



Annual report

Easy Read

2021 to 2022



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In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

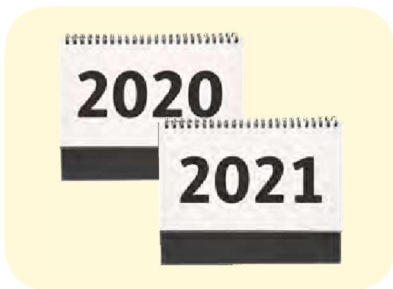


Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



Surrey Coalition of Disabled People is run and managed by disabled people and people with a long-term health condition.



This is our annual report for 2021 to 2022.



1. An **annual report** is a document we write every year. It explains the work we have done in the last year.

Who we are



We want a world where people who are different are seen as important.

It is good that our world is made up of people who are very different from each other.



We want everyone to:

- have the same **rights** as each other.
- **Rights** are things you are allowed to have and do by law. For example, you have the right to get married and the right to vote.



- have the same amount of freedom to do what they want as anyone else.



- be able to choose what they want.



- have the same opportunities as anyone else.

How we work



We work to the **Social Model of Disability**.

The **Social Model of Disability** says that it's not your body that makes you disabled, it's the **barriers** put up by other people that stop you taking part.



A **barrier** is something that is put in your way. It makes it harder for you to do something.

We work to remove the barriers which are making you disabled.



We never stop trying to make things better.



We feel strongly about what we do.
We always speak up when something isn't fair.



We look for new ways to solve problems.



All Disabled people and people with a long-term health condition are equally important to us.

What we do



We work with disabled people and people living with a long-term health condition to:

- improve health and social care services.



- get the same rights for them as everyone else.



- **campaign** so that people can choose what they want and have control over their own lives.

A **campaign** is working to try and change something.



- help disabled people to live as independently as they want.



- campaign so that disabled people have the same chance of getting a job as everyone else.



- celebrate being different from most other people.



- be involved in our local communities.



- speak up about things with health and local council services.

Board of Directors



The Surrey Coalition of Disabled People is run by a **Board of Directors**.

The **Board of Directors** is a committee of all the **directors**.



The **directors** are the most senior people in our organisation.



They are elected by the members at our AGM - annual general meeting.



The directors don't get paid.

This year the directors were:



- Jonathan Fisher, **Chair**

A **Chair** is a person who runs a meeting.



- Anna Sartori, **Vice-Chair**

A **Vice-Chair** is a deputy Chair. They run the meetings when the Chair can't make it.

- Alison Downer
- Jonathan Fisher
- Dan Hefferland
- Gemma Roulston
- Vikki Walton-Cole
- Nick Markwick (Co-chair until January 2022)
- Cliff Bush OBE (Co-chair until January 2022)
- Luke Tye (until September 2022)



- Derek Williamson, **Hon Treasurer**
The **Treasurer** looks after the money.

Thank you to Nick Markwick and Cliff Bush for all of their hard work



This year the directors have:

- **Recruited** new people to help
- **Recruited** is how new staff join the team



- checked that the work is going okay.

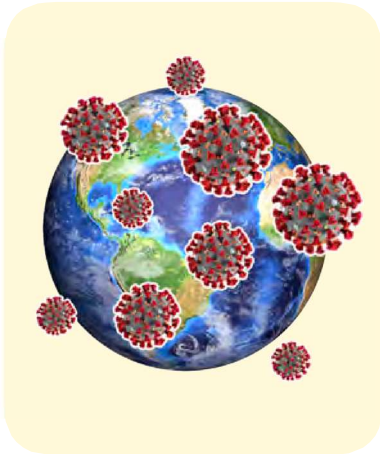


- checked that the money is being spent in the right way.



- The directors also continued work on our 5 year plan.

Chair's report



It has been another difficult year because of the effect of **COVID-19**.

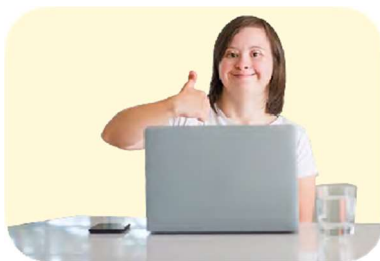
COVID-19 is also called Coronavirus. It is an illness that is spreading around the world. It can affect your lungs and breathing.



Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine has caused food, gas and electricity prices to rise.



We want to help Disabled People during these difficult times.



We are now meeting up again. Some people still want meetings online, so we have set up **hybrid** meetings.

Hybrid meetings - People can join the meeting online or go to the meeting.

What we have done

Improving health and social care services



We work with health and care services as equal partners in improving services and setting up new projects.



This year we have been working on:

- the service that provides equipment for you



- services that provide care in people's homes

- **Direct payments**



- **Direct payments** are given to Disabled people by the government to help pay for your care

- plans to help people keep fit



- Keeping you safe by working with the police



Special Interest Groups

These groups are for people with particular conditions. The groups include:



- Surrey Vision Action group
- the Long-Term Neurological Conditions group
- The Hard of Hearing Forum
- The community equipment group
- The groups have been working with Surrey County Council on their plans for services for disabled people.

The Disability Empowerment Network



The Disability Empowerment Network is made up of groups of disabled people who meet to discuss issues that affect them.

Campaigning



We have set up 'Access All Areas' visits. These are Disabled people and Coalition staff that check shops and banks are accessible.



We have been campaigning so that disabled people get fair access to all services, such as ear wax removal.

Sharing information and resources

We have shared information and advice about health and care in different ways:



- Our weekly email to members.



- Our newsletter - every three months.



- A phone line where you can listen to a recording of the latest newsletters.



- We have put our latest newsletters onto **Alexa**.

Alexa is a smart speaker. You can ask it questions and it can give you spoken information, play music and let you listen to the radio.



Mental health and wellbeing

We work with the Independent Mental Health Network (IMHN).



- This year the network has been researching how we can work with mental health services.

FoCUS

- FoCUS stands for Forum of Carers and People who Use our Services.



New technology

Technology is gadgets and equipment that help people.



The 'Tech to Community Connect' project has grown a lot this year.



This project helps people to learn more about how to use computers and phones.



We have set up an online library of information for disabled people.



We have been working with many volunteers. We called them 'Tech Angels'.



Tackling loneliness

Our social events have continued this year.

These included:

- some online social events. One of the favourite events is the quiz!
- help for people to keep fit and active. We have a new project that matches somebody that wants to be active with a volunteer. This is called 'Active Buddy'



Other work

This year we have also worked with:



- various community and faith groups.



- the Surrey Independent Living Council.

Join us



You can join us if you are over age 18 and disabled or have a long term health condition. It is free to join.



Family carers can be an **associate member**.

An **associate member** gets regular information from us but is not able to vote at the meetings.



What you will get as a member

You will get:

- an email every week.



- a newsletter every 3 months.



- the chance to be involved in all our work with local services



- the chance to meet up with members and joining various projects.

For more information



If you need more information please go to our website:

www.surreycoalition.org.uk



or contact us by:

● phone: 01483 456 558



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