

# 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 20 June 2024

### Delivering Surrey's Food Strategy

Surrey's [Whole System Food Strategy](#) (2024-2034) has been developed to focus on three key strands: addressing food insecurity, reducing climate impact of the local food system and supporting the local population to keep a healthy weight by enhancing the accessibility and affordability of nutritious food. The overall implementation of the strategy will be overseen by the Surrey Food Partnership. Partnership reports to the Prevention and the Wider Determinants of Health Board.

Through the implementation of this strategy, the partnership aims to create a healthy place for our local population where people are supported to make healthy food choices and work together to protect the environment whilst growing the local economy through a resilient local food system.

### My Vote My Voice

[My Vote My Voice](#) is a campaign that encourages people with a learning disability and autistic people to use their vote.

People with a learning disability and autistic people have an equal right to vote. It is very important that everyone who can vote, does vote. This is the best way for most people to have a say in how the country is run.

Look at the [easy read information](#) to enable people with a learning disability to vote in the upcoming general election including how to register to vote and Voter ID. Surrey County Council has also produced [easy read information](#) on How to vote in person. Professionals, please share with people you support.

### Independent Skills Course launched in libraries

The [Independent Skills Programme](#) is a new 8-week course run in local libraries for adults (18+) at risk of escalating care needs.

The course will meet once-a-week with a range of partners covering topics such as financial, physical and emotional wellbeing; digital skills and looking for volunteering or paid employment. The group will be encouraged to socialise, use their library spaces after the sessions and make friends.

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The next round of courses start the week beginning 22 July at the following libraries: Banstead, Caterham Valley, Farnham, Godalming, Horley, Leatherhead, Merstham, Oxted, Reigate, Walton.

Professionals can make a [referral directly to the team](#): or the potential participant can self-refer by visiting a participating library or contacting the community helpline on 0300 200 1008.

## Support fund for low-income households available

Funds for those on low income are now available from [Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell](#) (CAEE). The Household Support Fund from the Department for Work and Pensions is designed to provide short-term financial support to households who are struggling to afford household essentials. This fund is being distributed by CAEE on behalf of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council until 30 September 2024.

CAEE can help families, pensioners, disabled people and those in financial crisis and the funds can help to cover basic living costs such as: utilities, foods, essential goods and crisis support (to avoid financial hardship).

For further information or to apply for the Household Support Fund you can:

- **Website:** [CAEE website](#)
- **Telephone:** 0808 278 7963

## Pilot launched in Woking for younger people with dementia and their carers

[Younger People with Dementia](#) (YPWD) is expanding into Woking for a 6-month pilot, providing support for younger people with dementia and their families. Their charity supports people diagnosed with young onset dementia under the age of 65, living in Berkshire, Surrey Heath, North East Hampshire, Farnham or Woking.

They facilitate age-appropriate activity-based workshops for the person diagnosed, which have included arts and crafts, animal therapy and racket sports. In the Woking area, they will also be providing access to an education course and a carer support network.

Residents can refer themselves or a family member, referrals can also be made by GPs, memory clinics or care advisors. Following the referral a face-to-face assessment will take place with the area co-ordinator to establish whether YPWD can offer the most appropriate support.

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For further information, or to make a referral, please contact:

- **Telephone:** 0118 207 2880
- **Email:** [contact@ypwd.info](mailto:contact@ypwd.info)
- **Website:** [Younger people with dementia](#)

## Developing a centre of surgical excellence at Ashford Hospital

A major project to increase surgical capacity and help to reduce waiting times for people across Surrey Heartlands and neighbouring regions is underway with a surgical centre of excellence being developed at Ashford Hospital.

The centre at Ashford will include two new ophthalmology theatres and two new main Laminar flow theatres and will provide increased capacity for elective orthopaedic procedures, including hip and knee replacement surgery and ophthalmology eye surgery.

Further information about [Ashford Elective Centre](#) is available online. If you have any questions, please contact:

- **Email:** [asp-tr.comms.mailbox@nhs.net](mailto:asp-tr.comms.mailbox@nhs.net).

## Employment Support Service for people who experience barriers in accessing work

[Maximus UK](#) provides employability services to help people into work, particularly working with people who experience barriers in accessing employment.

In September 2023 they launched a new self-referral programme, designed to support people back into work. The programme is particularly designed to help people with disabilities, long term health conditions, carers, with bespoke support that might include help with CVs, interview prep, funded training and some support to help people transition into a role once they are successful.

Further information or to [self-refer to the employment support service](#) is available online.

## Bereavement Support Group timetable available

The Brigitte Trust runs free structured 8-week bereavement programmes for anyone in Surrey struggling with their own grief and bereavement.

The aims of the programme are to provide support with focus, encourage mutual support, share experiences and learn new coping strategies.

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Upcoming courses:

- **Tongham** – starting on 28 August
- **Dorking** – starting on 30 August

For further information or to book a place contact

- **Telephone/SMS:** 07469 932192
- **Email:** [sarah.pattenden@brigitte-trust.com](mailto:sarah.pattenden@brigitte-trust.com)
- **Website:** [The Brigitte Trust](http://TheBrigitteTrust.com)

## Latest news from Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey

### Meet Up Catch Up

[Meet Up Catch Up](#) is a new initiative from Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey, designed to help bring the local community together, and combat social isolation that many people who are Deaf, or have sight or hearing loss can experience. These monthly events are free, relaxed and informal. There is no need to book, just turn up.

The social hubs take place on the following dates and locations:

- **Fetcham** - last Tuesday of the month
- **Epsom** - 3rd Tuesday of the month
- **Godalming** - 1st Thursday of the month
- **New Haw** - 3rd Wednesday of the month
- **Oxted** - 2nd Wednesday of the month

Further information about [Meet Up Catch Up](#) is available online.

### Breaking Down Barriers workshop scheduled for professionals

Breaking Down Barriers is a workshop for professionals in Surrey to gain an overview, understanding and appreciation of inclusion, accessibility and independence for and with people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, blind, partially sighted, deafblind.

With personal insight into everyday lived experience, its challenges and opportunities, you'll learn about the practical support available, accessible technology and communications and how to work with adults and children across Surrey.

The next workshop takes place on **Tuesday 16th July 09.30am to 3.30pm**

**Tickets:** Currently £25 each (50% off)

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For further information or to book, please visit or contact:

- **Telephone:** 01372 377701
- **Email:** [llighting@sightforsurrey.org.uk](mailto:llighting@sightforsurrey.org.uk)
- **Website:** [Eventbrite: Breaking Down Barriers Workshop](#)

## End Stigma Surrey survey results published

The End Stigma Surrey survey was designed to capture views from people in Surrey with experience of mental health issues (either direct or indirect experience e.g. as a carer, family member, friend) about any stigma or discrimination they may have faced. The survey explored the extent, nature, impacts of and ways to reduce mental health related stigma and discrimination in Surrey.

The [survey results are now available](#) and will be used to help target the End Stigma Surrey programme to where it is most needed, to help inform the anti-stigma and discrimination work of other Surrey organisations and services.

## 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 include:

- **Circuit Training** - weekly on Wednesday, 10.30am till 11.30am at Nuffield Health, Leatherhead
- **LGBTQIA+ Peer Support Group** - online via Zoom, every third Tuesday in the month, from 7pm till 8pm.
- **Nature Nurtures** - 4 weeks from 25 June, online via Zoom on Tuesdays from 10am till 11.30pm.

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 will firstly need to [register with MFT](#) on their website before contacting MFT to book a place:

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

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## Support Finder launched by Surrey Independent Living Charity

[Support Finder](#) is an online service from Surrey Independent Living Charity (SILC) that helps disabled people to find the support and services they need in their local community and enables Personal Assistants (PAs) to find work.

The website allows people to list their support requirements, availability for work and the support they can offer and then users can either be matched with others who meet their needs, or they can search the site independently for them.

If people receive Direct Payments or Personal Health Budgets in Surrey, they will automatically have Gold Level Employer membership for free as part of your support package. They will require a voucher code from SILC.

For further information about [Support Finder](#) is available online. For individuals to request their voucher code, please contact SILC:

- **Telephone:** 01483 458 111
- **Text:** 07771 108 624
- **Email:** [admin@surreyilc.org.uk](mailto:admin@surreyilc.org.uk)

## Gambling: A summer of football

With the UEFA Euro 2024 in Germany just begun, during the tournament thousands of people will be betting on their team hoping to gain a profit.

Gambling can be fun and it's so easily available online that it's become normalised, but it can also become something harmful.

If you, or someone you support, is affected by gambling, there is a [range of services listed on Healthy Surrey](#) that provides support and treatment for people in Surrey, as well as help for families and friends.

## Show domestic abuse the red card!

Football doesn't cause domestic abuse, but incidents can increase or become more severe around key matches. [Research from Warwick Business School published in 2022](#) found that reported cases of alcohol-related domestic abuse rose by 47% on the day of an England victory at the World Cup or European Championships.

If you have a friend, family or work colleague who is experiencing domestic abuse, please direct them to:

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- **Surrey Against Domestic Abuse helpline:** 01483 776822
- **National helpline:** 0808 2000 247
- **In an emergency:** 999

Further [information and support for people experiencing domestic abuse](#) is available online.

## **Grants and Trusts Fundraising Applications Training**

Voluntary Support North Surrey (VSNS) has organised a free one-day training session to support charity applications for grants and trusts (national and local). The training will take place on Thursday 18 July, 9:30am – 3:30pm at the [VSNS Chertsey Office](#). The session will include researching the need, planning, measuring impact, finding funders, applications structure and funding strategy.

Further [information or to book your free place](#) is available online.

## **Free AI and cybercrime webinar from Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards**

Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards host regular (free) webinars to highlight the danger of frauds and scams. Their next webinar takes place on Thursday 16 July 10-11.30am. It will include an overview of fraud/scams, specific Artificial Intelligence (AI) fraud and cybercrime. This webinar will be subtitled and signed in British Sign Language.

Everyone who attends becomes a [Friend Against Scams](#). This is a national scheme with the aim of educating and empowering people against these criminals.

For further information or to book a place, please visit [Eventbrite](#).

## **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 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)