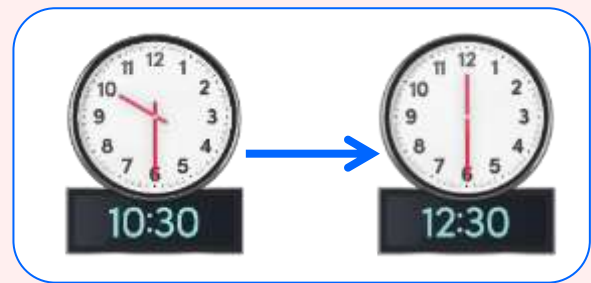
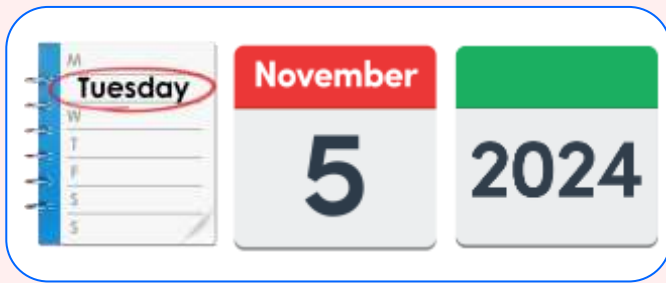




# Northwest Surrey Local Valuing People Group Minutes



Helen Hunt and Carinder Malhi chaired the meeting.



Helen Hunt



Carinder Malhi



The meeting was at the Maybury Centre in Woking and Teams





## At the meeting we talked about:



- Safe Places
- Community Link Officers
- Feedback from The Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Review of the year of this group



# Welcome and Introductions

Helen and Carinder welcomed everyone to the meeting.



8 people attended the meeting. 2 people joined on Teams.



We had members from Avenues, Linkable and Surrey Coalition at the meeting.



# Safe Places



Amanda and Carinder attended a Learning Disability England Webinar online.



At the meeting, there was a discussion about Community Employment. People spoke about how they did not feel safe in their community.



Hate Crime Prevention at Future Directions CIC

Amanda shared a video future directions SPICE (Supporting People into Community Employment) video about Hate Crime Awareness.



The people in the video, got money from the local council to set up their own Safe Place scheme.



It is a National scheme where if you felt unsafe, you can go to shop, office, café or public building such a library or leisure centre for help or somewhere you feel safe.



In Surrey, there is a Safe Places scheme in Guildford.



Organisations can apply to start their own scheme in an area.



To run a scheme, you need funding to be part of the scheme website and app.



Some places get people with learning disabilities and autism to get involved with it. It is a great employment opportunity for people too.



Amanda and Carinder felt it was important to share this information.



It is important for people to have a safe place if their feel scared or worried.



Not everyone feels comfortable speaking out when they are not happy or worried about people not understanding what they are saying.



Carla mentioned about the Purple Angel scheme which is for people with Dementia, which is a very similar scheme to Safer Places.



Miriam said she will have a look and see whether there may be a way of getting funding for a scheme in Woking.

## Community Link Officers



Miriam is a Community Link Officer for Woking. There is one in each borough or district across Surrey.



Sherewater and Goldsworth Park have been found as key neighbourhoods in her area of Surrey, and she focuses on them.



We watched a film about [community link officers](#).



You will find Miriam at plenty of local community events.



Community Link Officers do a lot of sign posting for people and existing groups within the community.



They help to find funding or venues for people and groups. They are always based in the community and work to link people up.



Miriam provided contact details for the local community link officers for the north west area.





Carinder wanted to know who was covering the Walton on Thames areas and what areas do Community Link Officers (CLO) cover?



Miriam shared details of the local CLO's for the local area. In each area, the CLO's would have a good knowledge of each areas.



Helen said it was important that there is a balance to make sure services are accessible for the right people.



Miriam says they makes sure they do safety checks and barriers to make sure that activity or service is accessible for the right groups.



Carinder asked whether they would they support people to find work.



Miriam said they can help link people to organisations who could support with that or find voluntary opportunities.



Georgia is a local area coordinator (LAC) and covers Maybury and Sheerwater.



They do a lot of goal setting and working with people's strengths and skills and working 1:1 with residents.



There is no age restrictions. They work alongside people to help them to achieve their goals.



Amanda asked whether there was a waiting list.



Georgia said there is no waiting list for this support.



Amanda asked whether there was a time limit on this support.



There is no time limit, and they have an open-door policy. The only criteria is that they must live in that area.



They work alongside residents and offer and connect them what is happening in the community.

You can contact them by

Email:

[surreycommunities@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surreycommunities@surreycc.gov.uk)

[georgia.love@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:georgia.love@surreycc.gov.uk)  
(Sheerwater & Maybury,  
Woking, Local Area Co-ordinator)



# Feedback from the Partnership Board



Carinder and Amanda gave an update from the Learning Disability Partnership Board which took place at Woodhatch.



Liz Williams gave us a Health update from Surrey Heartlands. Liz and Fadzai are putting together a new health plan for the 2027.



Clare talked about planning for how to spend the council budget for April 2025 to March 2026.



People gave their thoughts on the draft budget for the coming year.



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

## Review of the year for this group



Amanda gave us a review of the North West Valuing People Group



These meetings used to be very busy before Covid.



During Covid, we had a drop in people wanting to attend the meetings.



We had to move them online. These were sometimes difficult for people to attend.



We started presenting on very similar topics at each meeting which was repetitive.



We restarted the meetings in person this year. We also continued to have them online.



But not many people have been attending these meetings and have not shared as many local issues.



We are now planning to stop the Valuing People Group and increase more Surrey People Group meetings.





There are still plenty of ways for people getting involved with their local communities.



If there is still information in the local community, we can still get this out through our networks and latest news.



To run these meetings takes a lot of time, so using this time in a different way such as having more Surrey People's Group meetings may be better.



Yasmin said they had to do the same for their DEN's meetings so stopping the Valuing People Group made sense and is the right decision for the future.



Amanda gave a thank you to Helen and Carinder for being co-chairs of these meetings.



# Local Updates



Surrey Coalition have a virtual trip to Lacock Abbey on 16 December. If anyone misses this, they can watch it on YouTube.



Carinder said he is going to LDE Conference in December. In March he is going to Manchester for the Conference to campaign about the importance of Easy Read.



Our next [Surrey People Group event](#) is taking place on 6 December about Employment. Book your place now!



Visit our website for more information about [Surrey People's Group](#).