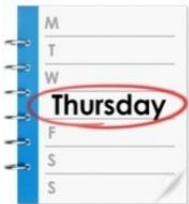




Learning Disability Partnership Board in Surrey

Minutes of our December 2024 Meeting.

Chaired by Mary Hendrick and Debbie Taylor.



Held on Thursday 5 December 2024 using Teams and in person at Woodhatch Place in Reigate.

At our December 2024 meeting we talked about:



Technology Strategy.

Mikaela Wall and Helen Tindall updated us.



Valuing People Groups.

Amanda Aldridge updated us.



Everyday Living Opportunities.

Marnie Cotterill updated us.



Local news and updates

Members updated us.

Our September 2024 minutes were agreed.



The minutes are available on our website.

www.surreypb.org.uk



Keep updated about local events and news.

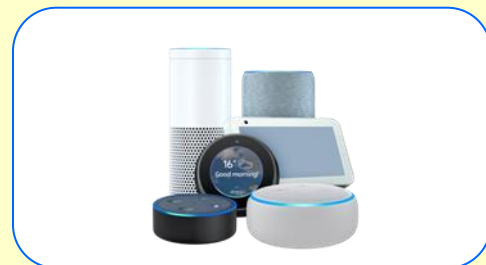


Up-to-date news about events and services can be seen in the [latest news section of our website.](#)



If you have any news or events to tell us about please email disabilitycomms@surreycc.gov.uk and we will send it out in our weekly news email.

Technology update.



Mikaela Wall and Helen Tindall updated us.

Surrey County Council are using technology to help people to stay safe and to live more independently.

Background Information.

In 2020, Surrey County Council paid a digital transformation company, to look at what we do already and tell us what they think should happen next.



They said we should work with District and Boroughs to test out if technology could better support people with social care and health needs.



We want to look at how technology may help to prevent people needing more help, and to support people quickly if they do need extra help.



We want to make sure everyone in Surrey can access technology and we have run several pilot projects with people.

How we will shape the future of technology.

We now have a new leadership and senior team who are developing a strategy in partnership with people who use services.



Our strategy will make sure that:

- Our technology offer must be long term and include everyone who could benefit from reducing their dependency on care.
- We gather information about how people are using technology and how it is helping them and also saving money.
- Expand our technology offer to new groups of people and involve people in our planning.
- Services are properly costed so people know what they need to pay.



Handicalendar.



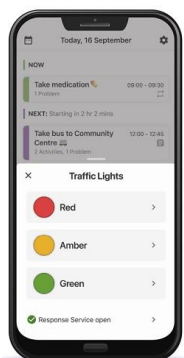
A calendar app with pictures that supports people's independence with organisation, routine and completing activities of daily living in and outside of the home.

Autonome.



Library of videos demonstrating independent living skills. Follow video step by step with tasks in and out of the home. Tasks include CV writing, travelling on the bus and how to have small talk at work.

Brain in Hand.



Goal orientated approach for young adults and adults who struggle with planning / problem solving / initiation of tasks. It has a mood monitor and a traffic light system people can use to ask for help.

Mindme Wrist Alarm.



A small personal alarm worn as a wristwatch which has GPS. It uses the mobile phone network to send information about where you are to the Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC).

Alexa Smart Home.



A series of basic voice assisted technology put into your house. This encourages independence, assist with daily activities and help keep you connected to your friends, family and community.

There are many things in your home that can be controlled by Alexa.



Smart Lighting



Video Doorbell



Smart Plugs

What we have tried so far.

Motion Sensors.



Motion sensors help people stay safe at home by alerting others to any unusual movements in the home at night. This is good for people with dementia who may get confused.

Our reference group.



If you would like to get involved in developing TECH in Surrey you can join our reference group.

Being part of the reference group means you can try out technology and give feedback. This is paid work.

Contact Mikaela or Helen for more information.

Mikaela Wall

- Mikaela.Wall@surreycc.gov.uk
- Senior Manager – Operations TECH

Helen Tindall

- Helen.Tindall@surreycc.goc.uk
- Senior Manager – Commissioning TECH



Partnership Board members questions and comments about Technology and care.

Artificial Intelligence (AI).



Steve Denman asked if there were plans to use artificial intelligence.

Mikaela Wall explained that Surrey County Council have not started using AI yet as they haven't found an AI platform that is reliable enough to be used.

Tech used in services.



Jade Vallance and Leanne Yeo told us about how Active Prospects use technology. They have video door bells, and even an alarm on a knife draw in a home where someone is vulnerable to self-harm. They also use an app called Just Roaming in their homes.

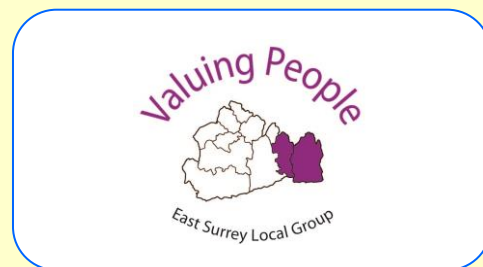
Jade made the point that you need to keep an eye on costs as many tools have a monthly subscription. Some people pay £20 a month for their apps.

Reza Shamtally mentioned that video doorbells are also a good way to make sure that staff have arrived for their shift.

Members agreed that tech was useful, and we need to get the balance right between making sure people are safe and also that their privacy is respected.

The aim of tech is not to restrict people's lives, but to give them more freedom and independence.

Valuing People Groups



Amanda Aldridge updated us.

We will no longer have Valuing People Groups from 2025.



Why we are stopping the Valuing People Groups.

There has been low attendance at some meetings. Four or five providers regularly attend and support people with a learning disability to come.



Only the South West group has carers who attend.

Although some topics discussed in Local Valuing People Groups are about local events and information, most are not. Most co-production work has focused on Surrey wide topics.



We will make sure that people know about other ways they can get involved. We can contact people through the mailing lists we have for Valuing People Groups.



Other ways people can get involved

There are many other ways people can get involved and have their say about services for people with a learning disability.

Surrey People's Group



We will be having more meetings of the Surrey People's Group. This is a group for people with a learning disability.

The group has usually met in East Surrey but we have started to have meetings in the West too. The first one was in September and around 30 people attended.

Other meetings and forums



There are a range of other meetings and forums that people can get involved with, including:

- Provider forums
- Carers hubs

There will also be targeted pieces of work on projects focused on things like health, travel, social care and local communities.

Everyday Living Opportunities



Marnie Cotterill updated us.

Marnie gave us an overview of Everyday Living Opportunities in Surrey.

What are Everyday Living Opportunities?

These are activities that people do in their community. It includes:

- Group support and activities
- Community and life skills
- Supported employment and work experience
- Travel training



How we buy Everyday Living Opportunities?

Currently we pay for services for each individual.

Surrey County Council commissioners do not have oversight. We want to change this, and organisations will be able to bid to run services from April 2025.



Group support and activities.

These services include:

- Building and/ or community based
- Learning and maintaining life skills
- Learning skills that may lead to employment
- Support to build and maintain social connections
- Specialist support
- Group travel training
- Non-residential short breaks
- Group support with vocational opportunities



Community and life skills.

These services include:

- 1:1 non-regulated support delivered at home and/or in the community
- Learning and maintaining skills
- Building and maintaining social connections
- Non- residential short breaks



Supported Employment.

These services include:

- Job carving (creating jobs that suit people's skills)
- Supported employment (eventually withdrawing)
- Light touch support. This is checking in with people occasionally to make sure things are okay



Vocational activities.

This is about providing:

- Work experience and volunteering opportunities
- Support whilst on work experience and volunteering



Independent Travel Training.

These services include:

- One to one travel training
- Checking in with people regularly once they travel independently



We want to make sure there are a wide range of choices for people.

- We want people to have a choice of purposeful activities based in their local community



Outreach:

- Providers were not keen on the term 'Outreach', we are proposing that this type of service is called 'Community and Life Skills' (CLS).
- Providers expressed the need for the specification to contain clear information of what tasks should be included under CLS.
- Providers felt that different skills are required for different cohorts.



Group based support / activities:

- Providers agreed that sessions were preferred so people can dip in and out.
- Group support is important for people to learn skills together and provide peer support
- Levels of need should be considered
- Some people will require specialised support



Independent Travel Training:

- Providers agreed that this helps people to be empowered
- People can sometimes find that bus drivers can be rude
- Difficult in rural areas



Supported employment:

- Surrey County Council are aware that we need more of this type of support
- Conversations around employment need to happen at a younger age
- Providers would like to connect with volunteering organisations but this is difficult (charity shops and coffee shops are easier)



Vocational activities:

- We have separated helping people with work experience and volunteering from Community and Life Skills
- Volunteering or work experience may not lead to full time employment
- Purposeful activity that enables people to learn new skills
- Examples – garden centres, litter picking, countryside clear ups, volunteering in charity shops



Next steps.

We will have further focus groups with the provider market in December 2024. There will be more user engagement that will take place with carers and users of services from all user groups



The plan is for the tender to go live in early Spring 2025 and the contract to begin October 2025. (Older people will join in later as they have further engagement to complete).



Partnership Board members questions and comments about Everyday Living Opportunities.

Paid employment.



Joyce Smith commented that it can be hard to move people on from volunteering in a supported placement like the ALDAG café into paid work.

Volunteering.



Sally Dubery said that providers need to contact their local Volunteer Service as these local networks often have very good relationships with organisations that are looking for volunteers.

Emma Langdon from the Job Centre commented that each job centre has a Disability Employment Advisor (DEA) who provide support to job coaches who are supporting disabled people. Job centres could promote opportunities such as the Oliver McGowan Mandatory training.

Tom Moore agreed to put Emma Langdon in touch with the organisations that are delivering Oliver McGowan training in Surrey as there may be paid work opportunities.



Working with providers.



Marnie Cotterill explained that 70 providers came to a recent focus group, so providers are very keen to be part of this work.

Local updates.



Members updated us.

Our next Partnership Board Meeting.



It was agreed that the next meeting will be on Teams as we were unable to find a room for that date. Our next meeting will be on:

Thursday 16 January 2025 - 10am to 12.30pm

Surrey Adult Learning.

[Surrey Adult Learning](#) are launching new courses

- Woodwork
- Passport to wellbeing



Surrey County Council budget.

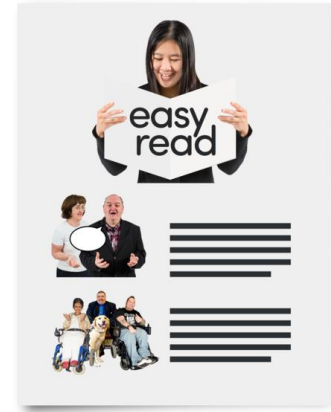
Surrey County Council have agreed their draft budget for 2025 to 2026. The consultation is now live until 31/12/24. [Click here to have your say.](#)



Easy Read information in libraries.

Libraries in Surrey have agreed to print Easy read Safeguarding booklets for anyone who needs them in Surrey.

We are developing a poster that libraries will display to tell people about this. When this has been completed we will let everyone know.



National Insurance increases.

Care and support services in Surrey are worried about the impact of the increase in Employers National Insurance announced in the budget.

Partnership Board members can raise this issue with their local MP.

There is an online petition which has around 30,000 signatures.

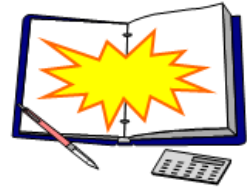
The impact on providers is huge with Active Prospects saying this could cost them up to £100,000 a year.



PETITION FORM		
Petition summary and background	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our	
Action petitioned for		
Printed Name	Signature	Address

Summary of actions from our December 2024 meeting.

ACTION



Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training.

Tom Moore will put Emma Langdon in touch with the providers of Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training in Surrey as there may be employment opportunities for people with a learning disability and autistic people.



Easy Read information in libraries.

We are developing a poster that libraries will display to tell people that they can ask for printed copies of the Easy Read Safeguarding booklets.

Members who came to our December 2024 meeting.

Co – Chairs

- Mary Hendrick – Commissioning Manager
 - Debbie Taylor
-

Local Valuing People Group Co-chairs

- Tom Moore – Surrey County Council– South West Surrey
 - Sally Dubery – Mid Surrey (Central Surrey Voluntary Action)
-

People with a learning disability

- Carinder Malhi - Valuing People Group co-chair
 - Leanne Yeo – Valuing People Group co-chair
 - Debbie Taylor – Partnership Board Co-chair
-

Family Carer Representatives

- Steve Denman
 - Gaynor Gibbins
 - Joyce Smith
-

Provider Organisation Representatives

- Jade Vallance – Director of Care, Active Prospects
- Christina Earl - Head of Innovation and Business Development, Surrey Choices
- Jackie Doe – Senior Operations Manager, Surrey Choices
- Reza Shamtally – Surrey Care Association
- Yasmine Broome – Involvement Lead, Surrey Coalition
- Alix Lewer – Include.org
- Emma Langdon – Disability Employment Advisor, Job Centre
- Laurie Baker –Head of Active Communities, Active Surrey
- Elizabeth Tresader – Community Manager, POhWER advocacy service

Members who came to our December 2024 meeting.

Surrey County Council representatives

- Amanda Aldridge – Engagement and Partnership Officer
 - Narmadha Kothandapani - Senior Business Support Assistant
 - Mary Hendrick – Senior Commissioning Manager
 - Cllr Bernadette Muir– Surrey County Council Councillor
 - Gareth Owens –Senior Operational Manager, Transition
 - Fadzai Tande - Director of Disabilities
 - Melanie Randall –Carers Practice Advisor, People with Learning Disabilities & Autism West Surrey County Council
 - Paul Baker – Senior Manager, Transition Development
-

Health representatives

- Jane Owens – Surrey Healthwatch
 - Katie Stribblehall - Lead Learning Disability Liaison Nurse for Primary Care
-

Observers and Presenters

- Mike Leat
- Marnie Cotterill – Senior Commissioning Manager, Surrey County Council
- Michaela Wall and Helen Tindall –Surrey County Council