group



6pm to 7.30pm
Surrey wide FoCUS

Monday 10 October



1pm to 3pm
North West FoCUS

Wednesday 12 October



10am to 11am
North West Mental Health Stakeholder Group

Thursday 13 October



1pm to 3pm
West FoCUS

Friday 14 October



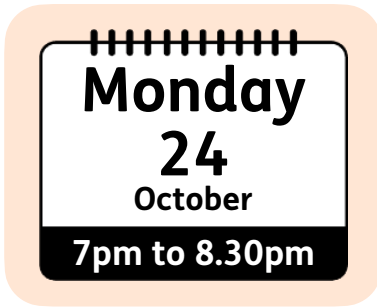
All day
The Big Coalition Catch Up and Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Thursday 20 October



10.30am to 12.30pm
Surrey Vision Action Group

Monday 24 October



7pm to 8.30pm
Young Adults Social Group

Thursday 27 October



1.30pm to 3.30pm
Adult Social Care Mental Health
Reference Group

Other events in November

Monday 7 November



We haven't decided the time yet
North DENS

Tuesday 8 November



1.45pm to 4pm
FoCUS Committee

Monday 14 November



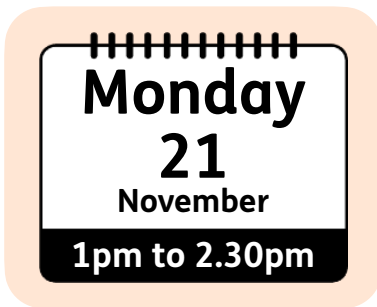
6pm to 7.30pm
Surrey wide DENS

Tuesday 15 November



10.30am to 12.30pm
Long Term Neurological Conditions
group

Monday 21 November



1pm to 2.30pm
East DENS

Wednesday 23 November



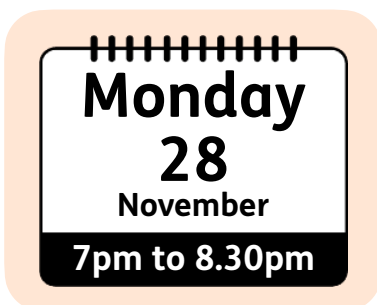
10.30am to 12pm
South West DENS

Friday 25 November



4pm to 5pm
IMHN Coordinating Group Meeting

Monday 28 November



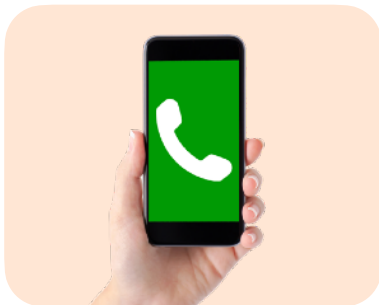
7pm to 8.30pm
Young Adults Social Group

For more information



You can look at our website here:
www.surreycoalition.org.uk

If you need more information please contact us by:



- Phone: 01483 456 558



- Text: 07563 997 932



- Email: info@surreycoalition.org.uk

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