Minutes of our May 2017 Meeting

We met at:
Banstead URC, Woodmansterne Lane, Banstead, Surrey SM7 3EX.

1:00pm to 3:00pm

The Meeting was Chaired by Cath White.
What we talked about today

Minutes of our last meeting

Community Transport

Surrey County Council Update

Positive Behaviour Support Network Event

Updates from members
Who came to our meeting

Amanda Bird  
Cath White  
Chris Simms  
Debbie  
Fiona Brandford  
Gaynor Gibbins  
Jay Palmer  
John Spedding  
Maria Gainsford  
Mary Hendrick  
Michael Perks  
Sarah Linnington  

Tandridge District Council  
Chair/Royal Association for the Deaf  
Elmbridge Borough Council  
Service User  
Sensory Services  
Family Carer  
Surrey County Council  
Mencap  
Surrey and Borders Partnership  
Surrey County Council  
Family Carer  
Surrey County Council  

Apologies received from:

Alix Lewer  
Anne Shiels  
Ann Collins  
Barry Roberts  
Jen Fookes  
Keith Spicer  
Peter Chang  
Penny Davis  
Sean Jenkins  
Stephanie Smith  
Stuart Sharkey  
Tom Moore  
Yasmin Broome  

The Include Choir  
Surrey Choices  
Service User  
Service User  
Family Carer  
Service User  
Service User  
Service User  
Surrey Choices  
Surrey and Borders Partnership  
Service User  
Surrey County Council  
Surrey Coalition
The Minutes from the last meeting on 8 March 2017 were agreed as being correct.

**Matters Arising**

Sarah Linnington updated the group about what is happening with regards to self-advocacy. Sarah said that a meeting to talk about self-advocacy in Surrey and what could happen in the future is being planned and she will send through details as soon as it has been confirmed.

Michael Perks said that he still felt that there are still issues at Bentley and that feeling is held by other family carers too. For example the toilet facilities are not up to standard. However Michael said that front line staff are very good. Michael said that his son has started going to Cobham Link and is really enjoying it.

It was agreed to invite Surrey Choices to provide an update at the next meeting.
Amanda Bird introduced herself as a Project Officer from Tandridge District Council. Amanda said that she is looking at community transport across the district. Whilst Tandridge District Council doesn’t provide transport directly, it does provide funding.

Recently Tandridge District Council issued a new tender for a new dial-a-ride service, as they wanted to ensure that there was a dial-a-ride service that covers the whole of the district, as the existing scheme only covered the north.

East Surrey Dial-a-Ride still operates but they no longer receive funding from Tandridge District Council.

**East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership**

East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership has been awarded funding from Tandridge District Council to provide dial-a-ride services from 3 April 2017. The new service will be offered across the district and will include transport around the district, to the Douglas Brunton Centre and the opportunity for residents to book days out. Details are as follows:
Tandridge Dial-a-Ride

A members-only dial-a-ride service for anyone living in Tandridge District, north of the Redhill-Tonbridge railway line to destinations within the district that are also to the north of the railway line.

**Mondays to Fridays**
09:15 to 17:00 (excluding public holidays)

**Saturdays**
09:00 to 16:45 (excluding public holidays)

Douglas Brunton Centre Transport

A members-only bookable service to the Douglas Brunton centre in Caterham from anywhere in the Tandridge District:

**Mondays to Fridays**
09:15 to 17:00
(excluding public holidays)
Further information about both services:

**Membership Fee**
An annual membership fee of £25 covers both services. You pay the membership fee and then the fee below every time you use the service.

**Single Fares:**
- Up to 2 miles: £2.50
- 2 to 5 miles: £3.00
- Over 5 miles: £3.50

**Journeys:**
All journeys will carry passengers from door to door, subject to the ability of the buses to reach their homes.

**Booking:**
The booking office is open from 08:30 to 17:30 on Mondays to Fridays. Passengers may book up to 14 days in advance:

**To join:**
Please call 01883 732791 or SMS Text 07885 130005 to request registration & Gift Aid forms or download them both from the website: www.eastsurreyrtp.org.uk
Taxi Voucher Schemes

Taxi Vouchers are available in some areas of Surrey. The vouchers are aimed at people who find it difficult to access existing transport services e.g. Dial-a-Ride, local buses, trains etc due to factors such as rural isolation and mobility problems.

The first scheme (in Tandridge) was set up in 1996 and was the first of its kind in the country.

The taxi voucher schemes are available to users on a 24/7 basis. Members of the scheme receive £154 vouchers per year. The vouchers can be used to pay or part pay for a taxi journey using a list of operators who have agreed to take part in the scheme.

The schemes in Surrey are co-ordinated by Surrey County Council.

Further information for Tandridge:
Please telephone 01737 737 495 or email contactcentre.adults@surreycc.gov.uk
Presentation from Amanda Bird

**Information Service**

Tandridge District Council have recently conducted a survey. Amanda said that they have had a high response rate and they are currently analysing the responses.

The ultimate aim is to create a ‘one stop shop’ phone service, so people can phone and be advised of the best transport options. Cath White asked what about accessibility for deaf people. Amanda said she would look into this and let us know.

The information will also be available on the website.

**Discussion**

John Spedding said that the lack of transport in the evening makes it difficult for service users to attend social activities.

Amanda said if anyone would like to contact her directly, her email address is:

**ABird@tandridge.gov.uk**
Update from Mary Hendrick

**Election**

Mary Hendrick said that Surrey County Council is still in Purdah. Purdah is the pre-election period, specifically the time between the announcement of an election and the final election results.

Sarah Linington said she had previously circulated some Easy Read information about the General Election.

Michael Perks said that it was once suggested that his son’s name should be taken off the electoral register.

**Senior Management**

Jo Poynter has now left Surrey County Council. Brian Mayers, Area Director, Guildford and Waverley is at the moment the operational lead for learning disability. George Kouridis is acting as the Area Director for East Surrey. However this post is currently being advertised.
GP’s

Mary said she is currently doing some work with GP surgeries.

Sustainable and Transformation Plans

Mary said that she would provide an update at a future meeting.

Tender

There is currently a tender for Home Based Care.

Housing Related Support

Mary said that it is possible Surrey Council will be doing a review of Housing Related Support after the election. If this does happen, Mary said she will update the group.

Charging Policy

John Spedding said that there is a lot of confusion around the Charging Policy. Mary said that there will be an update after the election.
Update from Sarah Linington

Positive Behaviour Support Festival

Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) is a framework to help understand a person’s behaviour, and then use that knowledge to improve the person’s quality of life and decrease behaviours that challenge.

The PBS Festival is a festival experience – beautiful natural venue, great food, new people, new experiences combined with expert academics and professionals to guide you through an opportunity to think about the big questions in PBS and social care.

The festival takes place on 14th September 2017. The venue is in Cobham and the day will run from 9.30am to 5pm.

There will be expert speakers and chances to talk to experts about a range of different topics. The venue will be informal and this help people to think differently and communicate freely.

Tickets are free and it’s a chance for people to learn about Positive Behaviour Support.

To register for tickets and to find out more go to the website.
Go to: http://thepbsfestival.co.uk/
Social Care Survey

John Spedding said that Mencap's Social Care Survey has been circulated and they are now analysing the results.

Funding

John said that Disability Challengers has lost funding from Surrey County Council but YMCA East Surrey will be able to offer an alternative for people.

John said that Bletchingley Skills Centre did not receive their grant.
Update from members

The Leatherhead Swans Club

The Tone Zone Fitness Suite is Leatherhead Leisure Centre’s fitness suite which has recently been refurbished. Gaynor Gibbins said that when members of the Leatherhead Swans Club visited recently they found that there was now no equipment to use for people with a disability.

**Update**
Gaynor has subsequently now found out a lot more about the exercise room and it appears that a lot of the apparatus can be adapted to suit disabilities. A few of the Swans Club members have found things to have a go on which was good. However Gaynor feels that it would have been helpful if the leisure centre could have explained about the adaptions earlier.
Update from members

Royal Association for the Deaf

Deaf Awareness Week

Cath White reminded everyone that it is Deaf Awareness Week during 15-21 May 2017.
Date and venue of our next meeting

South East Surrey Local Valuing People Group

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th July 2017 from 1pm to 3pm.

We are meeting at:
Holy Trinity Church,
Carlton Road, Redhill,
Surrey, RH1 2BX.

For more information about our group contact:

Cath White:
Phone: 0300 5610150.
Email: Cath.White@royaldeaf.org.uk

Sarah Linington:
Phone: 01483 518880 / 0781 6077122.
Email: sarah.lington@surreycc.gov.uk