SENDPO CONFERENCE – DEC 2012

Surrey Coalition, together with Surrey Disabled People’s Partnership were founder members of SENDPO (South East Network of Disabled People’s Organisations) which began in October 2011. Surrey Coalition manages the resources for the Network, as core funding has kindly been provided by Surrey County Council. Pictured here are delegates at the first SENDPO conference held on 6th December 2012, which was attended by DPO’s from all over the Region and several local Authority representatives including Surrey’s Assistant Director, Commissioning for Adult Social Care, Anne Butler, who opened the Conference on behalf of Sarah Mitchell.

After receiving presentations from national leaders on the added value of DPO’s, and innovative services provided by DPO’s, we had 2 workshops to discuss how to improve commissioning of user led organisations and to suggest priorities for SENDPO for the coming year. Our first Annual Report will be published shortly.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In memory of Pauline Chapman P 2
Opportunities to have your say P 3 – 5
What members have been doing P 6 – 9
News in Brief P 10
Special Interest Groups P 11
Information for You P 12
New ‘Community Connections’ services P 13
Update on the Surrey Hubs P 14
Update on NHS Services P 15 - 16
National News P 17 - 18
IN MEMORY OF PAULINE CHAPMAN

We were deeply shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Pauline Chapman in the Royal Surrey hospital on 29th December, where she had been admitted on Christmas Day with a serious infection.

Pauline had been active in the disability movement in Surrey for nearly 25 years, having been a founder member of North West Surrey Association of Disabled People (now Surrey Disabled People’s Partnership) and an active board member and treasurer of Surrey Users Network (which became Surrey Coalition of Disabled People in 2007).

Sadly since that time Pauline’s continual poor health prevented her from making a regular contribution to our work but in the past she had been a powerful influence in achieving better services for disabled people in Surrey. She worked, for example back in the late 90’s, with Social Services and Community Health to develop Halleys Approach in Woking and then the rehabilitation service in the Bradley Unit.

It was only last autumn that Pauline felt well enough to become re-involved – joining in the consultation on the Independent Living Fund and on the User Group for neurological conditions, and we had hoped she would be well enough to continue her involvement activities. Very sadly, this was not to be the case, and she died just when planning her 60th birthday year celebrations.

Pauline was a great influence on many people’s lives and we will miss her terribly.

ARE YOU NOW ON EMAIL?

Please let us know if you now have an email address and we will put you on our list to receive information by email in between the bi-monthly Issues of Coalition News.

Just email info@surreycoalition.org.uk giving your full name and we will add you on.
OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY
ON THE ACCESSIBILITY OF GUILDFORD COUNCIL’S SERVICES

Guildford Access Group (chaired by Coalition Board member and Access Auditor, Jenny Teagle) is holding a Workshop to seek the views of people with physical mobility impairments on access to Guildford’s services and venues. They want to identify the problems and propose improvements. The workshop is being held on:

Wednesday 13th March 2013 from 10am to 12noon at Park Barn Centre

Please go along & join a Focus Group to discuss your ideas with Council officers. For more information, to book your place and to request assistance with transport if needed, please contact Sophie Butcher, Tel 01483 444056, or email sophie.butcher@guildford.gov.uk

JOIN YOUR LOCAL EMPOWERMENT BOARD

The next meetings will be held during March. Contact Yasmin if you want to attend one of the following meetings, and to find out more.

Telephone 01483 517294, email yasmin.broome@surreycc.gov.uk or Text 07812 104490

North Surrey – Tuesday 12th March
2 – 4pm at Hythe Community Centre, Egham

East Surrey – Monday 18th March
1.30 – 4pm at the Orpheus Centre, Godstone

North West – Wednesday 6th March
2 – 4pm at Woking Borough Council Offices

Mid Surrey – Monday 11th March
1.30 – 4pm at Park House, Leatherhead

South West – Wednesday 13th March
10.30 – 12.30pm at Godalming Baptist Church
OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH
STAKEHOLDER FORUMS

People who use mental health services, carers and professionals in the health service and voluntary sector, are welcome to join their local Stakeholder Forum, to exchange views and local information and hear about new initiatives being taken forward by the Community Mental Health Recovery Service, and about the new Community Connections Services. Please just come along on the day. The dates are as follows:-

Redhill & Reigate CMHRS 5th February 11am – Shaws Corner, Blackborough Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7DG
Epsom CMHRS 11th February 1pm – Brickfield Centre, The Parade, Epsom KT18 5BX
Spelthorne CMHRS 13th February 2pm – Portacabin, Burgess Way, Knowle Green, Staines TW18 1YA
Guildford CMHRS 18th February 12pm – Group Room, Farnham Road Hospital, Guildford GU27 LX
Elmbridge CMHRS 20th February 1pm - Joseph Palmer Centre, 319 Walton Road, West Molesey, Surrey KT8 2QG
Tandridge CMHRS 27th February 12pm – Langley House, Church Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9LH
Runnymede CMHRS 7th March 12.30pm – Runnymede Centre, Chertsey Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2EP
Surrey Heath CMHRS 27th March 1.30pm – Ridgewood Centre, Old Bisley Road, Frimley, Surrey GU16 9QE
Mole Valley CMHRS 12th March 12.30pm – Clarendon House, 28 West Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1QU
Waverley CMHRS 21st March 10.30am – Berkley House, 11-13 Ockford Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1QU
Woking CMHRS 20th March 2pm – Christ Church, Jubilee Square, Woking Surrey GU21 6YG
Conifers CMHRS 26th February 12.30pm – Conifers, Sorrell Close, Farnborough GU14 9XW
Hollies CMHRS 22nd March 1pm – The Hollies, Aldershot Centre for Health, Hospital Hill, Aldershot GU11
OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY

HELPING SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL TO RECRUIT MORE DISABLED PEOPLE

We have started a piece of work with the County Council’s Recruitment Officer, to help improve their processes and procedures to attract, recruit and retain more disabled employees. If you have any suggestions to make, please let us know. Contact Carol Pearson, using the contact info on the front page.

GIVE US YOUR VIEWS ON HOME CARE SERVICES

We continue to monitor the quality of home care services in Surrey, and meet with Council commissioning and performance monitoring staff and representatives of Surrey Care Association on a quarterly basis. Please let us have your views – good and bad, about the quality of the home care service you receive. Contact us in the Coalition Office.

JOIN A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Let us know if you would like to join one of our Special Interest groups, which are meeting again soon. These include:

- User group for people with Neurological Conditions – 25th February
- Surrey Hard of Hearing Forum – 7th March
- Surrey Deaf Forum (for BSL users) – 20th March
- Surrey Vision Action Group – 21st March
- Surrey LINK Mental Health Group – 27th March

Transport can be provided for all these meetings, so please come along, or let us know if you just want to be kept informed. Contact Carol Pearson, tel 01483 456558, text 07780 933053 or email carol.pearson@surreycoalition.org.uk

HAVE YOUR SAY ON “THE FUTURE OF HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE IN SURREY”

Elmbridge Seniors invite you to a ‘Question Time’ event on Wednesday 27th February 2013 at 8pm at Holy Trinity Church, Claygate. Speakers include North West Surrey CCG Chair, SCC Adult Social Care Cabinet Member and Ashford & St Peters Hospital Director of Nursing. To book your place, use the ‘contact us’ form on their website elmbridge50plus.org.uk or contact us in the Coalition Office.
One of the 14 recommendations of the Mental Health Public Value Review was to challenge stigma in mental health. Coalition member, Ted Pottage, represents us and the Surrey LINK Mental Health Group on the Project team.

One in four of us will experience a mental health problem in any given year and we may find ourselves being treated differently because of the attitudes and behaviours of others.

Time to Change is the biggest anti-stigma campaign in England, led by the charities Mind and Rethink Mental Illness. The campaign has been tackling the stigma and discrimination surrounding mental ill health since 2008.

In 2012 an alliance of Surrey-based individuals and organisations joined forces to form “Time to Change – Surrey”. The alliance is co-ordinated by Surrey County Council who recently became one of the first Council’s in England to sign the Time to Change pledge, demonstrating a commitment to challenge stigma and discrimination. Visit the Time to Change website to make your own pledge http://www.time-to-change.org.uk. The pledge signing ceremony took place on 21st January (pictured here).

As well as promoting the messages of Time to Change across the county, Time to Change – Surrey will launch a pilot project in the wards of Merstham and Redhill. Creative events, a mental health ambassador scheme and awareness training for local groups and organisations will all form part of this exciting project.

For more information, enter ‘Time to Change – Surrey’ into your Google search engine and click on the Surrey County Council page, or contact us in the Surrey Coalition Office.
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

EMPOWERMENT CHAIRS FORUM

The Chairs and Vice Chairs of the 5 Surrey Empowerment Boards had an extended meeting in mid-December, in order to give their views to 3 Surrey University students undertaking research on the views of disabled people about the Welfare Reforms.

The findings from the research will be sent to us in a few months’ time.

The Chairs also gave their views on priorities for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Surrey for 2013/14, as have many other Coalition members who attended the Stakeholder events held across Surrey between November and January.

GIVING VIEWS TO SURREY’S NEW POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

A few of our members attended the three Engagement events held by Keith Hurley the new Police & Crime Commissioner, elected on 15th November 2012. He is keen to seek people’s views and we have already sent him the priorities identified by members at the Coalition AGM last November. We will contact him soon for a progress report.

SURREY LINK MENTAL HEALTH GROUP

The Group met last on 30th January 2013 and reviewed their Work Plan for 2012/13, including progress achieved in setting up engagement events on community mental health in every Borough & District, which will take place during February & March. (see page 4 for details). Members of the Group (who are also Surrey Coalition members) have taken roles as lead representatives in each area.

The Group is now also actively involved in Projects being set up to implement the 14 Mental Health PVR recommendations including an Anti-Stigma Project and a new Project to improve social care outcomes in mental health.
WHAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING

IMPROVING THE PATIENT TRANSPORT SERVICE

Our PTS Patient Group met recently with senior representatives of NHS Surrey, SECAmb are SCC’s Central Booking Service to design the process for assessing people’s eligibility for patient transport. This should address the problems some people have faced when refused transport even though they met the criteria. There are also plans to have just one number (phone + SMS) to contact and when this has been sorted out, we will help produce an information leaflet to make the whole Patient Transport Service clearer for patients, GP’s and hospitals.

SECAmb has made more progress in training staff transferred from the previous provider and the rest of a new fleet of ambulances will be in operation shortly.

We hope the service is improving, but do let us know about your experiences both with the booking process and transport on the day. Contact us in the Coalition Office.

GIVING VIEWS AT EMPOWERMENT BOARD MEETINGS

The Empowerment Boards met in January, and 3 of them were run as joint meetings with the User Led Organisations Project board – to engage with disabled people, carers and local organisations about plans for future Citizens Hubs in their areas (see page14 for more details)

In addition, members discussed a wide range of issues including :-

- Proposed changes to the Fire and Rescue Services in Reigate & Banstead and Epsom & Ewell
- Priorities for Health & Wellbeing in Surrey
- Pathways to Independence
- Telecare
- Updates from local Access Groups

Please join your local Empowerment Board – see page 3 for details.
Coalition members have participated on the Evaluation Panels of several bids and tenders for new services over recent months. These were:

- **Direct Payments Advice and Support Service**
  Evaluation of the tenders for the contract currently provided by SILC (Surrey Independent Living Council) were assessed in December, and the recommendation is going to SCC Cabinet for approval soon.

- **Community Connections Services in Mental Health**
  6 members participated in the evaluation of bias from voluntary providers for 11 different Community Connections grants – one for each of the 11 Boroughs & Districts in Surrey. The bids were submitted by lead Providers and most involve partnerships with a number of other groups in the local area. Decisions on lead providers to receive these grants have just been announced and are given on page 13

- **NHS Complaints Advocacy Service**
  We were represented by Coalition Board member Nick Markwick on the Panel which received presentations from potential suppliers. The contract was tendered by Surrey CC in conjunction with several other Local Authorities in the South East on a one-year plus one option contract, and we hope that the future service will be tendered on a local Surrey basis. The decision on this contract has yet to be announced.

- **Benefits Advice and Support Service**
  We were also represented in the evaluation process for the 3 year grant of £500,00 pa being offered by the County Council to voluntary sector organisations to provide benefits advice and support for people through the Welfare Reforms. We are waiting for approval by the Adult Social Care Leadership Team to the provider recommended by the Evaluation Panel. This is due to be announced by the end of February.

- **HealthWatch Surrey**
  The County Council decided to tender for the provision of HealthWatch Surrey, having rejected a proposal from Surrey LINK to provide the service. Patients and service users were represented in the evaluation process by a Surrey Coalition Board member and two Surrey LINK members, and the evaluation was undertaken on 4th February. The decision is awaited with great interest, and we hope that Surrey Coalition will play an important role within HealthWatch from April 2013, as we have done with Surrey LINK.
**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**WORD SEARCH WINNER**
The winner of our Christmas word search included in the December Issue of Coalition News was Amy Barnes. Amy’s completed and correct entry was picked out of a hat containing 22 entries received. Amy won a £10 voucher – congratulations.

**BEING WELL YOGA**
Restorative yoga or one to one yoga to address specific emotional or physical issues, are available in The Studio in Godalming or in the comfort of your own home. One to one sessions cost £20 for 30 minutes or £35 for an hour. Contact Sarah Scott on 07812 154148 or email sarah@beingwellyoga.co.uk or see website: www.beingwellyoga.co.uk

**OLD DEAN JOB CLUB**
Supported by Surrey County Council and Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership, the Job Club has been recommenced on the Old Dean Estate in Camberley. Free professional help to find a job and free refreshments.

Tuesdays, 9.15 to 11.45 at Lorraine Infant School.

**DEVELOPING DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES IN SURREY**
Work is well underway, led by the CCG’s and Surrey County Council, on plans to develop Dementia Friendly Communities in Surrey, using research which shows best practice includes:

- Multi agency training for people working in the community
- Kite marking schemes
- Community awareness
- Innovation, and
- Identifying dementia champions

Funding for the project will come from successful bids by the CCG’s for a total of £842,000 from NHS South England.

The commissioning team will keep us updated on progress.
Since the last Issue of Coalition News, the Special Interest Groups we support have met, to progress implementation of commissioning strategies and to initiate action of their own. Briefly, these were:

### SURREY HARD OF HEARING FORUM

Met on 28th November 2012 and set up 4 Project Groups to progress work on issues of greatest priority to them from the Sensory Impairment Commissioning Strategy. These are:

- Lip-reading classes
- Communication for people with hearing loss
- The hearing loss pathway, and
- Equipment and telecare

Each project team includes Forum members and Adult Social Care officers.

### SURREY DEAF FORUM

Met on 5th December 2012 and discussed advocacy services for sign language users and their need for improved technology for communicating with public services. The Forum now has a new Chairman Martin Redshaw, with whom we are working to assist the Deaf Community to become more proactive in monitoring implementation of Surrey’s Commissioning Strategy completed in 2011.

### SURREY VISION ACTION GROUP

Met on 17th January 2013 and agreed a number of new projects to take forward, including:

- A pilot scheme with SCC’s Transport department to test the provision of audible information at bus stops and buses on one bus route in Woking.
- A scheme to improve IT and braille training across Surrey, starting with a survey of visually impaired people.
- A campaign with Guide Dogs UK and Surrey’s Transport Department to improve disability awareness for bus drivers.
### INFORMATION FOR YOU

#### LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD – WINTER 2013 BULLETIN

Enclosed with this Issue of Coalition News is a copy of the latest Bulletin – for members interested in things affecting people with learning difficulties.

#### YOUR COLD WEATHER GUIDE TO SERVICES

A booklet has been produced by Action in Surrey and Surrey Healthy Homes, to help people prepare for bad weather or emergencies during the winter. The booklet updates the information in the previous Cold Weather Guide issued in February last year.

For a copy (in standard print, large print, braille or audio) contact Action Surrey. Tel: 0800 7832503 Email: info@actionsurrey.org, or contact us in the Coalition Office.

#### WORRIED ABOUT YOUR MEMORY?

A short but very helpful leaflet is now available from Alzheimer’s Society. Contact us in the Coalition Office if you would like a copy of call Alzheimer’s Society National Dementia Helpline on 0845 3000365.

#### LETTERS TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE CLIENTS

Since the restructuring of Adult Social Care staff to Locality Teams, it has long been their intention to inform clients of their named Social Care Practitioner and how to contact them. Delays have occurred in sending the ‘postcards’ which Action for Carers and ourselves were involved in designing a year or more ago, due to ongoing recruitment problems in some teams.

However we are assured that this started before Christmas, and that all existing clients, and their carers should soon receive letters from their Locality Social Care Team notifying them of the Team’s contact details, and explaining that once a Key Worker has been allocated to them, they will be sent a postcard with the key workers name and contact details.

We would welcome your feedback on whether or not you have received a letter and or postcard. Please let Carol Pearson know (see Coalition contact details on front page)
NEW SERVICES

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:
Support in the community for adults with mental health problems in Surrey

Surrey County Council, NHS Surrey and the Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups have agreed a joint investment of £1.7million each year for three years in local preventative services, keeping people well in their communities. This includes an additional investment by Surrey County Council of £570,000 per year as a result of the recent Public Value Review of Mental Health Services.

The new ‘community connections’ services have been commissioned following a formal bidding process and several members of Surrey Coalition and the Surrey LINK Mental Health Group participated in the evaluation of the bids. The service will be operational across all local areas starting in April 2013. The new service providers will be working closely with people who use existing services, providers and commissioners to ensure a smooth transition to any new arrangements.

The successful voluntary sector providers are as follows:

- Spelthorne: Richmond Fellowship
- Runnymede: Richmond Fellowship
- Elmbridge: WWAG
- Woking: Woking Mental Health Partnership (Cornerhouse)
- Surrey Heath: The Welcome Project- Surrey Heath (led by SAdAS)
- Guildford: The Welcome Project- Guildford (led by SAdAS)
- Waverley: The Welcome Project- Waverley (led by SAdAS)
- Epsom and Ewell: Mary Frances Trust
- Mole Valley: Mary Frances Trust
- Reigate and Banstead: Richmond Fellowship
- Tandridge: Richmond Fellowship

Please attend your local Community Mental Health Stakeholder Forum to find out more. (see page 4)
UPDATE OF SURREY’S HUBS

NEW HUBS

Work is continuing by partners on the User Led Organisations Project Board to open 5 new Hubs within the next few months. Adverts have been placed to recruit a Volunteer Development Worker for each Hub (full time posts at standalone Hubs such as Godalming and part time at Hubs shared with other organisations, such as Addlestone, Camberley, Walton and Dorking) People who have shown interest in being Hub Volunteers will be invited to further meetings and for training, nearer to the dates when the Hubs will open.

NEW HUB ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Events to tell people about the new Hubs and to recruit volunteers, have been held in conjunction with the Empowerment Boards as follows :-

With South West Surrey Board on 14th November, for the Godalming Hub. (as reported in the December Issue of Coalition News)

With North Surrey Board on 15th January, for the Addlestone Hub. 30 people attended the meeting including representatives of local voluntary organisations as well as many disabled people and carers. The lease for the Hub at, Addlestone, has been taken by Cornerhouse, Runnymede with whom we will share the shop.

With North West Surrey Board on 23rd January, for the Camberley Hub. This Hub will be in the Ian Goodchild Centre, close to Disability Initiative, and will be shared with services for people with learning disability and carers support.

With Mid Surrey Board on 29th January, for the Dorking Hub. This meeting was attended by about 25 people, many of whom have signed up to be volunteers. The Hub will be located in the Mayflower Centre. Just off Dorking High Street, and will be shared with a number of voluntary organisations including the Volunteer Bureau, Age UK and Carers Support.

Walton Hub - A meeting is being arranged in the Walton area for early March to invite disabled people, carers and local voluntary organisations to get involved. We hope in particular, to work closely with WWAG to run this Hub in the former Walton Library, which should be open for occupation in early April.
UPDATES ON NHS CHANGES

CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP (CCG’S)
As you will know, NHS Surrey will cease to exist on 31st March 2013, and most of the commissioning of health services for Surrey residents will be undertaken from 1st April by the 6 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG’s). these are:

**North West Surrey CCG** - covering Woking, Runnymede, Spelthorne and West Elmbridge

**Surrey Heath CCG** – covering Surrey Heath

**NE Hampshire & Farnham CCG** – covering the Farnham part of Surrey

**Guildford & Waverley CCG** – covering Guildford and Waverley

**Surrey Downs CCG** – covering Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley and East Elmbridge

**East Surrey CCG** – covering East Surrey including Redhill/Reigate and Tandridge

Some CCG’s are already setting up Patient Forums or are having meetings with Stakeholders – keep an eye out for information locally and get involved if you can – to start to influence the commissioning of health services in your area.

BETTER SERVICES BETTER VALUE
This is the name of a major review being undertaken of services provided at hospitals in South London including Epsom hospital currently managed with St Helier. The review includes Clinicians and Clinical Commissioning Groups including Surrey Downs CCG as some 80% of hospital referrals of people living in this mid Surrey area are to Epsom or these South London hospitals. Clinical recommendations for the future provision of services have now been made, and the many options for configuring the delivery of these services at the different hospital sites are now being assessed against 6 criteria, which include clinical outcomes and safety, patient experience, workforce development, access to service, deliverability and transport and travel. Once the options have been assessed by an expert NHS panel and assessed financially, there will be public consultation on the options. This is likely to be early summer. Patient representatives, including Coalition Chair Cliff Bush are members of the Programme Board.
SURREY COMMUNITY HEALTH BECOMES “VIRGIN CARE”

- On 10th December 2012, what was previously called Surrey Community Health – changed their name to Virgin Care. They will continue to provide the same NHS Community services – primarily providing community nursing and community hospitals in West Surrey, but also some specialist services such as community child health, across the whole of Surrey.
- For more detail on the services they provide, go to www.virgincare.co.uk.
- Also, just a reminder that community nursing and community hospital services are provided in mid Surrey by Central Surrey Health, and in East Surrey by First Community Health and Care.

TRAINING FOR YOU

BUILD YOUR CONFIDENCE TO SPEAK UP AT MEETINGS AND EVENTS

We are running another “Empowerment and confidence building” training day for our members – particularly for new members and those who have not attended this training before. The training day is being held

on Wednesday 27th March 2013
from 10.30am to 3.30pm
here at Astolat

The course can be tailored to meet individual participants needs, so please contact Alison White to discuss and book your place. Tel: 01483 456558, text 07780933053 or email: alison.white@surreycoalition.org.uk

Please do take up this offer of training as we really need more members to become actively involved.

Fill in the booking form enclosed and send it back to the Coalition office - Free Post.
As reported last year we sent a Response to consultation by the Department for Transport on automatic eligibility for a Blue Badge when DLA (Disability Living Allowance) is replaced by Personal Independent Payments (PIP) from 8th April 2013. PIP will be phased in, so that:

- From June 2013 PIP will be introduced in Surrey as well as all other local authorities for new claimants.
- From October 2013 any existing DLA recipient who reports a change to their DLA entitlement will be asked to claim PIP instead of DLA.
- From 2015 all other existing DLA claimants will be contacted by the DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) and asked to apply for PIP and no longer claim DLA.

The Government published their response to the public consultation on 25th January and have decided that automatic eligibility for a Blue Badge will only be given to those who qualify for PIP by scoring 8 points or more under the “moving around” criteria i.e: only for those with a significant mobility problem. The consultation had discussed whether an automatic entitlement should also be given to those who find it difficult to “plan and carry out a journey” which would include people who are partially sighted or have autism. We supported this suggestion in our response, but very disappointingly, this was rejected by Government.

The result however is that eligibility for a Blue Badge remains similar to the existing automatic eligibility criteria, and people can still apply for a Blue Badge even if they do not meet the automatic criteria under PIP. As now, people will have to provide additional information and/or evidence about their mobility problems to the County Council’s Blue Badge Team if applying under the discretionary criteria. Also the DLA/PIP changes do not affect people’s entitlement to a Blue Badge under other existing automatic eligibility criteria. These include:

- People who are registered severely sight impaired/blind
- People receiving war pensioners mobility supplement

The County Council will be updating their information on applying for a Blue Badge, on their website www.surreycc.gov.uk/bluebadges. To see the Governments consultation responses on PIP and eligibility for a Blue Badge use this link https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/blue-badge-scheme.
CHANGE TO PIP REGULATIONS ACHIEVED BY DISABILITY RIGHTS UK

We are pleased to hear of the success achieved by Disability Rights UK in influencing Iain Duncan Smith to agree to make a change to the PIP Regulations – “to make clear that consideration must be given to whether individuals can complete the assessment activities ‘safety, to an acceptable standard, repeatedly and in a reasonable time period’. This change should make a difference to large numbers of people: for instance to those with fluctuating conditions.”

For further information visit:
http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/pipvictory.htm

FULFILLING POTENTIAL – DISABILITY STRATEGY

Members will recall that we participated in Government consultation on “Fulfilling Potential” a year ago when we held a workshop in January 2012. The Government’s Office for Disability Issues published the Responses received and a “Next Steps” report in October 2012, and proposed the creation of a Disability Action Alliance to implement improvements on priority issues. We expressed an interest in being involved in the Alliance, and Carol Pearson was recently invited to join the Alliance Steering Group which met on 1st February.

10 priority areas for action have been identified under the original 3 themes of ‘Fulfilling Potential’ which were:

- Supporting and encouraging early intervention
- Enabling Choice and Control, and
- Changing attitudes and behaviours

Form these the Steering Group agreed 5 projects to be taken forward immediately through Task and Finish Groups, in which Surrey Coalition will have the opportunity to participate, if we wish. We will keep you updated on progress when the project briefs have been firmed up.
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If you are new to Direct Payments, we would be happy to talk to you about any concerns that you might have about employing your own staff or if you have been receiving direct payments for some time but would like to use an efficient and value for money payroll service, please call us on 020 8977 3559 where an experienced member of our team will be able to answer your questions and discuss how we can help you.

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✓ Competitive
✓ Service tailored to your needs and timescales

Surrey Coalition does not endorse any product or service advertised.
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SURREY COALITION’S AGM 2013

This will be held on Thursday 7th November from 10.30 to 3.30 at Leatherhead Leisure Centre

Put the date in your diary.

Further information nearer the time

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH ENGAGEMENT FORUMS

Organised by each Borough based Community Mental Health Recovery Service together with representatives of the Surrey LINK Mental Health Group, meetings are being held across Surrey during February and March for service users, carers and providers to get together to share views and hear about new services.

See page 4 for details of each of the 13 events.

“CONNECTING FOR A BETTER LIFE”

Surrey & Borders Partnership are holding 2 workshops as part of their 3 months of ‘conversations’ on how they could work together better with people and the wider community to help achieve a better life for everyone.

The Workshops are being held on :-

Monday 11th March & Wednesday 20th March
18.00 – 21.00 & 10.00 – 13.00
SABP HQ & HG WELLS
Leatherhead Woking

For info or to book your place phone Rhian on 01372 216602 or email rhian.hayes@sabp.nhs.uk