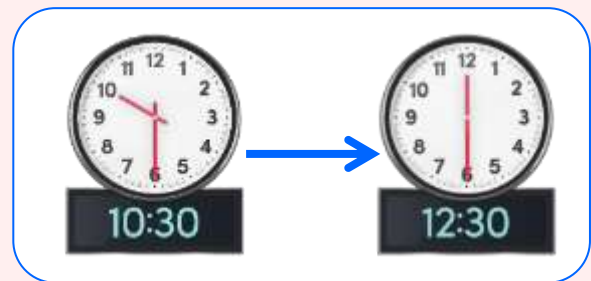
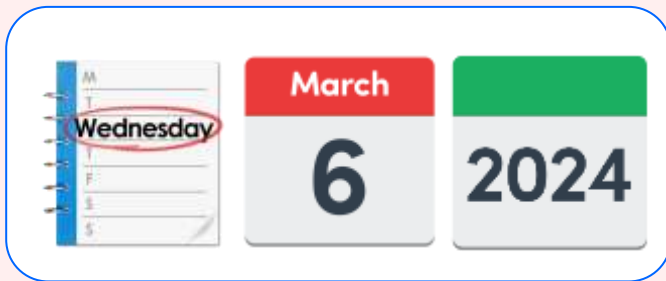




# South West Surrey Local Valuing People Group Minutes



Thomas Moore chaired the meeting.

Thomas Moore



The meeting was on Teams. We had a group at Whitmore Vale Housing Association (HA) join us in person.



## At the meeting we talked about:



- Supported Volunteering at Surrey Choices



- Volunteering at Whitmore Vale



- Active Buddies at Surrey Coalition



- Rules for Presenters



- Feedback from The Learning Disabilities Partnership Board

# Welcome and Introductions



Tom welcomed everyone to the first South West meeting of 2024. Amanda joined members at Whitmore Vale in Person.



We had introductions from Surrey Coalition, Parity for Learning Disabilities, Surrey Choices, Frimley Park, Surrey Adult Learning, and Whitmore Vale.

# Presentation on Support Volunteering by Surrey Choices



Lydia came to speak about the vocational projects at Surrey Choices.

Surrey Choices vocational project works with a wide range of people in Surrey. They help people to find employment or support people to take up volunteering.



Volunteering is about giving back time to a charity, an organisation or a group of people without expecting money back.

The Vocational Project does this by arranging one staff member for a group of 3 or 4 individuals. This works like a buddying system. They get involved with an activity outdoors or a volunteering opportunity.





They have groups who focus on learning new skills and trying something different. This takes place all over Surrey.



Some of these including doing countryside management tasks, clearing public footpaths, work on farms, meadows, nature reserves, community allotments, cafes, church cafes, Libraries, charity shop and community fridge



Volunteering gives you the opportunity to try new things, meeting people and giving people confidence and independence.



If you would like to join Surrey Choices Vocational Projects, you have to be referred to Surrey Choices. You can also email [Lydia.Simpson@surreychoices.com](mailto:Lydia.Simpson@surreychoices.com) if you have any questions.

# Questions

Emily said that Surrey Choices have also been helping them out at the hospital with volunteering, helping them with hospital booklets and hospital signage at Frimley Park Hospital. If people are interested in that they can reach out to them or through Surrey Choices.



Rebecca said she was interested in helping with making things better at Frimley Park.



Action: Emily and Rebecca to get in contact to discuss vocational projects options with Lydia.







Emma asked if there was eligibility of who can join or not join this?



Lydia said most people who join would need to be funded by adult social care or self-fund. If people do want to join, they would like to know what they want to do and learn. Lydia said they are happy for people to contact them directly



Amanda asked whether they cover the whole of Surrey with this project?



Lydia said they have 6 different teams. They have teams in Staines, Camberley, Woking, Redhill and their Wave Podcasting service which covers all over Surrey.



Rebecca asked whether it was possible to fit some of the activities to suit the residence at Whitmore Vale. Could they cover Travel training or working with Machinery?



Lydia said if there are people interested in woodwork, Machinery and how to fix things, they are quite a lot of the repair cafes and men in sheds groups that are quite welcoming.



Ian asked if someone brings their own supporter and carer with them, are they allowed to stay and help?



Lydia suggested if a carer wants to join, a volunteer group is a better option for them. Majority are quite open to carers joining.



# Volunteering at Whitmore Vale



Rebecca spoke about their volunteering journey at Whitmore Vale which they have started

## Key Points



- Whitmore Vale support people with care and support needs, which they do well. But there is lots more they want to do. They want to work on trying to achieve goals of the people they support.



- They are looking at person-centred planning, which helps to achieve dreams and goals



- They are looking for volunteers who can support them on these personal goals. They have put job adverts out to try and recruit for this role. They have now recruited one person for this, but recruiting for more people.



Rebecca asked the group if you can a volunteer just for you what would you like to do? There was discussion about Whitmore Vale about what people wanted to do.

## Discussion



Lydia suggested borrow my doggy might be a good idea if people are interested in this.



John said someone to help him go running. Park Run may be a good option for him.



Stewart wants someone to swim with and volunteer with dogs. To learn a new skills you need a good teacher.



David wants to get involved with Swimming. Go to the Gym to get more exercise.



Phillip says he is travel trained so he could help others.



Sharon she would try to learn to do Taekwondo



Nick said he wants someone who can play Board games or computer games.



Rebecca wants to start playing the Piano again.



Sam would like to be involved with a car boot sale.



Demi wants to go an see some live music. Someone who can drive her to concerts.

## Active Buddies at Surrey Coalition



Katy came to speak about the Get More Active Project. It is a project to help those with a disability to get more active.



Katy spoke about why it was important to be healthy and to exercise.



Katy spoke about how the get more active project can help you decide what activities you would like to do, what activities are nearby to where you live and setting your own personal goals.



The Get More Active project can help by, doing a monthly meet up to try different activities.



A buddy will be allocated for you to go to activities with you, to travel with you to your activity. Your buddy will support you and give you the confidence whilst being active.



Katie said they are trying to recruit more buddies at the moment.





If you would like to join Surrey Coalition, please email Katy Hubbard:  
[getactive@surreycoaliton.org.uk](mailto:getactive@surreycoaliton.org.uk)

## Discussion



Rebecca was quite interested in a lot of the activities organised by Surrey Coalition.

Katy was suggesting and was interested about Park Run.



Katy said she is very involved with Park Run. Park Run produced some easy read information about what to expect at Park Run, which might be useful to people who are interested.



Amanda asked how do people get involved with the Get More Active project?

Email [getactive@surreycoalition.org.uk](mailto:getactive@surreycoalition.org.uk) or contact Katy through SMS text on 07434865062. You must be a member of Surrey Coalition to join, which is free. It is available to anyone with a disability, who lives in Surrey and has a long-term health condition.





# Rules for Presenters



Amanda spoke about the feedback they received from a survey before Christmas.



One of the things mentioned was that people found presentations hard to understand.



Amanda has put together ideas from people about how to make their presentations easier to understand for people that attend the meeting.



This information will be sent to all presenters before the meeting. Amanda explained the rules and people thought they looked good.

# Feedback from the Partnership Board



Amanda went over the key topics from the last meeting in January

## Key Points



There was a discussion about the terms of reference as this has not been updated in a while.



There are currently 5 meetings planned for 2024.



Amanda said that the easy read booklets about safeguarding are now available.



At the next meeting, The Director for Learning Disabilities and Autism will be giving an update.



There was also discussion about last Surrey People's Group which took place in December about Travel.



You can read the minutes from the January Learning Disability and Partnership Board on the [Learning Disability and Autism Hub](#).

# Local Updates



Yasmin wanted to let people know that Surrey Coalition went to 10 Downing Street few weeks ago to hand a petition and campaign about the dangers of floating bus stops. There are loads of these in London. There was talks about bringing the floating bus stops to Surrey which they are against.



There has been incidents where those who are visual impaired get off the bus and walk into the cycle lane without knowing. It is very dangerous.



Amanda mentioned about the Surrey People's Group Voting Event on the Friday 8 March in Reigate. There is going to be a practice election and hoping this will be a very interactive event.

# Local Updates



Tom mentioned about Autism Friendly Communities event which is planning to take place at G Live in May. Tom spoke about the pilot in Redhill which went well. It was about trying to get more people aware about Autism and to get training out to community partnerships like the shops, library, cinema as example.



They are trying to make it bigger and to try and cover the whole county. They are now trying to get this project started in Guildford and Waverley. More information about this to come.

## Actions:



Emily and Rebecca to discuss volunteering opportunities at Frimley Park





Surrey People's Group discussions about voting will be shared at the next meeting.

## Next Meeting:



Next Meeting is taking place on 5 June at Astolat Guildford and Microsoft Teams

