



Learning Disability Partnership Board in Surrey

Minutes of our September 2021 Meeting.

Chaired by Anna Waterman and Leanne Yeo.



Held on Thursday
2 September 2021
using Zoom video.



At our September 2021 meeting we talked about:



1. Update from Include.

Geoffrey Dennis updated us.



2. Update from the Transition Team.

Gareth Owen updated us.



3. Next Steps – Preparing for Adulthood.

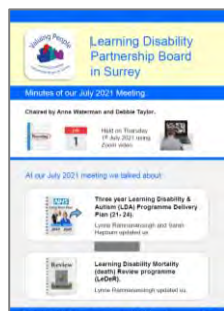
Eamonn Gilbert updated us.



4. Any other business.

Members updated us.

Our July 2021 minutes have been agreed.



The minutes are available on our website.

[Surreypb](https://www.surreypb.org.uk/)

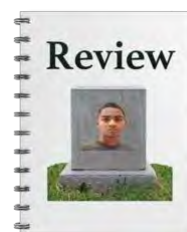


Updates from our July 2021 minutes.

1. Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) explainer video.

Surrey Heartlands CCG and partners have launched this video to explain about LeDeR). Members of the Surrey People's Group got involved with the filming.

[LeDeR Video](#)



2. Information about The Partnership Board workplan is on our website.

[Workplan](#)



3. Danielle Keene has been appointed as our new Digital Assistant

She will start in October 2021, and will keep our website updated.



Include



Geoffrey Dennis updated us.

Include works to make the world a more welcoming place for people with understanding and speaking difficulties.

Services they offer include:

Training on a range of topics including Communication and The Mental Capacity Act.

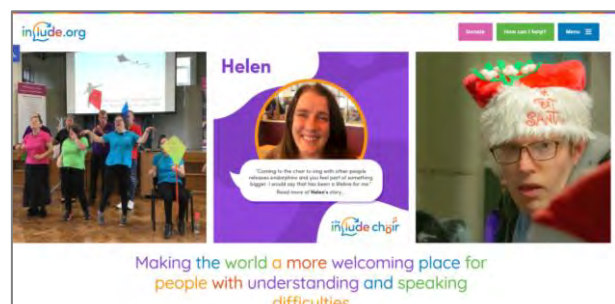


Speech and Language Therapy.

Activities, including The Include Choir.

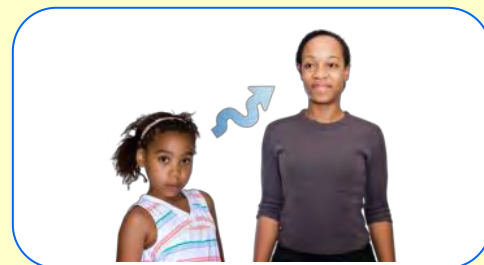


Include are developing a 5 year strategy and aim to provide more training for social care staff, provide more activities and also paid and voluntary jobs.



To find out more visit their website: [Include.org](https://include.org)

The Surrey County Council Transition Team



Gareth Owen updated us.

The Transition Team support young people aged 14 to 25 years old.



In August 2021 the team were supporting 1,136 young people.



Safeguarding cases had increased to 136 by August 2021, though this was due to the team getting involved with safeguarding cases from residential schools and out of county placements.

Reviews and assessments



The team aim to review or assess 80% of young people on their caseload each year. In the year to August 2021 they reviewed or assessed 76.5% of young people's support.

Direct payments.



56.5% of young people the team support purchase their own services by using a direct payment.

Independent living.



89.9% of young people with a learning disability the team support live independently rather than in residential care. This includes people who live with their families and people with their own homes.

Sara Truman asked what the percentage was of people living at home with family carers rather than supported living. Mary Hendrick explained that at our November meeting we will have a clearer idea of the numbers of young people living with families as the Business Intelligence Team are finding out these figures.

Gareth Owen also explained that if a young person is living outside of Surrey in a residential placement they are not included in this figure.

Employment and volunteering.



4.4% of young people the team support are in some form of employment or volunteering. This figure does not include people studying vocational courses at college or on a supported internship.

Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).



If a child or young person has additional needs when at school or college they have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The plan says what extra support they should be given. 10,000 children and young people in Surrey have an EHCP.

Working Younger Pathway Development.



The Transition Team are piloting a project to begin working with young people earlier. They are working with the Children with Disabilities Team to give young people an adult social care assessment when they are 16 years old, rather than when approaching their 18th birthday.



This pilot project is working with 15 young people who have a range of different needs, including young people who need a lot of support and young people in placements at risk of breaking down.

Thinking about what good support looks like.

We have done some work thinking about 'what good looks like', when planning with young people:



We do our best to make sure young people and their families feel supported through transitions, and that transitions are as smooth as possible.



We plan for adulthood with the child/young person and their family from an early age, building on their strengths and reflecting their aspirations for the future.



We share information with each other, and work together with providers to plan service provision in advance to meet future demand.



We help young people to develop the skills they will need to live as independently as possible in adulthood, and support them to access opportunities in their local communities.



We work with children and young people to ensure appropriate safeguarding throughout transitions.



We ensure that children and young people receive the care they need close to home, within their local area wherever possible.



We plan in good time for those who are placed out of county and will return to Surrey as adults.



We work collaboratively to plan transitions in a joined-up way with all the services involved in helping a young person prepare for adulthood.



We make decisions about funding in the best interest of the young person, ensuring that funding decisions support a smooth transition.



We communicate clearly with children and young people and their families from an early age – this is to ensure they know what to expect and that they understand how things may change.



We take particular care to support transitions and preparing for adulthood for more vulnerable and complex children and young people.



We manage the market proactively to ensure that young people and their families have choice.

Specific work we will do as part of the Working Younger Pathway.



Support young people from year 9.

Work closely with Education, Health and Social Care colleagues to support young people from year 9, onto most appropriate pathway for their needs.



Out of county placements.

Have more local services so young people don't need to move out of Surrey.



Support young people in out of county placements back to Surrey services, where this is the most person centred option.

Termly planning meetings.



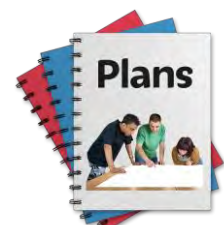
Undertake termly planning meetings to understand the number and needs of young people in each year group and plan for the appropriate provision for them.

Working with commissioners.



Joint work with Commissioners to plan for and develop further in county day, respite and support living placements.

Termly planning meetings will help us to keep track of what young people want to do in the future, agree a plan to help them achieve this, and keep a record of progress.



A strengths based approach.



Caseworkers will be able to develop strong relationships with young people we support.

For example, we will have link workers in specific colleges so that they can respond to people's needs quickly.



We are using modern technology.

26 out of 30 Brain in Hand licenses are being used by young people. This app can help young people to use strategies to manage in difficult situations



We are talking to Autonomie, about how young people can use their tools and apps to develop their independence, such as cooking a meal.



At the end of his presentation Gareth showed us a film of a young man's experiences of the transition process. This included what didn't go well at first and how problems were solved together.

When the videos are launched, the Engagement Team will put a link to the video on the Partnership Board Website.

Partnership Board members questions and comments about the Transition Team presentation.

Supported Living.



Gaynor Gibbins explained that many families find it hard to understand the difference between supported living and residential care.

Mary Hendrick said that the new Surrey County Council guide would soon be available and there will also be talks to help explain what supported living means in practice. Mary also mentioned that there will be open days in September for families of young people in transition where people can find out more information.

Information will be developed by the Learning Disability Communication Team about what supported living means.

Mary also signposted members to the Guide for Independent Living – Easy Read booklet that can be downloaded from the Learning Disability and Autism Information Hub



[Guide for Independent Living – Easy Read](#)



Next Steps – Preparing For Adulthood



Eamonn Gilbert updated us.

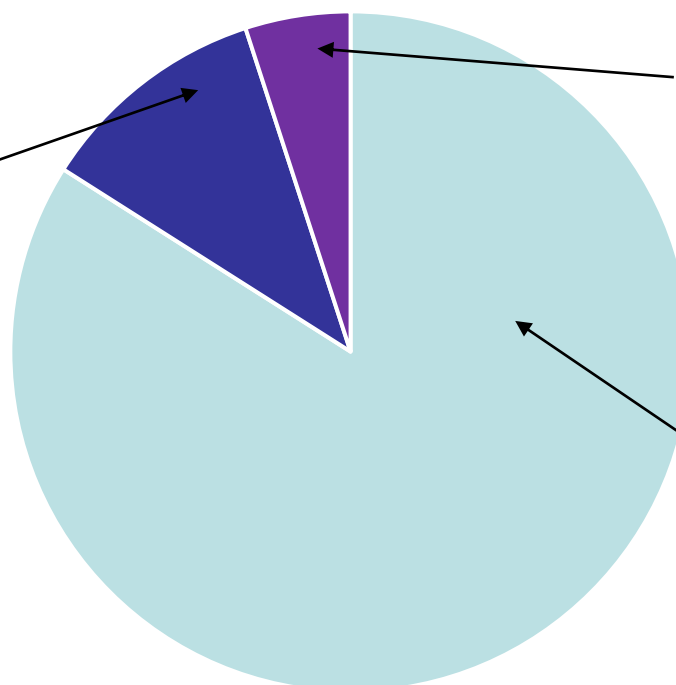
The Next Steps – Preparing for Adulthood programme started in April 2020.

Most children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHF Plan) will not be eligible for adult social care services.



Children and Young People with an EHC Plan

11% will be eligible for Adult Social Care



5% will be eligible for Health / Continuing Health Care

84% will not be eligible for Adult Social care or Continuing Health Care



We are supporting young people to develop the skills and experience they need for employment.

A vocational pathway can include college courses and work experience.



The majority of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) are on a pathway to employment – a vocational pathway.

We estimate that 67% of Surrey SEND young people are on a vocational pathway in 2021. This is up from 35% previously.

We have a good vocational pathway offer in Surrey for young people.



Surrey Choices offer fully funded travel training for young people.



APPRENTICESHIP

There are 19 SEND apprenticeships and 57 internships on offer in Surrey.

Surrey County Council will have 10 SEND apprenticeships in 2021, and hopefully more in 2022.



Surrey County Council apprenticeships are office based this year, though next year we are keen to include other types of work such as parks and outdoor work.

What we mean by apprenticeships and internships.

Apprenticeships



This is a paid job that also includes training. Young people are trained in a career.

Internships



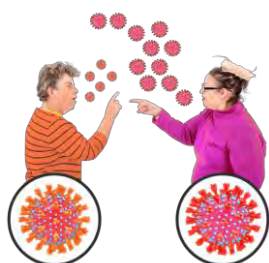
This is unpaid work experience for one year. It is a stepping stone into paid employment.

We want to make sure that college courses young people do lead to employment opportunities.



We want to make sure that courses are teaching young people skills they need for work, rather than just being enjoyable courses to do.

Special Education Needs and employment in the UK.



Since the Coronavirus Pandemic, businesses have struggled and this has impacted young people's opportunities to access employment, work experience and training.



Figures from October to December 2020

52.3% of disabled people were in employment, down from 54.1% a year previously.

400,000 disabled people were unemployed. This was 76,000 more than the number who were unemployed a year previously.

Being on a vocational pathway will not affect a young person's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).



Whilst trying out a vocational pathway the young person's EHCP will stay in place, even if they are doing paid work. This gives the young person and their family security.

A young person who is eligible for adult social care can also go on a vocational pathway.



The Working Younger Pathway Development.



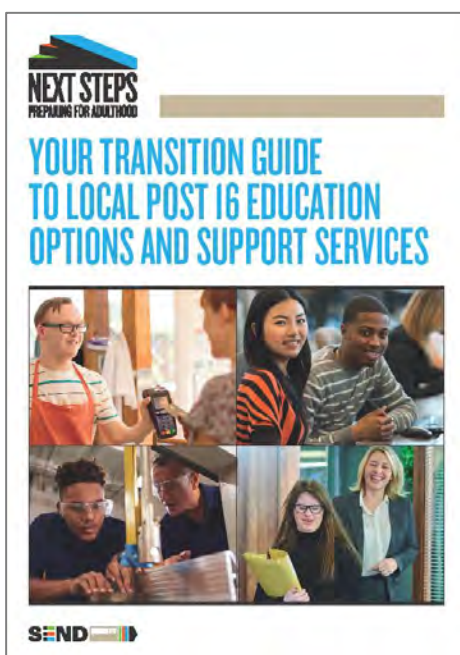
Gareth Owen updated us about the Working Younger Pathway project earlier in the meeting. Eammon explained that vocational pathways are an important part of this project.

An example of how a vocational pathway might work.

- Year 1 – college.
- Year 2 - college.
- Year 3 - a supported internship.
- Year 4 – start apprenticeship.



Next Steps – Preparing for Adulthood Brochure is being updated.



- It gives young people and families an overview of the range of available local vocational pathways leading to employment, including Apprenticeships, Traineeships, supported Internships and Vocational Education.
- It is a guide to the local Further Education colleges and courses on offer as well as available course levels.
We will let people when this is published.



What we are doing over the next few months.



We will be running events to raise awareness of the support on offer to assist young people to access employment pathways. We will also explain how they can be better prepared for the world of work from an earlier age.

There will be events throughout the Autumn and Winter 2021, many at local colleges.

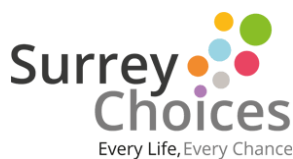


We will be working with organisations in Surrey to make sure young people have the right support and employment opportunities.



We are working with:

- Halow in the Guildford area.
- Active Prospects in East Surrey.
- Surrey Choices across Surrey.



We want to work with many different organisations to develop more opportunities.



We will be continuing to work with adult social care. This is to make sure there are good pathway and support options for young people for whom employment may not be an appropriate pathway.

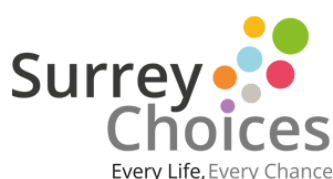
What we are doing over the next few months.



Targeted career support.



We will create a dedicated careers information, advice and guidance for young people in year 11 with an EHCP. The programme is still in development phase with the aim of begin place to support those moving from Year 11 to 12 in September 2022.



Independent travel training scheme.

This service is provided by Surrey Choices. It is a pilot project to support up to 50 young people to find alternative travel solutions, including travel on public transport or cycling.

The scheme is relaunching in September 2021, and the criteria for getting support is:

- Young person should live in Surrey, be aged 11 to 24 years old and be able to be trained safely.
- The journey should be less than 75 mins to school or college (or further if they choose).
- Be eligible for travel assistance from Surrey County Council.
- The scheme is voluntary.

Partnership Board members questions and comments about the Next Steps presentation.

Apprenticeships and Internships.



Anna Waterman asked Eammon Gilbert whether they were looking into the reasons if some young people choose not to take an apprenticeship or internship.

Eammon explained that for some young people and their families this is a new way of thinking about the future. It's important that young people choose college courses they will enjoy, though this needs to be dovetailed into a career path, rather than being for enjoyment. He explained the importance of highlighting employment as a priority during conversations with families.

Working with schools.



Benedicte Symcox asked what work was happening with the schools in Surrey.

Eammon explained that they are working closely with the Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCO) in schools, so that they are aware of Next Steps and can help explain this to staff and pupils.

Access To Work.



Access to Work
Making work possible

Tom Moore mentioned the Access To Work Government Scheme which can fund workplace support including equipment and specialist mentoring.

Eammon agreed that this could be a useful source of funding for some young people in the workplace.

Year 11 students.



Angie Taylor commented that Year 11 students are taking their exams, and suggested that it might be better for careers advice to happen during Year 10.

Eammon said that they were open to this idea and that to begin with they will offer career advice during Year 11 and review this ongoing.

Young people and mental health.



Mary Hendrick asked how the work to provide more support for young people's mental health was progressing.

Eammon explained that Surrey County Council and the NHS had increased the funding for the Emotional Wellbeing Service in Surrey, and that there has been an increase in mental health funding for schools. He explained that it may take these services time to get up and running properly.

There will be 100 new staff to offer mental health support for young people in Surrey.

The Learning Disability Communication Team will follow this up and let Partnership Board members know when these services are up and running.

ACTION



Any other business



Members updated us.

Surrey Adult Learning.



Alison Caraccio told us that there were still spaces on some of their courses which begin in September.

Amy Jackson will circulate details of courses with spaces through the Learning Disability Communications network.



Accessibility of surveys.



Claire Dawson explained that many people with a learning disability struggled to take part in consultations even when the survey was Easy Read.

Mary Hendrick mentioned that people can go through surveys as a group and send a collective response, and that Surrey People's Group do this regularly. She also said that Imogen Osborne will be meeting Sarah Linington from the Communications Team to discuss how we consult with people with a learning disability.

Our next Partnership Board Meeting.

Our next meeting will be on:

Thursday 4 November 2021 - 9.45am to 12.30pm.

We will let members know if this will be a Zoom meeting, or whether we will be meeting in person.

We will be discussing short breaks and the wellbeing of carers.



Kerry Clark – Wellbeing presentation.

Kerry was unable to attend today's meeting.

Her presentation will be circulated to members and Kerry will be invited to our November meeting to answer any questions members might have.



ACTION



Groups meeting in person.

Claire Dawson mentioned that Covid passports were hard for many people with a learning disability to use, and that groups need agreed guidelines for meeting again in person.

Maria Mills agreed to set up a meeting for organisations in Surrey to discuss guidelines to help groups to meet safely.



ACTION



Summary of actions from our September 2021 meeting.

ACTION



Guidelines for meeting safely.

Maria Mills will set up a meeting for organisations in Surrey to discuss guidelines to help groups to meet safely.



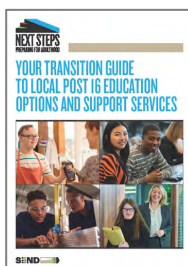
Surrey Adult Learning.

Amy Jackson will circulate details of courses with spaces through the Learning Disability Communications network.



Kerry Clark – Wellbeing presentation.

Kerry's presentation will be circulated to members and Kerry will be invited to our November meeting.



Transition Guide.

This brochure is being updated and we will let Partnership Board members know when it is published.



Young people and mental health.

The Learning Disability Communications Team will inform members when the increased service for mental health for young people is up and running.

Members who came to our September 2021 meeting.

Co – Chairs

- Anna Waterman – Co-chair
-

Local Valuing People Group Chairs

- Mary Hendrick - East Surrey
 - Tom Moore – Surrey County Council– South West Surrey
 - Sally Dubery – Central Surrey Voluntary Action – Mid Surrey
-

People with a learning disability

- David Muir
 - Stuart Sharkey
 - Leanne Yeo
 - Dexter James
-

Family Carer Representatives

- Gaynor Gibbins
 - Sara Truman MBE
-

Voluntary Organisation Representatives

- Benedicte Symcox – Family Voice
- Angie Taylor - Surrey Coalition of Disabled People
- Maria Mills– Surrey Care Association / Active Prospects
- Jerry Ratcliff and Christina Earl - Surrey Choices
- Jade Vallance – Active Prospects
- John Spedding – East Surrey Mencap
- Dorothy Watson – Sunnybank Trust

Members who came to our September 2021 meeting.

Surrey County Council representatives

- Amy Jackson – Adults Senior Business Support Assistant
 - Imogen Osborne – Engagement and Partnership Officer
 - Tom Moore – Commissioner
 - Mary Hendrick – Senior Commissioner
 - Anna Waterman – Head of Commissioning for Disabilities and for East and Mid Surrey.
 - Eamonn Gilbert – Assistant Director SEND & LAC Commissioning
 - Andrea Green – Senior Manager, Learning Disability & Autism Team
 - Alison Caraccio – Surrey Adult Learning
 - Kathryn Telford - Community Inclusion Commissioning Manager
-

Health representatives

- Jane Owens – Surrey Healthwatch
 - Julie Wadham – NHS Safeguarding Adviser
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Observers and Presenters

- Mike Leat – CCP Ltd.
- Geoffrey Dennis – Include
- Jainaba Sidibeh – Wats, Primary Care Liaison Service
- Gareth Owen – Transition Team
- Kate Barker – Joint Strategic Commissioning Convener for Children.