

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

Adult Social Care | Information and Engagement Team



## **Monthly Briefing Information Correct As Of 15 December 2023**

### **End of Year Message**

To all our readers and contributors, we thank you for your ongoing interest and efforts in sharing essential news so we are more informed of what's going on in health, social care and our communities in Surrey. This helps us connect local people to the right support.

We hope you have some rest over the holiday period and stay safe and well.

Information and Engagement Team

### **Affordable Extra Care Housing A Step Closer For Surrey**

Planning permission was awarded to the first of the county council's extra care housing developments Pond Meadow, Guildford.

Working with extra care housing consortium partner Pond Meadow Limited, the site in Guildford will provide 59 affordable apartments for those who need help to continue living the lives they want in a home of their own. This forms part of Surrey County Council's plan to provide high quality, purpose-built accommodation for those most in need of extra care and support and deliver on commitments outlined in Surrey's ['Living Well in Later Life' strategy](#).

For further information, please visit [Surrey News](#).

### **Major Grant Awarded To Surrey County Council To Help Reduce Health Inequalities**

A major grant of around £5 million has been awarded to Surrey County Council and the University of Surrey to tackle poor health and health inequalities in Surrey. The investment from the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) is for a Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) that will bring together experts from the council, university and other partners to ensure a research-led and evidence-based approach to meeting health priorities.

HDRCs are designed to centre around local residents who will influence policymaking by setting research priorities. The grant will enable evidence to be compiled for what works, for who and when to improve and protect the health of the population. Aiming to build the evidence for how to meet the needs of local people, the grant will facilitate research to inform how lifestyle, social, economic, built and natural environment factors (also known as the wider determinants of health) affect health, for example: poor housing conditions, food poverty and air quality.

For further information please visit [Surrey News](#).

## **CQC: Local Authority Pilot Assessments Published**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has recently published the [findings from their pilot assessments](#) looking at five local authorities; Birmingham, Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Nottingham and Suffolk.

Assessing how local authorities meet their duties under Part 1 of the Care Act (2014) is a new responsibility for CQC. During the pilots, they looked at nine quality statements to assess how well each local authority is meeting its responsibilities and to give an indicative rating.

They used the pilot assessments to test the new [assessment framework](#), methods and processes before starting formal assessments of all 153 local authorities with adult social care responsibilities. These will start from December, pending government approval.

For further information on the local authority assessments please visit [CQC](#).

## **Essential support available in Surrey**

The Surrey County Council Directory of Support was sent to Surrey households in November, this year. Local people are feeling the impact of the cost of living crisis and the directory is designed to help, by pulling together all the essential support available in the county.

The [Essential Directory of Support](#) is also available online but split into three categories: financial support, welfare support and health and mental wellbeing support.

In addition, [alternative versions of the Essential Directory of Support](#) (Screen Reader Accessible, Large Print and Easy Read) are available online as well.

However, if you require a hard copy of the alternative formats or require the document in another language, please contact us as follows:

**Telephone:** 0300 200 1008

**Text (SMS):** 07860 053 465 (for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community)

**Relay UK:** 18001 0300 200 1008

**British Sign Language:** via [SignLive Video Relay Service](#)

**Email:** [contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk)

## **More Support In Sight For Carers As New Short Breaks Accommodation Gains Approval**

Surrey County Council's plans to increase short break accommodation for autistic people and those with learning disabilities have received a boost after planning permission was granted for a new development at Goldsworth Park in Woking.

Situated on the site of the former Lakers Youth Centre, the building will provide eight ensuite bedrooms designed to be fully accessible to wheelchair users and those with complex needs.

Short breaks accommodation offers those who look after autistic people and adults with learning disabilities the opportunity to take a well-earned break from

their caring responsibilities. Parents or other unpaid carers have a chance to recharge their batteries and concentrate on their own wellbeing, while their loved ones are supported in a location close to home, developing new social skills and meeting others from the local community. Construction is expected to start in the first half of 2024, with completion by early 2025. For further information, please visit [Lakers short break service](#).

### **Surrey Stars Award Winners For 2023 Announced**

The *Stars in Surrey Awards* celebrate the incredible efforts and projects from teams and individuals in the organisation's workforce and beyond, recognising some of the many amazing individuals, teams, workers, volunteers and residents in Surrey who go above and beyond in their daily lives to make a difference.

Winners included teams and individuals who do outstanding work on behalf of the people of Surrey who look after young people in care, help elderly people live at home for longer, keep Surrey's libraries thriving and encourage more people to access the countryside. For further information and the full list of winners for 2023, please visit [Surrey News](#).

### **Frailty Awareness Workshop**

[Guildford and Waverley Frailty Academy](#) is running free frailty awareness workshops for all staff and volunteers who have contact with people who have frailty, especially those working in care, social care and health.

These free online workshops are an opportunity to learn more about frailty, how to recognise it and/or support people who have increasing frailty. They are taking place on Thursday 22 January and Thursday 25 February. For further information or to book please email [rsch.frailtyacademy@nhs.net](mailto:rsch.frailtyacademy@nhs.net).

### **Dementia: Memory Drop-in Sessions in Redhill**

Have you or a loved one been recently diagnosed with dementia? Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is running memory drop-in sessions on the third Thursday of every month from 2pm – 4pm at Gatton Place, St Matthews Road, Redhill. Dementia professionals will be on hand to answer your questions, provide information and signpost to support. For further information, please contact SABP via **Telephone:** 0300 222 5761.

### **Latest Insight from Healthwatch Surrey**

December's [Insight bulletin](#) reflects recurring themes that Healthwatch Surrey have heard throughout the year including:

- Involving people: Does feedback make a difference?
- Access to GP's
- The impact of not communicating with compassion
- The co-ordination of appointments.

### **Free Truecall Devices Available From Trading Standards**

[Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards](#) is cracking down on telephone scammers this festive season by encouraging people with vulnerable family or friends to support them in applying for a free\* [trueCall device](#), to prevent

telephone scammers and nuisance callers getting through on landlines.

Every year, many people in the UK fall victim to fraudsters. Scams take different forms, but the most common is for fraudsters to cold call. Trading Standards estimate that 48,000 scam or nuisance calls were blocked by the trueCall devices in the two boroughs, installed in the year August 2022 to August 2023, saving residents a total of £1,824,971.

For further information or to apply for a free call blocker please contact Trading Standards or call the Citizens Advice Consumer Service.

**Email:** [trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk) **Telephone:** 0808 223 1133.

### **Living Longer Better Funding Support From Active Surrey**

Active Surrey has commissioned Funding 4 Sport to help organisations in Surrey to submit funding applications for physical activity projects (up to the value of £20k) to help get older people moving more.

This will enable organisations supporting older people including voluntary and community organisations, community interest companies (CIC's) and statutory bodies to have a professionally written bid at absolutely no cost to themselves.

For further information please book a free 30 minute slot at their funding clinic for an initial discussion with Richard Sutcliff, Funding specialist from Funding 4 Sport by emailing [info@fundingforsport.org.uk](mailto:info@fundingforsport.org.uk). Organisations would then have until 31 January 2024 to complete this [form](#) to register their interest to access the free bid writing support.

### **Warmth Matters Helpline And Advice Sessions With Surrey Community Action**

Surrey Community Action's [Warmth Matters project](#) aims to tackle fuel poverty across Surrey by providing energy advice and assistance, from helping families struggling with energy bills payments to empowering individuals to take action, such as switching supplier, signing up for new grants and schemes, and providing homeowners with the knowledge and advice they need to make their homes more energy-efficient.

They have recently launched a new helpline (07442 482284) for people who need help with their energy bills, open every Monday between 10:00am-2:00pm.

Their Warmth Matters team will also be visiting [warm welcome venues](#) to provide energy advice sessions.

### **Latest Training Available From Headway Surrey In-service training**

In-service training is available for those working with residents with a brain injury and is suitable for health and social care professionals, lawyers, case managers, schools and sports clubs.

Headway Surrey will explain the range of services they provide, how to refer and how to seek support. Presentations can be arranged online or in person and can be tailored to suit the needs of your team. To book in service training please contact the Headway link worker team on [link@headwaysurrey.org](mailto:link@headwaysurrey.org)

## **Understanding Brain Injury**

Starting on the 15 January, this six-week course is for adults with an acquired brain injury (ABI), including traumatic brain injury, and costs £80, however, there are concessions available. It offers the opportunity to learn more about the brain, the consequences and impairments associated with brain injury, e.g., memory, concentration, and emotional and behavioural difficulties. As well as practical advice, there is plenty of time to discuss issues, ask questions and share experiences.

There are six sessions run in a friendly and relaxed group format with our qualified Rehabilitation Coordinators, who specialise in brain injury. Sessions last 60 to 90 minutes and include one hour topic content with 30 minutes at the end for discussion and questions. For further information or to book please contact: [referrals@headwaysurrey.org](mailto:referrals@headwaysurrey.org)

## **Free Professional Lunch and Learn**

This month's Lunch and Learn session on Monday 18 December will consider the far-reaching impact of an ABI on a person's ability to communicate with the people around them.

Delivered by Jo Jones Baxter, the free 30-minute session, aims to raise awareness of the many challenges faced by those with an ABI when they have difficulty understanding verbal and non-verbal communication after injury. Find out how cognitive rehabilitation support helps clients to gain greater understanding of their injury, develop an awareness of their difficulties and introduce strategies to enable better understanding of others.

For more information or to book a space, please visit [Eventbrite](#).

## **Hospital Hoppa launches in Cranleigh**

[Hospital Hoppa](#) will now provide hospital transport for the residents in Cranleigh unable to get to the hospital or health appointments via other means of transport. The buses are accessible to people in wheelchairs and people with pushchairs.

The bus will pick you up from your home or care home at an agreed time and drop you off at your appointment. If needed, they can take you home from your appointment and will always see you safely inside. You can book your transport as soon as you receive your appointment. You must be registered to access this service. For further information or to register, please contact [Hoppa](#). **Telephone:** 01428 681701

## **Bereavement Support programme starting in Ashted**

The Brigitte Trust is running a free structured eight-week bereavement programme in Ashted starting on the 10 January 10am – 12noon. It will be run by a professional facilitator for anyone in Surrey struggling with their own grief and bereavement.

The aims of the programme are to:

- provide support with focus
- encourage mutual support

- share experiences
- learn new coping strategies
- develop some altered thought patterns.

**For further information or to book your space please contact Sarah**

**Pattenden: Telephone and SMS (Text): 07469 932192**

**Email: [sarah.pattenden@brigitte-trust.com](mailto:sarah.pattenden@brigitte-trust.com)**

### **Latest groups and courses from Mary Frances Trust**

Mary Frances Trust (MFT) runs a range of groups and courses to support adults across Surrey. Their newest courses include:

- Online Let's Talk Budgeting
- Let's Talk Mindfulness and Self-Compassion, Epsom
- Bereavement Support Group, Walton
- Online Let's Talk Stigma Around Addiction - eight weeks from 16 January 2024.

For a full list of all their courses and groups please check out their [calendar](#) which is now more accessible and offers the option of a talking calendar.

To attend, people will firstly need to [register with MFT](#) on their website. Click on the "Register with us" tab at the top and then book their place by contacting MFT:

**Telephone:** 01372 375 400 **Text:** 07929 024722 **Email:**

[info@maryfrancestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@maryfrancestrust.org.uk)

### **What's on with Catalyst in January**

Catalyst runs a range of activities and support groups, such as Football for Wellbeing, Anxiety support group, and Gym and Swim sessions.

For further information, please visit [Catalyst](#) or contact them via: **Telephone:**

01276 409415 **SMS (Text):** 07919 541 424 **Email:**

[groups.cc@catalystsupport.org.uk](mailto:groups.cc@catalystsupport.org.uk)