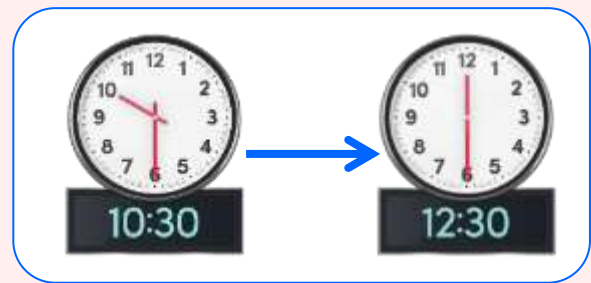
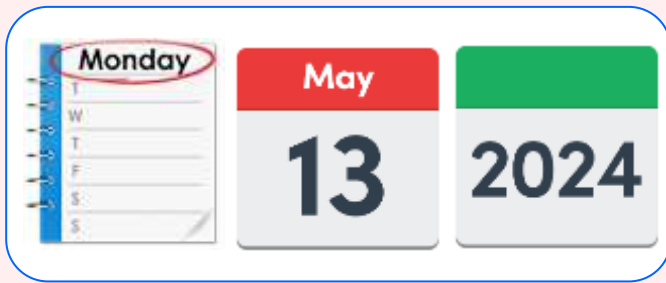




North West Surrey Local Valuing People Group Minutes



Amanda Aldridge and Carinder Malhi chaired the meeting.



Amanda Aldridge



Carinder Malhi

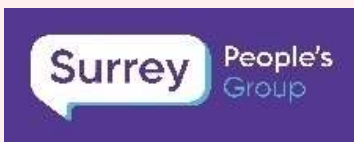


The meeting was at the Maybury Centre in Woking and Teams





At the meeting we talked about:



- Gig Buddies In A Box
- Medication Reviews
- Feedback from The Learning Disability Partnership Board
- New Hospital Programme
- Feedback from Surrey People's Group

Welcome and Introductions

Amanda welcomed everyone to the meeting, she is co-chairing with Carinder today.



9 people attended the meeting. 4 people joined on Teams.



The were introductions from Stay Up Late, Surrey Coalition, Linkable and Surrey Adult Learning

Gig Buddies In A Box



Katie gave a talk about the activities and support available at Gig Buddies.



Gig Buddies is one of the projects run by a charity called Stay Up Late.



Gig Buddies and Sport Buddies is all about enabling people with learning disabilities to lead the life they want.



They match people with a volunteer who shares the same cultural tastes so they can go to mainstream events as match



Gig Buddies started in 2013 and they run a variety of other projects.



To find out more information about Gig Buddies, check out their website: [Gig Buddies, volunteering made easy](#)



Gig and Sport Buddies is not currently running in Surrey.

Discussion



Amanda asked how gig buddies is funded?

Katie said gig buddies are funded through the Stay Up Late Project. For the volunteers, they share activities they would like to do. They hope this will develop into a friendship for people.



Katie said that the Stay Up Late has also done some campaigning for people with learning disabilities and have done some work with Learning Disability England.



Amanda asked whether they work with free tickets schemes?

Katie said in Brighton they have good access to free tickets for concerts and sports events. They work very closely with venues to get the best tickets.

Carinder asked what risks are there and what is available to people who use wheelchairs?

Katie said they make sure :

- They do all checks before they recruit someone.
- They make sure the volunteer and member have a good connection.
- They also work closely with local venues to ensure there is good accessibility.



Amanda asked which areas do they cover.



Katie said they 3 co-ordinators who work in East & West Sussex and Brighton & Hove.



Sue asked how the licensing membership works and said it was quite expensive from what she understood.



Katie said they did 3 years or 5 years licensing funding but have recently changed this and now are open to people joining and ending contracts when they want.



Alison asked how the journey works travelling to venues.



Katie said volunteers can claim £15 in travel expenses. The co-ordinator of that area will also meet with the person and volunteer to work out what they would like to do and how much it would cost.



Alison asked whether they only supported people who wanted to go to concerts and sports events?



Katie said it was about people being able to access a variety of cultural activities or days out.

Sue asked what training was available to staff?

Katie said they cover:

- About learning disabilities
- About autism
- Confidentiality
- How to be a good volunteer
- What to do when things goes wrong



They also make sure that the volunteer has two emergency contacts if anything goes wrong.



Amanda asked whether they accept members who have higher risks?



Katie said do support a lot of people with mild learning disabilities. They do support someone who has high support needs.



They get volunteers with a range of experience.



Volunteers are not able to provide personal care as this is not something they are trained to do.



Amanda said she thought people in Surrey would really benefit from having Gig Buddies in the local area.

Medication Review



Amanda told people about some work that was being done to train pharmacists by Surrey and Borders Partnership.



If you take medication, it is important that it is reviewed.



This can be done by your doctor or your pharmacist.



A pharmacist is the person who knows all about medicines.



STOMP is a project in England to stop the overuse of psychotropic medicines.



People with a learning disability, autism or both are more likely to be given these medicines than other people.



These medicines are right for some people. They can help people stay safe and well. Sometimes there are ways of helping people so they need less medicine, or none at all.



Nneka McKenzie is a pharmacist who works at Surrey and Borders NHS Trust. She will be training other pharmacists to support good medication reviews.



She wants to speak to people with lived experience to find out what is like for them and to try and create the training better to pharmacist.



If you have anything you would like to share with Nneka, please email ldcommunications@surreycc.gov.uk. We will send your feedback to her.

Discussion



Sue said it important to learn the importance of why people are taking that medication.



She said there has been a shortage of ADHD medication. This has been going on for some time and there has been no advice on alternatives.



Carinder said it is important to have accessible information about medications. Leaflet are so detailed and very complicated to understand with complex medical terms which people find hard to understand.

Feedback from the Partnership Board



Amanda went over the key topics discussed in the most recent meeting in March.

Key Points



The Director for Learning Disabilities and Autism provided an Adult Social Care update



Katie from Care Talent Collective told us about the Oliver McGowan Mandatory training.



They spoke to us about their recruitment for experts by experience.



We also had a presentation from Surrey Borders Partnership Board who came to speak to us about Dementia and Aging. There was information about:



- Dementia diagnosis for people with learning disabilities



- Importance about brain health and how to keep you brain healthy.



- Information about life story books and Care Plans.

New Hospital Programmes



With a promise from the government to build 40 new hospitals, there was a discussion about what works well when we go to hospital.



Amanda and Carinder spoke about their visit to make their GP Surgery more accessible. They made changes to their signage which was successful.

Amanda asked the group about their thoughts on their recent hospital experiences.



Carinder said he did not have a good experience when he went to hospital during 2020. Carinder said he was put in Ward with Older People, and it was quite noisy.



Alison saw someone who had a learning disability at the hospital. They were re-directed to somewhere from another place and they got lost. The signage is not great.



Amanda asked was it easy to get around? Could you friends or family visit you/stay with?



Rachel said the signage was not great.



Carinder said probably now it would be better, but when he was in hospital during covid he could not have his family in and that was hard.



Amanda asked the group whether they felt safe and did the nurses and doctors listen to you?



Carinder said from experienced it has not been good. When he has gone to see the doctor, they did not look at him and were looking at the computer. Did not look at him once.



Feedback will be sent to Philippa Russell. We got a lot of feedback from East Valuing People Group .



Frimley and Royal Surrey are doing a lot to improve their signage, so hopefully we will see some improvements soon.



Surrey People's Group Voting Event



Amanda spoke about our voting event which took place on 8 March.

Key Points



There was discussions about:

- What voting is?
- Voting for different political parties
- How voting makes us feel?



We had a practice election and voted for our Prime Minister.



My Vote My Voice is a campaign to help more people to vote.



The aim is to making voting more accessibility to people with learning disabilities and autistic people. 5 boroughs in Surrey have agreed to put some easy read signage at their polling stations.



Amanda said she is happy to share the workshop presentation and resources. This was based on the resources from My Vote My Voice.

Local Updates



Carinder said he is doing photosymbols training and looking how to make Easy Read more accessible to people.



Amanda said we are doing holding a Surrey People’s Group event about Managing Your Money for Learning Disability week.



Charlotte and Amanda are doing some work on an Easy Read about Your Assessment.



Mike Leat who runs autism by experience asked is anyone who would like to help stewarding at Guilfest. This is open to autistic people and people with a learning disability. The Festival is taking place at Stoke Park Guildford on the weekend of 29-30 June 2024. To take part, please email info@guilfest.co.uk





Rachel said Linkable are planning to do event for Learning Disability Week (more information to come). Rachel said that Mayhem is Back on the 1 June.



Angie said if anyone has experienced any problems whilst they were trying to vote, she said please let Yasmin Broome know at info@surreycoalition.org.uk

Actions



Charlotte said she would share some information about this pre-paid bank card.



Tuesday works better for Linkable, considering of possibly changing day from Monday to Tuesday.



Next Meeting:



Next meeting is taking place on Monday 12 August 2024 at Maybury Centre and Microsoft Teams.