

# Briefing for local stakeholders with an interest in social care, health and communities

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships  
Information and Engagement Team



## Monthly briefing

Information correct as of 18 December 2024

### End of Year Message

To all our readers and contributors, we thank you for your ongoing interest and efforts in sharing essential news, so we are more informed of what's going on in health, social care and our communities in Surrey. This helps us connect local people to the right support.

We hope you have some rest over the holiday period and stay safe and well.

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### What to do on Christmas Day in Surrey

Mary Frances Trust has compiled a list of all of the [Christmas meals](#) in the community for those who may be on their own or in need of company this Christmas.

### Contacting essential services over the festive period

[Connect to Support Surrey](#) has compiled contact details for the [essential services](#) operating over the festive period, including Christmas Day company, winter night shelters, health emergencies, mental health support, local borough and district councils, safeguarding, Surrey Police and utility companies.

### Have your say on 2025-26 draft budget

The 2025/26 draft budget was agreed at a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 26 November, and delivers on four priority objectives outlined in our [Organisation Strategy 2023 to 2028](#). It also outlines vital investment in things like specialist care services, special education provision, road maintenance and transport improvements.

To be able to deliver essential services whilst still balancing the books, we have identified £57 million of efficiencies. Now, we want to hear your views on these efficiencies via our [consultation survey](#).

The [consultation survey](#) can be completed anonymously and should take no more than ten minutes. The consultation will close on **31 December**. Alternative formats are also available.

The results of this budget consultation will inform the development of the final budget report, due to be published in January 2025.

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## Surrey County Council reinforces commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant

Surrey County Council (SCC) proudly re-signed the Armed Forces Covenant on the 10 December reinforcing its enduring commitment to ensuring fair treatment for all members of the Armed Forces community, including serving personnel, veterans, their families, and the bereaved. The Covenant ensures that service members and their families are not disadvantaged compared to their civilian counterparts.

Surrey's ties to the Armed Forces are deeply rooted. With 3,920 regular Armed Forces personnel, 720 Reservists (including 28 employed by SCC and Surrey Fire & Rescue), and 625 service families, the county plays a vital role in supporting military operations and communities.

The county council is proud to support 1,224 service children enrolled in 208 schools across the county. Additionally, initiatives like the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and partnerships with organisations such as Op COURAGE South East demonstrate Surrey's dedication to meeting the unique needs of the Armed Forces community.

For further information on how SCC [supports our Armed Forces](#) please visit our website.

## Understanding Inequality in Surrey: virtual workshop

Do you want to learn more about what inequality looks like in Surrey? Do you want to help shape how we work together to address inequalities in the county?

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team at Surrey County Council has been working on a new EDI Framework for the council and have developed an evidence base to inform the first stage of this work. They've been analysing data from the Census and other sources to see where people are experiencing poorer outcomes based on protected characteristics, as well as socio-economic and intersectional factors.

Members of the voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations are invited to a virtual workshop on the 14 January. At the workshop the team will share their findings and would like to see how well it reflects with what your organisations know about the communities you work with. They would love to hear feedback from a diverse range of partners from across the sector about what the priorities should be going forward to tackle the inequalities we've highlighted.

To sign up for the virtual workshop please book via [Eventbrite](#), the workshop will be held on Microsoft Teams.

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## All Age Autism Strategy: 'You Said, We Did' report and shaping future priorities

In 2020, autistic people and family carers in Surrey shared some serious, system-wide problems for autistic people. The [Surrey All Age Autism Strategy 2021 - 2026](#) was co-produced by a wide range of partners who set out an autism friendly vision for Surrey, where autistic people can lead healthy, safe and fulfilling lives.

They want to achieve an autism friendly approach across the county in education, health, social care, work and communities. Work to improve this is being delivered by a partnership of people with lived experience and people from across the service system. Read their '[You Said, We Did](#)' report for up to date information on the work that they have been doing.

Please [share your views on the All Age Autism Strategy 2021 - 2026](#), your views will shape the future priorities of the All-Age Autism Strategy.

The consultation will **close on 31st January 2025**.

For more information about the All-Age Autism Strategy, please visit [Autism in Surrey](#).

## Surrey Heartlands ICB: Winter Ready campaign

Winter is always an incredibly busy time for the NHS - hospital admissions and demand for services increases, cases of flu and Covid-19 are on the rise, and many health conditions are exacerbated by the effects of the colder weather.

NHS Surrey Heartlands is engaging with communities to find out if people are '[winter ready](#)'. Winter ready means:

- **Getting vaccinated** – where eligible for Flu, COVID019 and RSV
- **Know how to access urgent health advice and treatment** – knowing which service to access, GP Practice, Pharmacies, NHS 111, Urgent Treatment, Walk-in Centres etc.
- **Planning ahead when ordering repeat prescriptions** and keeping a well stock medicine cabinet for common bugs and illnesses.
- **Using the [NHS App](#)**, which gives health advice and makes it even easier to order repeat prescriptions, view your health record and book appointments.
- **Planning ahead when colder weather is coming** and keeping homes heated to recommended levels to help people keep warm and well

For more information on being winter ready please visit [Surrey Heartlands](#).

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## Have your say on pharmacy services in Surrey

The Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board has produced the first draft of its 2025 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) report.

The aim of the Surrey PNA is to describe the current and future need for pharmaceutical services in Surrey. It achieves this by providing an overview of pharmacy services in Surrey (what is provided and where). It includes looking at the majority of services provided by community pharmacies, GP practices that dispense medications and appliance contractors and makes an assessment around whether what is currently in place meets the needs of residents, both now and in the future and we'd like to hear what you think about it.

The draft [PNA and survey are available on Surrey Says](#), including large print and screen reader accessible versions of the survey. The consultation closes on 24 January 2025.

## Alcohol Campaign launched for the festive period and January

The festive season is often associated with increased alcohol consumption, with many people drinking more than usual and having fewer alcohol-free days. As the New Year approaches, many people reflect on their drinking habits and express intentions to moderate their consumption.

Surrey County Council's Public Health team is running a campaign to encourage mindful drinking and healthier choices, promoting a balanced approach to celebrating the season responsibly while setting positive goals for the months ahead.

A key feature of the campaign is the [DrinkCoach alcohol test](#), designed to help individuals understand their drinking patterns and identify potential risks.

A toolkit including social media messages, assets and videos is available to [download on Khub](#). Please support the campaign by sharing it across your channels.

## Final call: Draft travel policy for adults with care and support needs closing end of December

A consultation on a draft travel policy for adults with care and support needs is due to close on 31 December 2024. The draft policy aims to support people to be as independent as possible and lead active and fulfilling lives in their communities. It sets out the county council's approach to providing travel assistance to residents who have eligible needs under the Care Act.

The draft policy is the first resident-focused information about travel and transport support for people with care needs and aims to aid residents' understanding of how decisions about travel assistance are made.



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People can have their say on the draft policy through an online survey. Alternative formats are also available. The draft policy and survey, which closes on 31 December, [can be found on Surrey Says](#).

Please share the [Surrey Says survey](#) as appropriate and like and share posts on [Facebook](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#).

## Have your say about the MyFrimleyHealth Record

MyFrimleyHealth Record is Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust's patient-facing smartphone app where patients can access their hospital medical records; see information such as clinic letters or notes; receive test results; use it to communicate with Frimley Health teams; and manage their appointments.

The trust has launched a short survey to understand levels of [awareness of and experiences with MyFrimleyHealthRecord](#).

## Spelthorne Borough Council: Housing and homelessness draft strategy

Spelthorne Borough Council has a statutory duty to publish a new housing, homelessness and rough sleeping strategy every five years.

Spelthorne stated that about five people were sleeping rough in the borough at any one time, although the number fluctuated. They also have more than 235 households currently in bed and breakfast or temporary accommodation, of which around one fifth were placed outside the borough. Its housing options team has an active caseload of more than 460 households, two thirds of which are families.

They are currently consulting on the [three key priorities outlined in the draft strategy](#) for 2025 to 2030: partnership working to tackle homelessness; identifying opportunities to address housing need, and proactive prevention. The strategy has been drafted by a collaborative housing, homelessness and rough sleeping working group, based on engagement with stakeholders and service users.

The consultation will end on 19 January.

## Free exercise classes for the over 60s living in Guildford

Funded using the National Lottery Community Fund, free exercise classes including gentle exercise, Pilates/chair Pilates, circuits and Zumba Gold, are available across Guildford from January to March 2025.

Venues include St Clare's Church, The Aggie Club, St Peter's Church and The Ash Centre.

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Pre-booking is required. For further information or to reserve your slot, please

- **Email:** [activewellbeing@surreysportspark.co.uk](mailto:activewellbeing@surreysportspark.co.uk)
- **Telephone:** 01483 444150

## HerTeam launches in Surrey

HerTeam is a new programme launched by Surrey Football Association (Surrey FA) encouraging women to participate in casual football to help boost their mental and physical health.

This innovative programme is designed to provide a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for women from all walks of life, with a particular focus on reaching women from ethnic minority communities and backgrounds.

Sessions begin in January in three different locations:

- Tomlinscote School, Surrey Heath
- Woking Leisure Centre, Woking
- Broadwater School, Waverley

All sessions are held in selected indoor spaces with female-only coaches, practitioners and participants.

For further information please visit [Surrey FA](#) or contact [Leah.Hidden@surreyfa.com](mailto:Leah.Hidden@surreyfa.com).

## Smart glasses changing lives

Clare Burgess, Chief Executive of Sight for Surrey recently shared her experience of using the new Ray-Ban Meta AI Wayfarers, next generation smart glasses. These glasses enable you to take photos and videos, listen to music, make calls and even livestream direct to Facebook and Instagram – all without taking your phone out of your pocket. They can help you travelling by directing you like a sat nav or checking the bus number approaching, they can also summarise text. You can use verbal commands or physical gestures to navigate the glasses.

Smart glasses and other smart equipment can be found on [Home Equipment Finder](#). To find out more from Clare on her experience of using them please visit [Sight for Surrey](#).

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## New address for Catalyst Support

[Catalyst Support](#) has moved to Block G, Unit 1, Nankeville Court, Guildford Road, Woking, Surrey, GU22 7NJ.

This is now a registered address for Catalyst Support. Please check and update your records and materials to reflect this change. All correspondence should now be directed to their new address.

## Latest groups and courses from Mary Frances Trust

Mary Frances Trust (MFT) runs a range of groups and courses to support adults across Surrey. Their newest courses are:

- Football, Elmbridge - starting 27 January
- Martial Arts for Men, Leatherhead – starting 27 January
- Online Nature Nurtures Winter Course – starting 7 January
- Online Singing in Mind – starting 14 January (no session 18 February)
- Online Qigong – starting 15 January.

A full list of the courses and groups is available via the [MFT calendar](#), which is now more accessible and offers the option of a talking calendar.

To attend, people need to first [register](#) on the MFT website and then contact MFT to book a place:

- **Email:** [info@maryfrancestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@maryfrancestrust.org.uk)
- **Telephone:** 01372 375 400
- **Text:** 07929 024722

## Current open Surrey County Council consultations

Find all [open Surrey County Council consultations](#) on Surrey Says.

## Submitting an article for the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships Information and Engagement Team Briefing

If you would like us to include an article on behalf of your organisation in the next edition, please email: [asc.engagement@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:asc.engagement@surreycc.gov.uk)

Please note that we are unable to include attachments when we circulate the briefing, so please ensure that any documents that you wish to reference are uploaded to your own

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organisation's website or a partner website.

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## Sharing the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships Information and Engagement Team Briefing

If you would like to share the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships Information and Engagement Team Briefing with other professionals, the latest edition is available from: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/adultsbriefing](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/adultsbriefing)