

Briefing for local stakeholders with an interest in social care, health and communities

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships
Information and Engagement Team



Monthly briefing

Information correct as of 19 June 2025

Government launches consultation on the future of local government in Surrey

Earlier this week, the government [launched a consultation](#) on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Surrey. This consultation is part of the government's devolution plans for transferring more powers from government to local or regional authorities. Please share with your colleagues, partners, residents and networks. The consultation closes at 5pm on Tuesday 5 August.

Surrey County Council, Elmbridge Borough Council and Mole Valley District Council are recommending that Surrey is arranged into two new unitary councils, East Surrey and West Surrey. These two councils would work with an elected Mayor who would create a new Strategic Authority covering the county of Surrey. This plan is supported by key local partner organisations, including health, police and fire, business and community leaders.

Other proposals have also been put forward to government including a three-unitary council plan.

Surrey County Council, Elmbridge Borough Council and Mole Valley District Council are hosting an online resident information event on 7 July, 7pm – 8:15pm, to explain LGR and the two unitary council proposal. The event will include a question and answer section, with questions received in advance via the [registration form](#), by email at devolutionandlgr@surreycc.gov.uk or live during the event. The event will be held on MS Teams. It will be recorded and shared with British Sign Language interpretation for anyone unable to attend the event to watch when convenient for them.

How to respond

You can respond to the government consultation [online](#), by post or email (see details below). Paper copies are also available in all of Surrey's 52 libraries.

- **Email:** lgreorganisation@communities.gov.uk
- **Post:** LGR Consultation
Fry Building 2NE
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Further information about the proposals and the government consultation can be found on the [SCC website](#).

Briefing for local stakeholders with an interest in social care, health and communities

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships
Information and Engagement Team



Share your views on proposed changes to adult social care charges

Surrey County Council is asking for views on proposed changes to how much adults pay for care at home or in the community, aimed at bringing their approach in line with national guidance.

National social care laws allow councils to ask people to contribute towards the cost of their care and set out how much can be charged. In Surrey, people have been charged less than the national guidance recommends for home and community-based care. However, when less money is collected through charging, there's less funding available to run and improve the care services that many people rely on.

Surrey County Council is not proposing changes to the policy for people living in residential or nursing care, where charging is already in line with national guidance.

The proposals

The **first proposal** would affect people who have capital above £23,250. Capital means the money or assets that people own (such as savings in the bank or building society) and does not include the value of the property they live in.

Surrey County Council is proposing a change so that if someone has more than £23,250 in capital, they would need to pay the full cost of their care. At the moment, the threshold amount is £24,500.

The **second proposal** is about how Surrey County Council works out what people pay for their care if they have capital between £14,250 and £23,250. If someone has capital between the lower threshold of £14,250 and the proposed amended upper threshold of £23,250, they are proposing to add a little bit of extra money each week - £1 for every £250 of capital - to what they pay. This is known as charging 'tariff income' - where an amount of savings is treated like weekly income. The maximum amount of tariff income would be £36.00 per week.

How to share your views

Surrey County Council would like to hear people's views on the proposed changes to the policy. The consultation period will last for 12 weeks from Monday 16 June 2025 and will close at **23:59pm on Sunday 7 September 2025**. Views can be shared as follows:

Consultation questionnaire

Full details of the proposals – and a questionnaire for people to share their views - can be found on the Surrey Says website at:

- **Website:** www.surreysays.co.uk/asc-ic/chargingpolicy25

Alternative formats of the questionnaire and Adult Social Care Charging Policy Proposal (in Easy Read, Large Print and Screen Reader Accessible formats) are also available to download from the Surrey Says website. Additionally, they can be requested in hard copy

Briefing for local stakeholders with an interest in social care, health and communities



Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships
Information and Engagement Team

(including a stamped addressed envelope to return the questionnaire), using the contact details at the end of this article.

Drop-in sessions

Surrey County Council will be holding in-person events to help with any queries about the proposed changes and to offer support to share views. The drop-in sessions will be taking place at the following libraries on these dates:

- Woking Library: Thursday 26 June 2025 between 10am to 12pm
- Camberley Library: Tuesday 1 July 2025 between 10am to 12pm
- Godalming Library: Wednesday 9 July 2025 between 10am to 12pm
- Walton Library: Wednesday 16 July 2025 between 10am to 12pm
- Horley Library: Tuesday 22 July 2025 between 10am to 12pm

Further information and alternative formats

To request information in an alternative format or for any queries, please contact

- **Telephone:** 01372 832370
- **Textphone (via Relay UK):** 18001 01372 832370
- **British Sign Language:** www.surreycc.gov.uk/bsl
- **Email:** chargingpolicyconsultation@surreycc.gov.uk
- **Write to us:** Surrey County Council, Financial Assessments and Income
- Team, Woodhatch Place, 11 Cockshot Hill, Reigate, RH2 8EF

As well as inviting feedback from those people who may be affected by the changes and their carers, Surrey County Council is also seeking views from professionals, partners and other interested stakeholders.

Please share this information with anyone you know or work with who may be interested. Surrey County Council is writing to all those currently known to adult social care who may be affected by the proposals.

Surrey-wide immigration strategy now live

Surrey County Council is pleased to share that the [Surrey-Wide Immigration Strategy](#) has now been published and is publicly available.

The next step will be to develop the strategy's action plan to ensure the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector remains at the heart of this work.

For further information, or if you or your organisation would be interested in contributing to the action plan working group to help turn strategy into action, please contact Immigration Manager, Bashir Fatehi.

Briefing for local stakeholders with an interest in social care, health and communities



Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships
Information and Engagement Team

- **Email:** bashir.fatehi@surreycc.gov.uk
- **Website:** www.surreycc.gov.uk

Change to Aldershot Safe Haven Opening Hours – From 1 June 2025

From Sunday 1 June 2025, there has been a permanent change to weekend and Bank Holiday opening hours at Aldershot Safe Haven.

The service will no longer be open from 12.30pm to 6pm on weekends and Bank Holidays. This change brings Aldershot Safe Haven's opening hours in line with the four other Safe Haven services in Epsom, Guildford, Redhill, and Woking. Evening hours remain unchanged, with in-person support available every day from 6pm to 11pm, including weekends and Bank Holidays - 365 days a year.

Aldershot Safe Haven is provided in partnership with Catalyst, Andover Mind, and Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Safe Havens offer out-of-hours help and support to adults experiencing a mental health crisis or emotional distress, as well as their carers. They provide a safe, welcoming alternative to A&E for those in urgent need of mental health support.

For those who need support outside of Safe Haven opening hours, the 24-hour Mental Health Crisis Line (0800 915 4644) remains available to everyone in Surrey and Northeast Hampshire.

Community safety and cohesion survey launched

Surrey County Council has commissioned an independent research agency, Solutions Research Ltd to conduct research among Surrey residents aged 16 and over. This research is to understand areas of concern around community safety and cohesion, and to inform interventions that meet community needs.

The [survey](#) will gather information on experiences with crime, anti-social behaviour, discrimination or feelings of belonging. Feedback will help shape Surrey's future partnership strategy around community safety and cohesion, ensuring it reflects the real experiences of local people.

For more information, please contact Josie Harrison (Research Director) on 020 7700 5500 or email josie@solutions-research.co.uk.

New CEO for SASH

Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust has announced that Andrew Hines will be the new Chief Executive for the Trust when Angela Stevenson retires in August after more than 37 years in the NHS.

Briefing for local stakeholders with an interest in social care, health and communities

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships
Information and Engagement Team



Andrew, the current Executive Director for Group Development at Barts Health NHS Trust, will take up the post this Autumn.

Andrew Hines has over 30 years' senior leadership experience in provider and regional roles across London and the South of England. He has held board-level responsibility for a wide portfolio including operations, strategy, digital, and estates and facilities.

Royal Surrey invites the public to explore healthcare services

Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford, will open its doors for a free [Community Open Day](#) on Saturday 28 June from 11am to 3pm, offering everyone a chance to discover the world-class healthcare on their doorstep.

Visitors will have the opportunity to tour an operating theatre and see one of the Trust's advanced surgical robots in action. They can also observe how treatments are delivered using simulation patients. Careers sessions will be available, offering the chance to speak with healthcare professionals about how to begin a career in the NHS.

Throughout the event, Royal Surrey's hospital and community teams will demonstrate the wide range of care they provide from newborns to older adults. Blood pressure checks, CPR lifesaving training and advice on improving sleep quality will be offered along with tours of the new Cancer Centre, and the Prostate Project will be on site offering free PSA blood tests to help detect prostate cancer. Emergency services will also be present, giving visitors the chance to see a fire engine, first responder unit, and police car up close.

Further information about the [Community Open Day](#) is available online and booking for their 'behind the scenes' tours will be available on the day.

Rescheduled Cancer Treatment Workshop

The Brigitte Trust is holding their rescheduled Cancer Treatment workshop, hosted by Clinical Nurse Specialist Elizabeth Darragh from East Surrey Hospital on Thursday 17 July from 10am to 11.30am.

This will be an opportunity to hear more about what chemo and radiotherapy are, what the differences are and why one is chosen over another, in what circumstances someone would need both, and other treatments options offered. There will also be a chance to ask questions to a healthcare professional. The workshop will take place online via Zoom.

For further information or to book your place, please email admin@brigitte-trust.com.

Briefing for local stakeholders with an interest in social care, health and communities

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships
Information and Engagement Team



Shining a light on the challenges for people with dementia

CQC has published a [Health and social care support for people with dementia report](#) that looks at the experiences of people with dementia who use health and care services, and how services are responding. The report found that people did not always feel there was ongoing care and had to seek out community charity support groups themselves. They also saw examples of how good care has a positive impact on people's wellbeing.

They will use the findings in this report to help shape our work to define what good care looks like for people with dementia and inform the next phase of CQC's Dementia Strategy.

Dementia support programme in Banstead

[Signature](#) Care Home in Banstead is offering a Dementia support programme including the following Past Times Memory Clubs:

- Past Times Potting Shed, first Monday of the month from 2.30pm to 3.30pm
- Past times Memory Café, last Wednesday of the month from 2.30pm to 4pm
- Past Times Music Therapy, sessions will take place on 20 June, 25 July, 22 August, 26 September and 24 October

For further information or to book a space on one of the events, please contact:

- **Email:** events.banstead@signaturesl.co.uk
- **Telephone:** 01737 749887

Making Every Contact Count (MECC) free training courses

[MECC \(Making Every Contact Count\)](#) is a countrywide initiative to encourage public facing staff and volunteers to make the most of the contact they have with residents/patients. Surrey County Council offers fully funded MECC training for NHS, local authority, and community sector staff and volunteers in Surrey.

Courses are available on alcohol, smoking, mental wellbeing, food and wellbeing, food and wellbeing for carers of people with learning disabilities and/or autism, fuel poverty and food, fuel & finances. The training is for the most part online and lasts 2 hours (except for food & wellbeing which is 3 hours). Training can also be organised for specific groups of frontline staff, either in person or online.

For further information or to register for the courses, please visit [Healthy Surrey](#).

Briefing for local stakeholders with an interest in social care, health and communities

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships
Information and Engagement Team



News from Mary Frances Trust

Natural connections – a sensory celebration of nature

There are still places on this course, free to Surrey Downs residents, which will provide a friendly and calming space to explore how spending time in nature can deepen our connection with the natural world, ourselves and one another. Focusing on the delights of our natural environment, the course will observe the changes in nature and engage senses to boost wellbeing. The course will run for 5 weeks, taking place, in the Tadworth area, on Thursdays from 11.30am to 1pm and starting on Thursday 26 June.

Nature around us walks

These series of walks on the edge of Dorking will take place from Tuesday 8 July for 6 weeks offering a chance to slow down, connect with nature and boost wellbeing.

For more information or to book a place, please contact Georgia at:

- **Email:** naturenurtures@maryfrancestrust.org.uk
- **Telephone:** 01372 375400

Surrey Welfare Rights Unit training offer

The Surrey Welfare Rights Unit (SWRU) offers a training programme including open courses on managed migration, benefits, PIP, universal credit, extra help for low-income households and limited capability for work.

Further information about the [SWRU training programme](#) courses can be found on their website. If you require further information, please email training@swru.org.

Memory Café Support Groups

Alongside home visits the [Dementia Co-ordination Service](#) team is offering free Memory Café Support Groups across Surrey. The cafés provide a supportive space for families to meet, seek advice on matters relating to living with dementia, meeting with people in similar circumstances with a coffee and a chat. No booking is required, and the cafes will be held at:

- **Belvedere Care Home**, Woodmansterne Lane, Banstead SM7 3HB on the 1st Friday of each month starting on 1 August
- **Priory Court Care Home**, Ewell Village, KT17 1TJ on the 1st Wednesday of each month starting on 2 July
- **Hartfield House**, 4 Hartfield Road, Leatherhead, KT22 7GQ on the 2nd Wednesday of each month starting on 9 July

Briefing for local stakeholders with an interest in social care, health and communities



Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships
Information and Engagement Team

Latest from Catalyst Support

Catalyst Counselling introduces client session contributions

From 1 June 2025, Catalyst Support has introduced client session contributions to ensure the ongoing sustainability of their service in the current financial climate. They have established a session contribution structure based on clients' income and circumstances to make sure counselling remains accessible. However, their rates remain subsidised.

If you refer a client to Catalyst Counselling in the future, please ensure they are made aware of these new contributions in advance.

For further information about this change, please email: counselling@catalystsupport.org.uk

Community hubs now open

A new network of free local hubs is launching across Surrey. These drop-in sessions will run weekly in key neighbourhoods, offering a friendly space for people to find help, advice and signposting to local resources. The hubs will help access mental health support from Catalyst Support, financial support from Citizens Advice, and parenting and perinatal support from Home-Start, in the same location, in the heart of the community.

The hubs will be open in the following locations with no booking or referral required:

- **Chertsey:** Revive Coffee Shop, The Beacon, 95 Guildford Street, KT16 9AS on Wednesdays from 10am to 12pm
- **Woking:** St Andrew's Church, Goldsworth Park, GU21 3LG on Thursdays from 10am to 12pm
- **Egham:** The Village Centre, 68 Victoria Street, Englefield Green, TW20 0QX on Tuesdays from 10am to 12pm
- **Godalming:** Ockford & Aarons Hill Hub, 1 Ock Way, GU7 2FL on Fridays from 9.30am to 11.30am
- **Guildford:** Guildford Family Centre, Hazel Avenue, Southway, GU1 1NR on Mondays from 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Catalyst Community Connection Referrals

Catalyst Support can offer support with mild to moderate mental health difficulties, psychological challenges linked to life transitions or situational stressors and those willing and able to engage in short term one to one interventions and group activities.

They are unable to support with active alcohol or drug dependence that requires specialist addiction services, severe, complex or treatment resistant psychological conditions requiring intensive support or complex or high-risk cases involving significant self-harm or active suicidal ideation that may require crisis intervention.

If the referred individual's needs fall outside their ability to support, they recommend considering:

Briefing for local stakeholders with an interest in social care, health and communities



Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships
Information and Engagement Team

Alcohol and Drug Services

[Surrey Drug and Alcohol Care](#)
[i-access Drug & Alcohol Service](#)

Crisis Teams for Immediate Mental Health Support

[Crisis Mental Health Helpline](#)
[Safe Havens](#)

If you are unsure about the suitability of a client, please contact Caitlin Flynn, Senior Link Worker/Interim Senior Group Worker:

- **Telephone:** 07786 068409
- **Email:** caitlin.flynn@catalystsupport.org.uk

New sessions coming soon

[Catalyst Support](#) is always adding sessions to their monthly timetable, including a Gaming Retreat for 18 to 23 year olds, Mood & Food and a Social Group. Please see their monthly [Community Connections Timetable](#) which is available on their website.

Please complete a [Catalyst Support Referral Form](#) for users to attend the groups or contact:

- **Telephone:** 01483 590150
- **Text:** 07909 631623

Third sector trends in southeast England

Third Sector Trends would like help to build a picture about how the voluntary sector responds to and initiates change in society.

They are looking for amateur sports, dance or gardening clubs, village halls, carers' groups, arts organisations, campaigning trusts or those who deliver social or health services, care for the environment or run a hostel or food bank to take part in their large study (6,000+ responses in 2022).

Although the [Third Sector Trends in England and Wales 2025](#) runs right across England and Wales, its focus is still very local looking at how the voluntary sector develops and works in all areas, whether the interests served are focused in a neighbourhood/village, or span national/international boundaries.

For more information, please contact Professor Tony Chapman, Durham University by email tony.chapman@durham.ac.uk

Briefing for local stakeholders with an interest in social care, health and communities

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships
Information and Engagement Team



Latest news from Healthwatch Surrey

The [Healthwatch Surrey June 2025 Insight Bulletin](#) focuses on thanks and praise for care and compassion in hospital, accessing GP practices, and mental health services with dissatisfaction with complaints handling. They also spotlight on the prison population and ADHD.

Reports Healthwatch Surrey has published recently include:

- [What we're hearing about waiting for care](#)
- [ADHD diagnosis: long waits on the NHS need urgent attention](#)
- [Enter and View Ashmount](#)
- [What we're hearing from the prison population](#)
- [What we're hearing from the residents of Surrey Heath and Farnham](#)
- [The Commission on Palliative and End-of-Life Care](#)

Current open Surrey County Council consultations

Find all [open Surrey County Council consultations](#) on Surrey Says.

Submitting an article for the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships Information and Engagement Team Briefing

If you would like us to include an article on behalf of your organisation in the next edition, please email: asc.engagement@surreycc.gov.uk

Please note that we are unable to include attachments when we circulate the briefing, so please ensure that any documents that you wish to reference are uploaded to your own organisation's website or a partner website.

You can unsubscribe from the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships Information and Engagement Team Briefing by contacting us at: asc.engagement@surreycc.gov.uk

Sharing the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships Information and Engagement Team Briefing

If you would like to share the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships Information and Engagement Team Briefing with other professionals, the latest edition is available from: www.surreycc.gov.uk/adultsbriefing