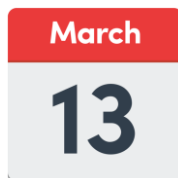




Learning Disability Partnership Board in Surrey

Minutes of our March 2025 Meeting.

Chaired by Mary Hendrick and Debbie Taylor.



Held on Thursday 13 March 2025
using Teams and in person at
Woodhatch Place in Reigate.

At our March 2025 meeting we talked about:



Adult Social Care Learning Disability and Autism.

Fadzai Tande updated us.



Surrey County Council Commissioning update.

Mary Hendrick and Helen Hunt updated us.



Local Updates.

Members updated us.

Our January 2025 minutes were agreed.



The minutes are available on our website.

www.surreypb.org.uk



Actions from our January 2025 minutes.



NHS 10 year plan.

We discussed this at our January 2025 meeting and have fed back to NHS England.

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 ldcommunications@surreycc.gov.uk and we will send it out in our weekly news email.

Learning Disability Performance Budget Update.



Fadzai Tande updated us.

The number of people we support in Surrey is increasing.

The Learning Disability and Autism budget is the largest part of the Adult Social Care budget.



Learning Disability and Autism Team.

People with a learning disability and/or autism supported by the Learning Disability and Autism Team.

February 2023 – 3,328

February 2024 – 3,617

February 2025 – 3,608



Carers supported by the Learning Disability and Autism Team.

February 2023 – 643

February 2024 – 762

February 2025 – 862



Transition Team.

People with a learning disability and/or autism supported by the Transition Team.

February 2023 – 1,047

February 2024 – 1,110

February 2025 – 1,085



Carers supported by the Transition Team.

February 2023 – 395

February 2024 – 501

February 2025 – 509



How the teams are performing.

Aim: Increase the number of reviews and assessments.

Our target is 80%

Learning Disability and Autism Team.

- 50.8%
- 2,205 individuals out of 4,338

Transition Team.

- 78.8%
- 1,018 individuals out of 1,292



How the teams are performing.

Aim: Increase the number of reviews and assessments for carers.

Our target is 80%

Learning Disability and Autism Team.

- 44.9%
- 372 carers out of 829

Transition Team.

- 78.9%
- 377 carers out of 478



Aim: More residents with learning disabilities and autism having a home of their own to live independently.

Our target is 71%

February 2023.

- 72.1% (2,143 people)

February 2024.

- 71.8% (2,287 people)

February 2025.

- 74.9% (2,395 people)



How the teams are performing.

Aim: Half as many people with learning disabilities and autism living in residential care within the next 5 years.

The numbers are reducing.

October 2021	984
February 2024	790
February 2025	735



Aim: Increase the number of people receiving a Direct Payment to 30%.

Our target is 30%.

Learning Disability and Autism Team.

February 2023 – 26.8% (577 people)
February 2024 – 26.3% (600 people)
February 2025 – 26.1% (604 people)

Transition Team.

February 2023 – 55.4% (242 people)
February 2024 – 56.4% (248 people)
February 2025 – 58.3% (250 people)



How the teams are performing.

Aim: Increase the number of people in employment or volunteering to 20%

Learning Disability and Autism Team.

February 2023 – 19.8% (524 people)

February 2024 – 19.2% (549 people)

February 2025 – 19.8% (563 people)

Transition Team.

February 2023 – 7.6% (50 people)

February 2024 – 9.3% (67 people)

February 2025 – 11.4% (87 people)



The number of open safeguarding cases is reducing

Learning Disability and Autism Team.

February 2023 – 707

February 2024 – 674

February 2025 – 427

Transition Team.

February 2023 – 198

February 2024 – 133

February 2025 – 111



2025 to 2026 budget.

This is the combined budget for the Learning Disability and Autism Team plus the Transition Team

Gross.

£241 million

Income.

£20 million

Net.

£221 million



This is small increase in the budget we had for 2024 to 2025.

Partnership Board members questions and comments about Fadzai Tande's presentation.

Dayservices.



Christina Earl asked whether it was correct that dayservices are not part of the low level concerns reported for safeguarding

Fadzai Tande replied that she wasn't aware of this change but would check and report back to the partnership board.



Surrey County Council Commissioning update



Helen Hunt and Mary Hendrick updated us.

Key members of the Commissioning Team.

Head of Commissioning – Disabilities

- Anna Waterman

All Age Autism Strategy

- Tom Moore

Short Breaks and Learning Disability

- Mary Hendrick

Supported Independent Living

- Helen Hunt

Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment

- Sarah Ford

Everyday Living Opportunities and Travel Policy

- Marnie Cotterill

Transition

- Anna Attah

Housing

- Rivka Stringer



Market Position Statements.

These statements are produced to ensure that there is choice of different types of service and support available to residents.

They provide information to organisations who provide care and support on who may require services now and in the future.

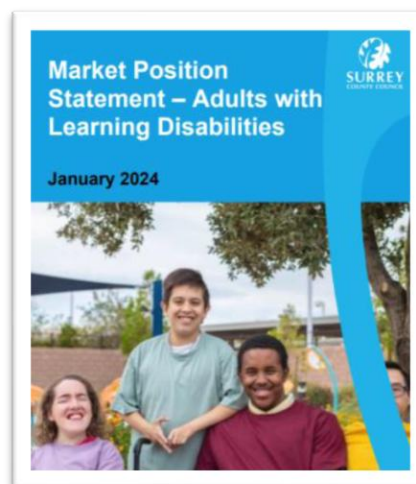
[Adults with Learning Disabilities](#)

[Autistic Adults](#)

[Transition](#)

[Right homes, Right Support](#)

[People with disability or sensory impairment](#)



Provider Forums.

The Provider Forum meets 4 times a year:

- October 2024 – Community Links
- January 2025 – Health
- April 2025 – Positive Behaviour Support & TECH
- July 2025, October 2025



Short Breaks Cabinet Report.

Surrey County Council knows that carers are key in supporting the people they care for.



It is important they have regular breaks from their caring responsibilities, so they can continue to support the person to live at home.



Together with our partners we will develop a range of options that improve outcomes and support for individuals and their families when offering a short break.

Agreed to build two new 8 bedded Surrey County Council developments that offer bespoke, modern facilities one in the East and one in the West of the County. This ensured equity of access across the County.



Agreed a proposal to remodel short breaks offer to work with market to ensure we have a more diverse short breaks offer.

Following feedback from families and boards Short Breaks Policy has been developed and hoping it will go out for formal consultation in the Spring.



Emily Lodge.



Emily Lodge is a new 8 bedded Surrey County Council short breaks service in Woking.

A similar service is being built in Banstead.

Development of Supported Living Accommodation.

Since the programme began in 2019 Surrey have worked with our providers to develop new homes.

- 410 units have been delivered.
- 246 people with learning disabilities and /or autism have moved from residential care to supported living.
- Individuals are enabled to develop their skills and live in their local communities.



Horley (Kings Rd) – Ready September 2025

- 2 shared houses: 5 people can live in each one – all bedrooms are ensuite with large living areas.
- 6 flats: for single occupancy plus ground floor communal space.



West Byfleet (Magdalen Crescent) – Ready November 2025

- 2 shared houses: 5 people can live in each one – all bedrooms are ensuite with large living areas.
- 6 flats: for single occupancy plus ground floor communal space.



Cobham (Anyards Road) – Ready January 2026.

- Block A = 6 flats: for single occupancy plus ground floor communal space.
- Block B = 6 flats: for single occupancy plus ground floor communal space.



[Click here](#) to watch a film about our new housing.

Care and Support for the new services.

Surrey County Council are currently working to appoint care providers to work at the schemes.

Horley

We should be able to let you know the name of the provider in March 25.

Byfleet and Cobham

We should be able to let you know the name of the provider(s) in June 25.



Housing development.

We have created an Easy Read guide to Tenancy Agreements so people can understand their rights.



Housing Development.

We are also working with colleagues in the District and Borough Councils and Social Care Teams to make sure that general needs housing is accessible to disabled people.



Autism training has been delivered to the Housing Teams at three District & Borough Councils in Surrey.



There are monthly advice sessions for Social Care staff to help them support people who are having housing issues.



Travel Policy.

The Travel Policy has been signed off by Cabinet and is published. The policy will:

- Ensure consistent decision making
- Support residents understanding of how decisions are made and what is available to them to support independent travel
- Travel Training Pilot has run in partnership with Surrey Choices and we have trained 45 individuals so far.



All-Age Autism Strategy 2021-26.

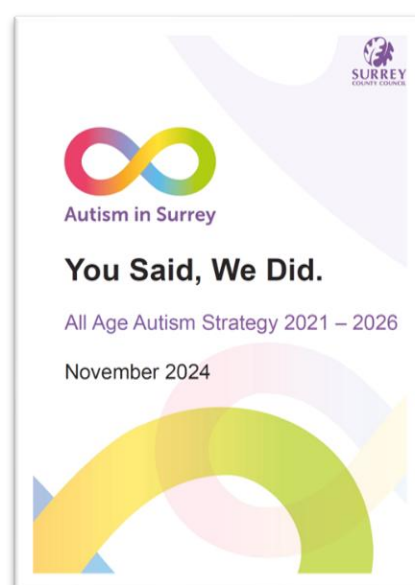
Working to get rid of inequalities for autistic people in education, health, social care, work and communities.

You Said, We Did, What's Next?

We have published a report explaining the progress we have made with the strategy.

- Most people felt we had made progress, but some disagree
- Most people thought the future plans were good, but some disagree

There is a lot more work to do. We need to keep involving autistic people. We want the changes to work for everyone.



Everyday Living Opportunities.

We have completed market engagement sessions with the provider market. There are 4 models of support:

- Community and life skills
- Centre based support
- Supported Employment
- Travel Training



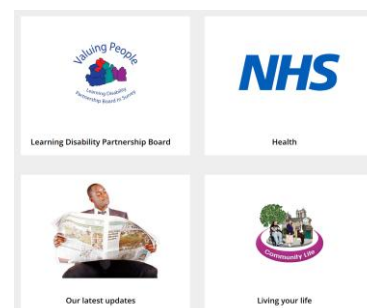
We are now working through the legal processes required for us to tender services.

Webpages and Social Media.

Learning disability and autism hub.

Comparing December 2023 to December 2024.

- 288 more visits (63% increase)
- 303 more page views (24% increase)
- 255 more visitors (73% increase)
- 115 more returning visitors (97% increase)



Social media – LinkedIn.

Started January 2024.

- total impressions 88,924
- total clicks 5,497
- average engagement rate 8.2%
- number of followers more than 2000



Transition pages.

Implemented new transition pages. Separating carer information from information for people going through transition.

User testing.

Sessions with people with learning disabilities who found images helpful and page structure improvement to aid navigation.



Webpages and Social Media.

Latest news

- Weekly page update
- Email and social media
- Local and national news and updates



Web team training about easy read

- Requested by web team
- Co-produced
- Very positive feedback



Easy Read development



- Development project with web team. Easy read template for webpages and increased to 25 Photosymbols licences. All offered training (4 sessions so far)
- Teams channel for updates and sharing - Monthly drop in.
- Group working on easy read support plan template
- Letter templates developed for staff allocation, review and assessment appointments

Letter generator

- Generator tool being piloted by supporting independence and review team



Documents worked on this year include:

- Documents for transport policy and consultation
- Your assessment booklet
- Direct payment area finance letter
- Your tenancy information booklet
- Co-production guide for residents
- Section 117 aftercare
- Delirium booklet
- Paying for care information
- Updated Surrey Connect and Safeguarding booklets



Get it Right! Update:

- Now have 3 teams
- Redhill, Guildford and Hindhead
- All easy read work plus webpage development



Surrey People's Group.

Meeting topics included:

- Voting.
- Managing My Money.
- Employment.



We held our first meeting in the West of Surrey.

Both groups voted to elect a chair and deputy chair of each group.

Planning Managing My Health in partnership with the Pro Active Community for learning disability week.



Partnership Board members questions and comments about the Commissioning Team's presentation.

New Supported Living Services.



Gaynor Gibbins asked if the new services being built are close to local amenities such as shops and bus stops.

Mary Hendrick explained that the Cobham site is 5 to 10 minutes walk from local amenities and that the Byfleet site is further away,

New Supported Living Services.



The properties will be owned by Surrey County Council, who will be the tenant's landlord. We are currently recruiting care and support providers for each service,

Helen Hunt was asked about the size of the apartments and bedrooms. Helen reported that the apartments are between 54.8m² and 64.2m² with the larger flats classed as M4(3) 'wheelchair user dwellings'. Bedrooms in the townhouses are between 30.4m² and 35m²

Helen Hunt explained that if tenants need sleep in staff there is room in the new buildings for staff to sleep over.

The new supported living buildings cost £20 million and the new short break buildings £5 million.

Autism.



Joyce Smith asked if the report by Attain about Surrey and Borders NHS Foundation Trust is available to download.



We will make sure that this link is sent to partnership board members when it is available.

Bus travel.



Gaynor Gibbins brought up the issue of evening travel using buses. In some areas of Surrey buses do not run in the evenings.

Mary Hendrick agreed to raise this with Marnie Cotterill who leads on transport.

Local updates.



Members updated us.

Marian Price MBE.

We are very sad to report that Marion Price MBE passed away earlier this year.

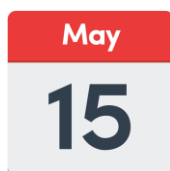


Marion was a family carer representative on the partnership board for many years and was always a strong advocate for the needs and rights of people with a learning disability.

Marion's tireless work was recognised with the award of an MBE in 2011.

Our very best wishes go out to Marion's family.

Our next Partnership Board Meeting.



Our meeting will be in person at Woodhatch Place, 11 Cockshot Hill, Woodhatch, Reigate RH2 8E. People will be able to join online as well. Our next meeting will be on:

Thursday 15 May 2025 - 10am to 12.30pm

Providers Unite.

Jade Vallance told us that the recent Providers Unite rally was very well attended.

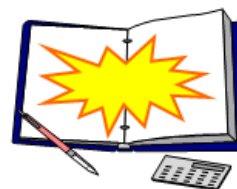


There will be further protests, and Providers Unite are campaigning for care providers to be exempt from the rise in Employers National Insurance contributions.

Providers are very concerned that these extra costs could cause some providers to go out of business and are communicating these concerns to the Government.

Summary of actions from our March 2025 meeting.

ACTION



Dayservices and safeguarding

Fadzai Tande will check whether it was correct that dayservices are not part of the low level concerns reported for safeguarding.



Autism

We will share the report by Attain about Surrey and Borders NHS Foundation Trust when it is available to download.



Evening bus travel

Mary Hendrick will pass on the concerns about the lack of evening bus services in some parts of Surrey to Marnie Cotterill.

Members who came to our March 2025 meeting.

Co – Chairs

- Mary Hendrick – Commissioning Manager
 - Debbie Taylor
-

Local Valuing People Group Chairs

- Tom Moore – Surrey County Council– South West Surrey
-

People with a learning disability

- Carinder Malhi
 - Michael Farrington – Chair of Proactive Community
 - Debbie Taylor
-

Family Carer Representatives

- Susan Seery
 - Gaynor Gibbins
 - Joyce Smith
-

Provider Organisation Representatives

- Jade Vallance / Helen Guest – Active Prospects
- Christina Earl – Surrey Choices
- Reza Shamtally – Surrey Care Association
- Yasmine Broome – Surrey Coalition
- Emma Langdon - Department of Work and Pensions
- Charly Harris - Include

Members who came to our March 2025 meeting.

Surrey County Council representatives

- Narmadha Kothandapani - Senior Business Support Assistant
 - Mary Hendrick – Senior Commissioning Manager
 - Gareth Owens –Senior Operational Manager, Transition
 - Simon Abbot - SCC - Senior Operations Manager, Learning Disability and Autism East
 - Ami Patel – Senior Commissioning Manager
 - Fadzai Tande - Director of Disabilities
 - Helen Hunt – Senior Commissioning Manager
-

Health representatives

- Jane Owens – Surrey Healthwatch
 - Angela Dobbyne – Senior Commissioning Manager
-

Observers and Presenters

- Mike Leat