

Yearly report

2023 to 2024



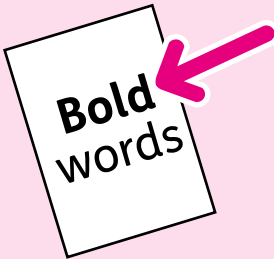
Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.

This **word** means....



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this report



This is the yearly report from the Surrey Coalition of Disabled People.



Every year we write a report about what we have been doing.

We will tell you:



- Who we are.



- What we have done in 2023 to 2024.

About Surrey Coalition of Disabled People



Surrey Coalition of Disabled People is an organisation that is led by Disabled people.



We want a world where people's differences are celebrated and everyone has the same chances in life.



We want to help Disabled people to live healthy lives and take part in activities in their local area.



We work with other health and care organisations to do this.



We find out what support Disabled people need and work to make sure they get this support.

What we do

Our work is split into 7 important areas. These are:



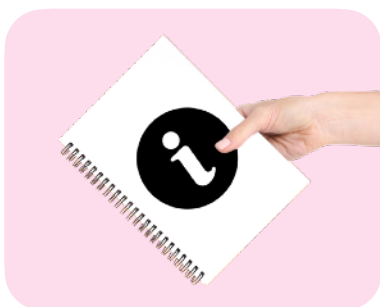
1. **Co-Production activities** - this means Disabled people taking part in making plans and decisions about services they use.



2. **Campaigning and influencing** - this means talking to health and care organisations across Surrey.



We make sure we are in all the important meetings about Disabled people's services in Surrey, so our members are heard.



3. **Sharing information and advice** - we are a link between services and Disabled people to make sure they get the information they need.

Our work is split into 7 important areas. These are also:



4. **Mental Health** - we run groups that share information about how people's mental health can be supported.



5. **Technology** - we run projects about technology and how it can support people in new ways.



6. **Supporting people who are lonely** - we have lots of activities and groups online for people to take part in. We also have a Get More Active project to help people who want to exercise more.



7. Making our organisation work better and supporting other organisations to do more.

Being a member

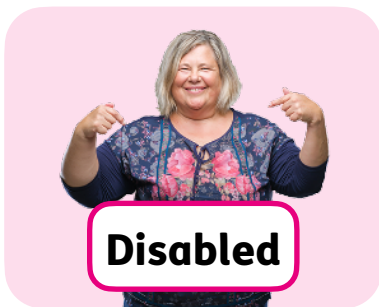


You can join the coalition for free!



You can join if you are:

- Over 18 years old.



- Think of yourself as Disabled or living with a health condition for a long time.



You can take part as much or as little as you want to.



You will get lots of information about what we do. You will be able to come to our online events, like our quiz or online cafes to chat with others.

Report from the Co-Chairs



This year has been a very important one for our organisation.



In October 2023, the members of the coalition voted for us to become a charity.



In December 2023 we were officially made into a charity.



We would like to thank all of the board members who stood down after helping the coalition for many years.



We are now focussing on raising money so the coalition can carry on doing everything we want to do.



We are also supporting our members through the **Cost of Living crisis**.

The **Cost of Living crisis** is when people do not have enough money to pay for the things they need to live, like electricity and food.



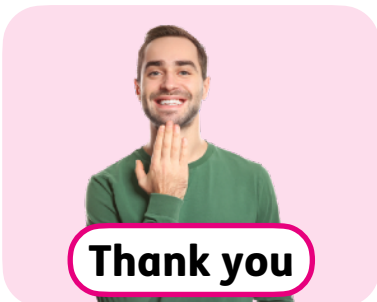
We have been working hard to make sure Disabled people in Surrey have the support they need to help them with the Cost of Living crisis.



We wrote a Cost of Living Report which showed our members are worried about being able to use **food banks** - this is where you can get cheap or free food.



We used the report to show Surrey County Council that we needed money for a worker to support Disabled people with this.



We would like to thank all of our staff, funders and members. The coalition is a great organisation doing amazing work.

Thank you all again, Vikki and Neil

Campaigning and influencing



We have been part of different **strategic boards** for organisations around the county.

Strategic boards are meetings where plans are made about what an organisation should do.



We have a campaign group that decides what campaigns they want to run.



In the last year, they have campaigned on:

- Disabled people using buses in their local area.



- Disabled people being able to use polling stations - where you go to vote in elections.



- The government's survey about Personal Independence Payment (PIP).



We also went to the Prime Minister's house, 10 Downing Street, to deliver the petition against **floating bus stops**.



Floating bus stops are bus stops that have a road or cycle track going around them, so you need to cross over to get to the bus stop.



We hope that the Prime Minister will think about the needs of disabled people and stop floating bus stops.

Sharing information



We share information in our Coalition News - people like this as a way to find out what the coalition is doing.



We try to look at an area of our work in each Coalition News we share.



Our members have shared their stories as part of Coalition News and on our website too.



We are growing our social media pages, like Facebook and Instagram.



Lots of people followed our social media pages in the last year.

Mental health



Our Independent Mental Health Network (IMHN) has been leading our work on mental health this year.

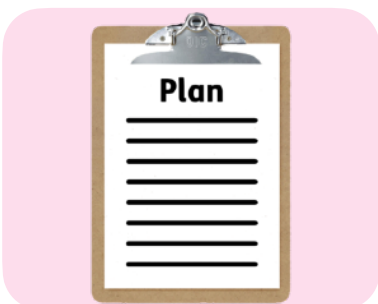


We have been working on talking to people from **ethnic minority** groups about their mental health and what might stop them getting support.

An **ethnic minority** is a small group of people of the same race, in a place where most other people are a different race.



One of our staff members, Immy, is the vice chair of the **Adult Mental Health Alliance** - this is a group that helps to improve mental health services in Surrey.



Immy has been helping to make a 15-month business plan for the Alliance.



We have also been working on a project to improve mental health services in doctor's surgeries.



The project ran a survey and meetings to find out what people thought about these services - over 400 people told us what they thought.



We used this information to write 57 ways for local mental health services to improve. You can read more about this here:

www.surreycoalition.org.uk/community-mental-health-transformation-programme-imhn-co-production-and-community-engagement



We have also been including people in planning the new mental health hospital in Chertsey.



We now have more than 300 members of our Independent Mental Health Network (IMHN)!

Technology



We have a project called **Tech Angels** that supports people who find it hard to use technology.

Over 2000!



We have now supported over 2000 people with this service!



We were happy to get enough money to run the Tech Angel project across Surrey for another year.



Our **Tech to Community Connect** project helps people by giving them screens to use, internet and help with how to use technology.



We also have a group called **Surrey Digital Inclusion Steering Group** which helps organisations to share ideas about the best way to support people with technology.

Getting active



We have a project called **Getting More Active**, which our members like a lot.



We have got some money from East Surrey Better Care Fund to make sure this project can keep running.



In the last year, we have put on sessions for members to try out different activities. Sailing is always one of the ones people like the most!



We have an online group for members to talk about being active and try some gentle exercise on Friday mornings.



We also have our Active Buddy project which helps to match up people who need support.

Making every contact count



Our project called **Making Every Contact Count (MECC)** talks to people about where they can get support from local services.



Instead of telling people what to do, we ask questions and listen to people about what they need.



Alex is one of our staff members and has helped to give training about Making Every Contact Count across Surrey.



We want to help our organisation and other organisations to work in a better way and support people better.

Building our organisation



This year we became a charity. This will help the coalition to grow even bigger and support more people.



We have made a plan for the near future to help us make the most of being a charity.



We wanted to share a lovely thought from one of our members about the coalition. They said:



“The coalition is one of the most important groups for disabled people in the country.”



“You manage to connect people and I think you are fantastic. You are wonderful!”

About our money



The person who looks after our money is called the **Treasurer** - their name is Mustafa Bilal.

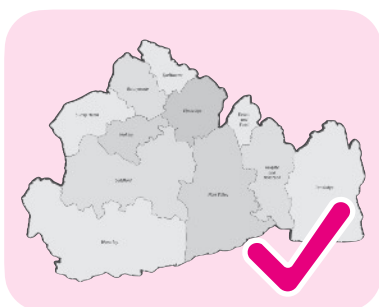


The Treasurer wrote a report which said:

In the last year, we had £850,178 coming in to spend on our work.



This was £165,069 less than we had to spend in the year before the last year.



This money meant we could give support to Disabled people in Surrey, no matter where they lived or their background.



Surrey Coalition of Disabled people is in a good place when it comes to money.



We have good systems in our organisation to make sure money is spent in a good way.



In the last year we spent £789,158 on our activities.

This means we have £478,008 in the bank as we move into the next year.



We spend most of our money on paying staff who work for us



We want to thank all of the people from different organisations who have helped the coalition to keep running.



To all of the people who have supported us by giving us money, thank you! It makes a big difference!

Events happening soon



We have lots of events in the next couple of months for you to take part in.

Events happening every week



Every Monday from 11:00am to 12:00pm, we have an online café.



Every Tuesday from 4:00pm to 5:00pm, we have Glee Club where you can listen to music.



Every other Wednesday, starting on 9 October, from 2.30pm to 3.30pm we have Peer Support Group where we can support each other.



Every Thursday from 2:30pm to 3:30pm, we have our quiz.



Every Friday from 11:30am to 12:30pm, we have our online café where we can talk about taking doing more exercise and being active.



If you would like more information about any of these events, please contact us by:

- Email: involvement@surreycoalition.org.uk



- Phone: 01483 456 558



- Text: 07908 671 402

Events in October



Tuesday 1 October

1.00pm to 2.30pm

Combined FoCUS: Silverwood and Annual Plan at SABP HQ in Leatherhead - in person only.



Thursday 3 October

1.00pm to 2.30pm

Combined FoCUS: Silverwood and Annual Plan at Theta in Frimly - in person only.



Monday 14 October

1.00pm to 2.30pm

Community Equipment Services meeting.



Thursday 17 October
10.30am to 12.00pm
Surrey Vision Action Group



Friday 18 October
1.00pm to 2.30pm
Patient Transport Group



Monday 28 October
10.00am to 11.00am
Campaigns Sub Committee

Events in November



Monday 4 November

FoCUS Committee - invited people only.



9 to 23 November

At Home Winter Wonderlands - you choose the activity you want to do and when.



Tuesday 12 November

10.30am to 12.00pm
Long Term Neurological Conditions Group



Friday 29 November

1.00pm to 3.00pm
IMHN Coordinating Meeting

Events in December



Sunday 1 December

Winter Wonderwheels at Dorney Lake

Walk, wheel, cycle, run (or anything in between!) A SUPER fun event!



Wednesday 4 December

1.00pm to 2.30pm

Special FoCUS: Christmas Social at Guildford Baptist Church



Monday 9 December

10.00am to 11.00am

Campaigns Sub-Committee



Monday 9 December

1.00pm to 2.30pm

Special FoCUS: Christmas Social at Hythe Centre in Staines - in person



Wednesday 11 December

10.00am to 11.00am

NW Mental Health Stakeholder Group



Thursday 12 December

10.00am to 11.00am

East and Mid Mental Health Stakeholder Group



Thursday 12 December

10.30am to 12.00pm

Hard of Hearing Forum

Find out more

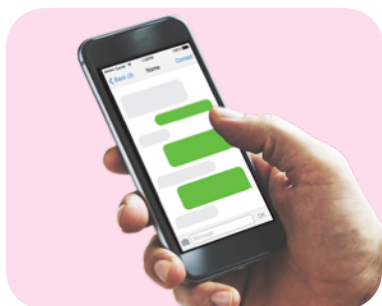


You can look at our website here:
www.surreycoalition.org.uk

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