



Learning Disability Partnership Board in Surrey

Minutes of our January 2023 Meeting.

Chaired by Mary Hendrick and Debbie Taylor.



Held on Thursday 5 January 2023
using Teams and in person at
Woodhatch Place in Reigate.

At our January 2023 meeting we talked about:



Surrey County Council budget

Abigail Lynard-Tough updated us.



Together for learning disabilities and autism

Surrey Peoples Group – December event

The group updated us.



Joint Strategic Need Assessment.

Liz Williams updated us.



Local Updates.

Members updated us.

Our September 2022 minutes were agreed.



The minutes are available on our website.

www.surreypb.org.uk



Cost of living

Easy Read information about support for cost of living and food banks has been designed. For a copy email ldcommunications@surreycc.gov.uk

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.

Surrey County Council draft budget 2023 to 2024.



Abigail Lynard-Tough updated us.

Surrey County Council's draft budget says what we are going to spend money on.

We want people's views:

- A draft budget is a budget that isn't finished yet and might change. We would like to know what you think about our draft budget.
- The draft budget is more money than last year, but there are more people need who support.
- This will help us decide whether to make changes to it.



Surrey County Council needs to find more money for this draft budget.

If the Government don't give us more money we can:

- Raise council tax
- Raise council tax a little and spend less on services
- Spend less on services which will make services worse



What does Surrey County Council Spend money on?

Adult Social Care

This is support for people who need some help with everyday things, like getting dressed and eating.



Public Service Reform and Public Health

This working with the NHS to help people be healthy.



Children, families and learning

Children, families and learning services like schools and colleges.



Transport, countryside and environment

Roads, buses, trains and looking after the countryside.



The Fire and Rescue Service.



Community Services

These are services that support local people, like libraries.



Other costs

This includes supporting local companies, information for residents, costs like buildings and computers. Also getting money and spending money.



How Surrey County Council plan to spend it's 2023 to 2024 budget.



£17,400,000 on Community Services



£34,400,000 on Public Service Reform and Public Health



£38,600,000 on Fire and Rescue Services



£79,300,000 on Getting and spending money



£79,400,000 on Resources



£153,100,000 on Transport, countryside and environment



£255,000,000 on Children, families and learning services



£434,500,000 on Adult Social Care



How Surrey County Council plan to spend money on people's care packages in 2023 to 2024.



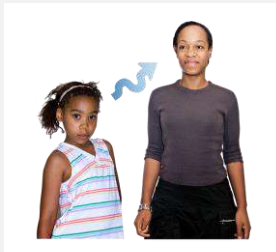
£132,200,000 on Older People



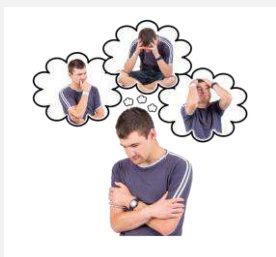
£39,900,000 on Physical/Sensory Disabilities



£182,800,000 on Learning Disabilities



£27,400,000 on young people in Transition



£12,200,000 on Mental Health



£400,000 on Carers



This adds up to £394,900,00. The rest of the £434,500,000 Adult Social Care budget is spent on things like social work staff.

Partnership Board members questions and comments about Surrey County Council draft budget.

Numbers of people with a learning disability who are supported.



Joyce Smith asked how many people with a learning disability are supported by Surrey County Council.

- Mary Hendrick explained that just under 4,000 people aged 25 years or over receive support, and a further 1,225 young people in Transition are supported.

Gaynor Gibbins asked whether all the people supported live in Surrey

- Mary Hendrick explained that the number of people we support living outside of Surrey has reduced, and that around 750 live outside of Surrey. Some of these people are very settled in the area they live.
- Mary will provide a detailed report on this at our March meeting.

ACTION



Updates on learning disability workplans and NHS budgets.



Maria Mills asked for an update on health budgets, the work happening around combined budgets for health and social care, and also whether there were any updates about the Partnership Board Workplans

- Mary Hendrick and Liz Williams said they would chase the health commissioners for information about budgets.

ACTION



Partnership Board members views on the draft budget



- Joyce Smith commented that low wages for social care staff leads to a high turnover of staff, leading to worse support for people. She explained that she was due to meet with the manager of a care provider and her local MP to raise this concern.
- Jade Vallance commented that raising Council Tax will also raise the living costs for care staff living in Surrey, so creates problems.
- Yasmine Broome commented that many disabled people are already struggling with the cost of living, so extra council tax costs would impact on their quality of life.
- Sally Dubery commented that voluntary services are at breaking point, struggling to cope with the demands for their support.
- Alix Lower commented that it's very hard for voluntary organisations to secure charity funding as it's so competitive.
- Mette Le Jakobson suggested that other services, such as community services, could do more to promote inclusion and reduce the demands on Adult Social Care.
- Maria Mills commented that Surrey Care Association recognise the challenges that Surrey County Council face, but with the National Living Wage increasing by 9% care providers simply don't know where they'll find the extra money to pay for the increase in wages if they do not receive an uplift in funding.
- Mary was asked about changes the Surrey County Council Charging Policy for people receiving Adult Social Care. Mary will find out more about any changes and we will discuss at our March meeting.
- Matt Leadbetter asked if the Surrey County Council draft budget will be discussed at the Valuing People Groups. Mary Hendrick said it would be.
- Valerie Wisdom commented that charities provide essential services. For example, Elmbridge Mencap set up a day service.



Consulting people about the draft budget



Abigail Lynard-Tough told us that 350 people had responded to the online consultation about the draft budget. Usually only around 100 responded.

- The highest number of responses were focused on Adult Social Care.
- 30% of people said that Council Tax should be raised, and 23% said that services should be cut. 20% suggested raising Council Tax a little and making some cuts. 10% suggested raising Council Tax more than the threshold allowed without having a referendum.
- Abigail explained that there was no mailout of the consultation, it was online only. She said there was an Easy Read version of the consultation.
- May Hendrick asked Abigail to ensure that the Partnership Board are aware of any future consultations.

What will happen next



Abigail Lynard-Tough explained that Surrey County Council will have a cabinet meeting towards the end of January 2023.



- The cabinet meeting will be a public meeting, and the agenda will be published in advance. Mary Hendrick will let Partnership Board members know the date of this meeting,
- They will discuss the consultation.
- They will discuss the draft budget, and the options for raising more money.
- The budget will be agreed by March 2023.

Surrey Peoples Group – December event



Amanda Aldridge and group members updated us.

The group met in person for the first time for a long time in December 2022



Over 50 people came to the event

- The Include Choir sang at the event
- Liaison nurses came to the event





We talked about what needs to change in 2023.

Lots of people filled a form in and put ideas on our ideas tree

We gave our views on four important topics.



1. Home

- Many people lived in a shared house, several wanted different housemates.
- *A few had a say about staff but more said they wanted to be involved in staff interviews.*
- *Several people said their house needing fixing.*

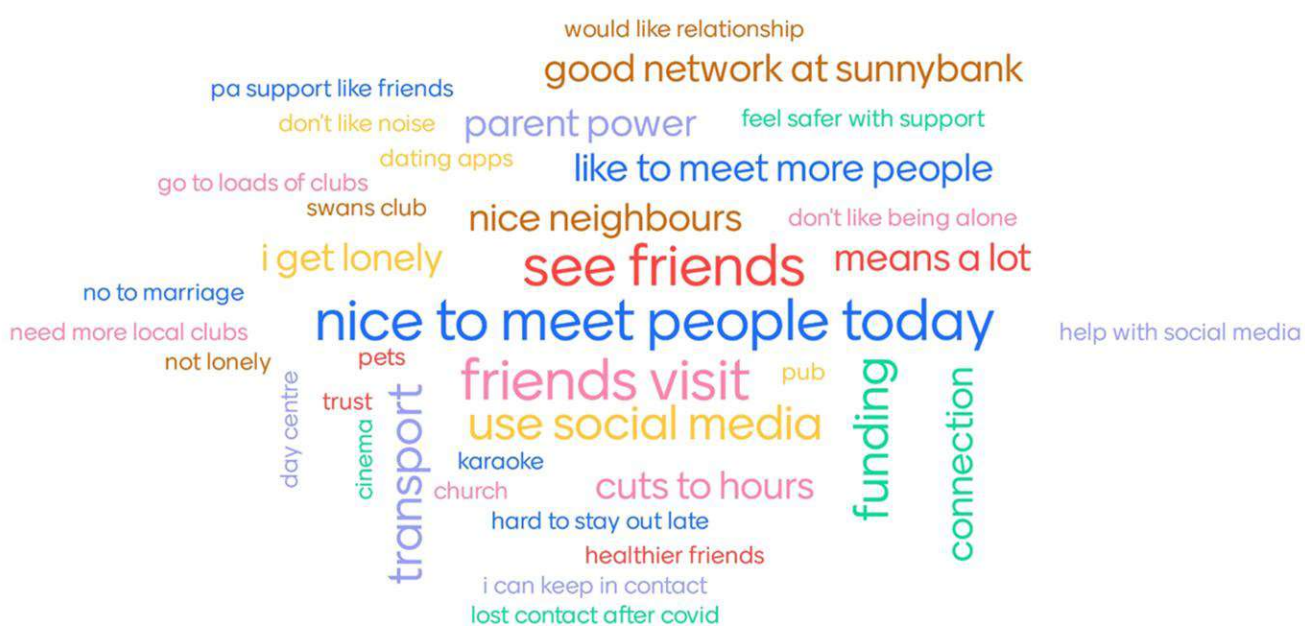
want to live together come home when shift ends
 want better social life more friendly neighbours
 difficult to get housing independence
 person centred house needs fixing staff relationships
 nosey parkers supported living shared lives
 care home shared house next door to dry house
 i have a say in staff
 mum helped me i can stay out late i like my home
 access location want different housemates
 feel secure freedom heating expensive
 want to interview staff i know my neighbours
 support workers good
 need advocacy re housing



2. Friendships

- People enjoyed meeting up in person and some met people they knew from school.
- Many people have their friends to visit at home and see their friends.

- Some people use social media.
- Funding and cuts to hours were raised as stopping people from seeing their friends / getting out.
- Some people get lonely, and some would like to meet more people.





3. Travel

- Transport is expensive, some had stopped going to activities because they lost their bus pass and could not afford the fare.
- Travel times with a bus pass were also raised – some need to travel early in the morning and cannot use their pass then.

- Many people do not feel safe on public transport.
- People find timetables confusing.
- Many people had problems with their bus pass. They had lost them due to eligibility changes, renewal was taking several weeks.



long wait for bus pass hard to get on and off
 mobility car unhelpful bus driver
 train strikes confusing timetables
 have bus pass no bus pass
 need 8am bus pass safety
 wheelchair access hard no carers pass
 need travel training expensive taxi
 i need a seat bus pass takes time
 limited rural buses need support apps good
 hard to renew bus pass easier to walk uber good
 don't rush me travel trained buss pass
 pushing at bus stop difficult crossing border
 bus stop shut i get around
 pip allowance
 new routes
 push bike



4. Health

- Most people had their annual health checks at the GP.
- Many people had hospital passports and found hospitals used them although one person said theirs was lost.
- Many liked their liaison nurses and found them helpful.

- People found it hard to book appointments and found online appointments difficult.
- Many find hospital scary and struggle with their GP's.
- Visiting the hospital is difficult – hospital is a maze.



What will happen next.

- Most people had their annual health checks at the GP. Health feedback has been sent to the liaison nurses and other health colleagues.



- Travel feedback has been sent to commissioning who are working on the transport consultation.



- We will use people's feedback to work out what to work on in 2023.



- Develop a strong planning / advisory group and have regular events to involve more people.



Contact us if you would like to get involved

- Email: ldcommunications@surreycc.gov.uk



Partnership Board members questions and comments about The Surrey Peoples Group event.

Offers of help



Liz Williams asked if she could come to talk at one of the Surrey Peoples Group meetings, and also use the information from the December meeting to inform the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Surrey.

- Group members were very happy to invite Liz to one of their future meetings and for Liz to use this information.
- Jade Vallance mentioned that if people were part of any local advocacy or social groups they are very welcome to also join the Surrey Peoples Group.

Going to hospital



Debbie Taylor told us about the training she had taken part in for the Royal Surrey County Hospital. Debbie had shared her experiences with 60 professionals, and explained to them how difficult it was for a person with a learning disability to find their way around.

- This training has led to the Fracture Department doing some work to look at making their signage and information more accessible, and also making sure there is a quiet space for people to wait in.
- Sunnybank had raised concerns that the consent of people with a learning disability for treatment in hospital was not being seen as a priority. Mary Hendrick will ask Laura Saunders for a detailed report about these issues for our March Partnership Board meeting.



Joint Strategic Needs Assessment



Liz Williams updated us.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is an assessment of the current and future health and social care needs of the local community.

Surrey County Council and the NHS work together to do the assessment.

The aim of the assessment is to:

- Improve health and wellbeing of the local community
- Reduce inequalities within the local community



We will develop and update the JSNA during 2023.

Wherever possible the JSNA will support Surrey County Council and NHS to plan how they:

- Spend money
- Prioritise resources
- Respond to people's need

Big messages from the JNSA.

We need to be clear about the difference between a learning disability and a learning difficulty like dyslexia.



We need to think about the impact of the Down Syndrome Act, and what we need to do to support people with Down Syndrome.



Numbers of people with a learning disability.

The number of people with a learning disability aged 18+ will increase from 21,980 in 2023 to 22,971 in 2040.



Only 5,000 out of 20,000 people are on the GP register, so can have an annual health check. We want to increase this.



People with a learning disability do not live as long as people without a learning disability:

Women with learning disabilities died 22 years sooner than the general population and men with learning disabilities died 11 years sooner. We want to change this.



Social care.

There was an increase in the number of children with a learning disability of 45% between 2018 and 2021.

Most adults live in Reigate and Banstead or out of area.

We have had a high percentage of people from BAME communities (from 18 to 54%).

We need more information on safeguarding.



Helping people with a learning disability stay healthy.

We want to help people with a learning disability to stop smoking. There are a lot of male smokers in North West Surrey.



People with learning disabilities, particularly women, have worse health outcomes than people without a learning disability. Diabetes, and being overweight are big issues.



We need to make sure the needs of people with learning disabilities are included in plans about:

- Pregnancy
- Dementia
- Postural care



People with learning disabilities are labelled 'high users' of primary and acute care, so it is important that people have support to get the right care from their GP Surgery and hospitals.

A lot of people have their annual health check.



Mental health.

We have done some work on reducing the amount of medication given to adults, but have not yet done this work with children.



We have done well in reducing the number of people with a learning disability treated in in-patient mental health hospitals, though there is more to do.



Community issues like housing and employment.

- We need more information about the cost of living impact on people with a learning disability.
- We do well against our target of people employed. Many people with a learning disability have a paid job or voluntary work.
- We don't know much about police or prison access or support.



Having a voice in the community.

We have lots of ways for people to give their views, and more work is happening to help people have their say.



Further work to do.

We need more information on community health and dentists to make sure people get what they need.



We need to do some more work on understanding eye health and hearing loss.



Partnership Board members questions and comments about the JSNA.

Inpatient services



Julie Wadham asked whether there had been work carried out to look into the suitability of inpatient environments for people with a learning disability.



- Liz Williams said that a lot of work has been going on around assessing environments for autistic people, and will follow up on this issue with Julie.

Annual Health Checks



Sally Dubery commented that not all of the 5,000 people with a learning disability have an Annual Health Check, so we need to focus on this as well as increasing the number of people on GP Registers.

- Liz Williams agreed and explained that the Health Inequalities Board was being set up again and that Sally would be invited to the meetings.

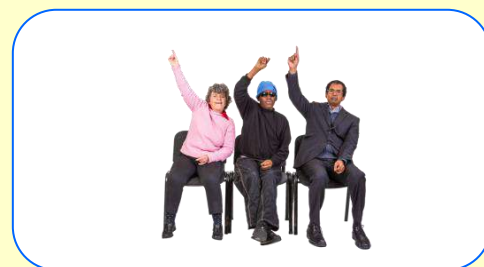
Accessing health services



Tom Moore asked that the accessibility of dentistry is explored as autistic people often struggle with those environments.

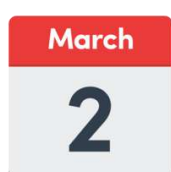
Maria Mills commented that as people get older they are more likely to have a fall, so accessibility of generic health services need to be looked at.

Local updates.



Members updated us.

Our next Partnership Board Meeting.



Our next meeting will be on:

Thursday 2nd March 2023 from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

We are planning for this meeting to be in person, and people will be able to join online as well.

Local Valuing People Groups



Our local groups give the opportunity for people with learning disabilities, family carers, care providers, volunteers and health workers to come together to discuss local issues in their community.

Find out more about your local group on our [Valuing People Group](#) webpages



Always Learning Developing and Growing (ALDAG)

Joyce Smith told us about the wide range of support, activities and work opportunities ALDAG are providing for people with a learning disability.



The ReUse-It Shop

Our re-use and recycle shop in Dorking offers job opportunities to young adults with learning disabilities.



Open Doors Café

The Open Doors Café can be found in the Dorking United Reformed Church and aims to provide fulfilling long term work experience for four adults with a learning disability.



The Gardening Project

Every Friday a group of four young people meet at our allotment to grow flowers and vegetables for Café ALDAG. We also offer garden maintenance services.



Cups and Co

Cups & Co is our latest project and will increase and diversify the number of overall trainee places that we currently provide in our shop, church-based café and gardening team.

See the [ALDAG website](#) for more information.



Leatherhead Swans Club.



With over 100 members and 50 volunteers, The Leatherhead Swans Club is the largest multi-activity sports club for the disabled in the south of England.

Based in Leatherhead, Surrey, the 'Swans Club' was established in 1975 to offer disabled people a range of physical and social activities including swimming, gym sessions indoor bowls and social events

Find out more on our website: [Leatherhead Swans Club](#)



Cost of Living Payments 2023 to 2024.

Cost of Living Payments will be made by the Government between spring 2023 and spring 2024.

These payments are:

- up to £900 for people on an eligible low income benefit
- £300 for pensioner households
- £150 for people on an eligible disability benefit



For more information go to the Government's [Cost of Living Payments](#) website.



Summary of actions from our January 2023 meeting.

ACTION



Out of county placements

At our March 2023 meeting Mary Hendrick will provide a detailed update about the numbers of people with a learning disability who Surrey County Council support who live outside of Surrey.



Health budgets and updates

Mary Hendrick will ask health commissioners to update us at our March 2023 meeting about their budgets, and their work supporting the needs and rights of people with a learning disability.



Paying for care

Mary Hendrick will find out more about any changes to the Surrey County Council Charging Policy for care, and we will discuss at our March 2023 meeting.



Surrey County Council Cabinet Meeting

Mary Hendrick will make sure that Partnership Board members are made aware of the date of the Surrey County Council Cabinet meeting where the 2023/24 budget will be agreed.



Inpatient service environments

Liz Williams will liaise with Julie Wadham about looking into the suitability of inpatient service environments for people with a learning disability.



Health Inequalities Board

Liz Williams will invite Sally Dubery to meetings of the Health Inequalities Board and the board will discuss the issue of not everyone on GP registers receiving an annual health check.

Members who came to our January 2023 meeting.

Co – Chairs

- Mary Hendrick – Senior Commissioning Manager
 - Debbie Taylor
-

Local Valuing People Group Chairs

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

People with a learning disability

- David Muir
 - Dexter James
 - Joanna (Grange)
 - Matt Leadbetter
 - Tom Sliwinski
-

Family Carer Representatives

- Sara Truman MBE
 - Gaynor Gibbins
 - Joyce Smith
-

Voluntary Organisation Representatives

- Yasmin Broome – Surrey Coalition of Disabled People
- Mette Le Jakobsen / Christina Earl - Surrey Choices
- Jade Vallance / Maria Mills / Helen Guest – Active Prospects
- Justine McManus – DEA, Redhill Jobcentre
- Hugh Skeil – Grange Centre
- Valerie Wisdom – Elmbridge Mencap

Members who came to our January 2023 meeting.

Surrey County Council representatives

- Amanda Aldridge – Engagement Officer
 - Samantha Lewis - Adults Senior Business Support Assistant
 - Mary Hendrick – Senior Commissioner
 - Alison Caraccio – Surrey Adult Learning
 - Paul Baker and Gareth Owen – Transition Team
 - Andrea Green – Learning Disability and Autism Team
 - Fadzai Tande – SCC Transition Team Manager
 - Harmandeep Admane – SCC Public Health Lead
 - Mariam Watling – Surrey County Council
 - Sarah Ford – Senior Commissioner
-

Health representatives

- Jane Owens – Surrey Healthwatch
 - Liz Williams – System Convener SCC/Surrey Heartlands ICB
 - Julie Wadham – Surrey Heartlands ICB
-

Observers and Presenters

- Mike Leat – CCP Ltd.
- Abigail Linyard-Tough - SCC