



News from Surrey Coalition of Disabled People

Spring 2025



Easy
Read



Easy Read



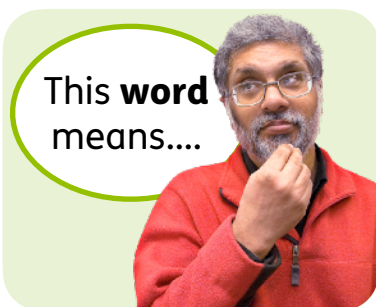
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



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.



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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Welcome from Nikki



Hello everyone.

Spring is here! This is a nice time of year when the weather gets warmer, birds sing, and flowers grow.



This booklet explains what the Surrey Coalition of Disabled People have been doing.



We have been running events and supporting our members.



If you would like to come to an event and want to talk about it, let us know. We can help you.

Events



80 years ago, during the Second World War, an American plane crashed in a place called Reigate Hill.



Some of our group went to a special event to remember this.



We have started having events to help people feel good.



We had one at Watt's Gallery.

It was nice, even though the weather was not good.



You can join us for the next event.

The Government's changes



The Government is changing the rules about the money and support it gives to disabled people.



This will affect disabled people and people with long-term health conditions.



We will support our members and try to make sure the changes are fair.



We are reading the Government's plans and will tell you what we think of them.



We are having an online meeting on Wednesday 7th May.



We will tell you more about the Government's changes then.



We will be able to answer your questions.



Please tell us if you would like to come along.

Getting around the countryside



We have been working with Surrey Countryside Access Forum to help people get around in the countryside.



We have been working on a plan to make paths better.



A member of our staff called Yasmin shared ideas for the plan.



She said it is important for the plan to include the Coalition and others.

Electric car charging places



At the moment, most places to charge electric cars are not easy for disabled people to use.



We had a meeting about how to make places to charge electric cars better.



One member said that **Motability** is telling disabled people to get electric cars.

Motability is a scheme that helps disabled people to get cars.



This makes it extra important that disabled people can use electric car charging places.

We are going to write to Motability about this.

Bus drivers



We are working with Surrey County Council to make some videos for bus drivers.



These videos will train bus drivers about how to support disabled people.



We want as many members as possible to be in the videos.



These videos will be used to train bus drivers across the country.

Newlands Corner



We have been making it easier for everyone to visit Newlands Corner.



There is a new way to walk that goes around some very old trees.



But there is a part of the path that goes to the trees that is still hard to get to.



The council is looking at how to make this part of the path easier to use.



This might mean that more people can enjoy the peaceful trees.

Training for new doctors



We give training about disabilities to people who want to be doctors.



Nikki, Megan, and Yasmin from our team gave this training to a group of new doctors in Guildford.



The new doctors liked the videos we showed them.



We are now making some more videos with our members about going to the doctor.

Virtual trip



Virtual trips are a way of visiting places online in a group.



On 31st March, we had a virtual trip to Petworth House. Someone showed us around while we watched online.



Petworth House is a very old house in West Sussex.

There is a lot of art there.



The trip was very interesting and a big success.

Awards



In March, Nikki went to an event called the Runnymede Civic Awards.



One of our members, Jonathan Fisher, won an award.



Jonathan is very helpful to other people.

He uses his own experiences to help others.



He won the 'Make a Difference' Award.



Another one of our members won the 'Sports Volunteer of the Year' award.

She has helped a lot with a swimming group for disabled people.



They were given their awards by the Mayor of Runnymede.



Jonathan said that the event was very emotional.



It was nice to hear good stories at a time when there is a lot of bad news.

Tech Angels



Technology is equipment like computers, tablets and phones.



Our **Tech Angels** help people to use computers, tablets and phones.



3 new Tech Angels started in January. We have 2 more joining us soon.



We plan to have events to meet with our Tech Angels and thank them for their help.



We took some of our Tech Angels to Wisley Glow in December.



It was a nice evening and everyone liked it.



In Runnymede, our Tech Team have finished a big project.



It has really helped people there.



Thank you to Runnymede Borough Council for helping with this.



The Tech Angel project is now back in Woking.



We have had a lot of people asking for help in Woking.



The leader of our tech team, Sylwia, went to the **House of Lords**.

The **House of Lords** is part of parliament and helps to run the country.



Sylwia talked about how technology can help disabled people get jobs.

Mental health



Our group has a new project called Thriving Together.

It is about being happy and healthy.



It is to help people with disabilities, health problems and mental health issues.



We want to help people:

- Do more exercise and make friends.



- Feel good and have a good life.



We will have events where people can meet, exercise and be together.



The events are free.



We have already had some events and they were fun.

We will have more events each month.



We hope this will help people feel less alone and be happy.



We want all of our members to come to the events.

Silverwood Mental Health Hospital



There is a new mental health hospital called Silverwood.



The hospital opened in February.



It has 4 parts called wards. Each ward has 16 rooms, a living room, a garden and trees.



People staying at the hospital can go on walks in the trees with staff.



We want people in Surrey to have good mental health care.



So our mental health team helped to make Silverwood.



They have worked on this for 2 years.



Our staff helped to show people around the building.



They stayed in the hospital for a night to check that everything was working.

Weekly events



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



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



Every other Wednesday from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm, we have a group where we support each other.



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



Every Friday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, we have our online café.

At this, we can talk about taking part in activities.



Our activities are online, on Zoom.

If you would like to come, please contact us by:



- Email: involvement@surreycoalition.org.uk



- Phone: 01483 456 558



- Text: 07908 671 402

Events in April



Tuesday 1 April

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

FoCUS East and Mid Surrey
Community Group online.



Wednesday 2 April

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

FoCUS South West Surrey Community
Group at Guildford Baptist Church.



Thursday 3 April

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

FoCUS West Surrey and North East
Hants Community Group online.



Monday 7 April

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

FoCUS North West Surrey Community Group in The Hythe Centre, Chertsey.



Wednesday 16 April

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Northwest Surrey Mental Health Group online.



Thursday 17 April

10:00 am to 11:00 am

East and Mid Surrey Mental Health Group online.

Events in May



Wednesday 7 May

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

FoCUS Committee meeting in SABP HQ in Leatherhead.



Friday 16 May

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Sailing at Papercourt in Ripley.



Friday 30 May

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

IMHN Coordinating Meeting online.

Events in June



Thursday 5 June

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

FoCUS Southwest Surrey, West Surrey and North East Hants Community Group in Guildford Baptist Church.



Tuesday 10 June

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

FoCUS Northwest, East and Mid Surrey Community Group in Unifer House in Chertsey.



Wednesday 18 June

10:00 am to 11:00 am

North West Surrey Mental Health Group online.



Thursday 19 June

10:00 am to 11:00 am

East and Mid Surrey Mental Health
Group online.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:

www.surreycoalition.org.uk



You can contact us by:

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