

Annual Report 2022-2023



WHO WE ARE

Surrey Coalition of Disabled People is an innovative and dynamic user-led organisation. Our members work together to achieve our vision for Disabled people.

OUR VISION

Our vision is a world where difference is valued, and diversity is celebrated. A world where everyone has the same rights, freedoms, choices, and opportunities.

OUR MISSION

We enable and empower Disabled people and those living with a long-term health condition to be an active and central part of the community. We proactively work with health, social care and community partners to co-produce services, strategies and policy.

We campaign for choice and control to achieve our legal rights and entitlements. We identify and respond to gaps in support to meet the needs of Disabled people. We spotlight, celebrate and champion equity, diversity and inclusion.

OUR VALUES

- We work to the social model of disability
- We value, seek out and celebrate diversity
- We always constructively challenge inequality
- We are relentless, passionate and determined
- We are innovative and brave
- We are collaborative

WHAT WE DO

Our work is divided into 7 key areas of activity:

1. Co - Production activities, consultations, groups and forums and service monitoring

- We support the co-production of strategies and services that affect Disabled People with commissioners and service providers.
- We have place-based forums (such as the Disability Empowerment Network Surrey local groups)
- We coordinate Special Interest Groups across the county (including Surrey Vision Action Group, the Long Term Neurological Conditions Group, Surrey Hard of Hearing Forum and more) and a Young Adults Group.

2. Campaigning and influencing

- We influence across health, social care and other services and make sure we have a seat at all the strategic boards in Surrey, so the voices of our members are heard.
- We facilitate Access All Areas action days
- We challenge inequality locally, regionally and nationally as part of wider campaigns

3. Sharing information and resources

- We act as the link between services and the Disabled community, sharing information and resources.
- We have a weekly e-update and send out a quarterly newsletter in a variety of formats. The newsletters can also be accessed by landline telephone or using an Alexa device.

4. Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

- We coordinate the Independent Mental Health Network (IMHN) and the Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust FoCUS network.
- We are involved in Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing groups and projects across the county.

5. Technology and Innovation

- We run technology and innovation projects with and for our members.
- We coordinate the Tech Angel digital inclusion service across Surrey with partner organisations.
- We host a technology 'demonstration suite' in our office, for Disabled people and professionals.

6. We work collaboratively to coordinate projects to tackle key issues for the Disabled community, including those tackling loneliness and physical inactivity.

- We run a virtual social activity programme which includes cafes, craft group, book group, a music group and more.
- We work with Surrey Independent Living Council (SILC) and Active Surrey to offer the Get More Active project, giving 1:1 support group, Active Buddy volunteers and a range of resources, blogs and vlogs.

7. We work together to develop our organisation and to strengthen the work of other organisations and the wider health and care landscape

- We grow the impact of the organisation by constantly keeping an eye on what the needs of the Disabled community are and responding to them
- We seek sustainable sources of funding, to ensure our longevity
- We promote the organisation and the services on offer to the Disabled community across the county
- We encourage Disabled people to join as a member, to ensure they can shape and control the organisation
- We focus our outreach work on reaching the communities who are most often excluded, to ensure that those communities have their voices amplified, and to ensure that we are a representative organisation
- We work with others on projects that impact the Disabled community across Surrey, including being part of the leadership of various alliances and collaboratives.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership is free. You can join us as a member if you are 18 or over and consider yourself to be Disabled or are living with a long-term health condition. Unpaid/family Carers are welcome to join as Associate Members.

Members receive a weekly e-update, a quarterly newsletter (Coalition News) and invitations to be involved in all our co-production and engagement work, as well as our social activity programme and projects.

We believe in the social model of disability, which states that we are Disabled by barriers placed by society, rather than because of our impairments. By capitalising the D in Disabled people, we emphasise the exclusions placed on us and embrace our shared identity.

THE COALITION BOARD IN 2022/23

The Coalition Board of Directors work both collectively and individually to give strategic leadership to the organisation and to ensure good governance.

During the past year they have developed new areas of work and monitored the implementation of it, monitored the finances, represented the organisation and our members with the many public bodies in Surrey and beyond, and ensured delivery of business plan and commissioned work.

The board also continued work on developing a 5-year strategy for the organisation and worked on some changes to our governance to strengthen an application to become a registered charity. The members of the 2022-2023 Board of Directors are listed on page 14 on this Annual Report.



CHAIR AND VICE REPORT OF 2022/23

We have had another unprecedented year, with some very interesting developments.

On 1st December 2022 Nikki Roberts became our Chief Executive Office. I was delighted when our Board of Directors unanimously confirmed Nikki's permanent appointment in June 2023.

We'd like to thank Clare Burgess, our previous CEO for all of her hard work. We're pleased that Clare is still working in Surrey as the Chief Executive of Sensory Services by Sight of Surrey.

In January 2022, I was elected unanimously to be Chair of The Coalition by my fellow Directors.

Our hugely experienced previous co-chairs, Cliff Bush and Nick Markwick, along with Anna Satori as the Vice Chair, had laid strong foundations for The Coalition and I had a lot of learning to do!

There were many national issues related to the ongoing struggle to keep our rail services accessible, even going as far as knocking on the door of 10 Downing Street! (see photo above)

I assisted Surrey adult Social Care with co-designing for the "Living and Ageing Well" policy, initially known as "The Older Persons' Strategy.

In collaboration with Yasmin Broome, our Involvement Lead, we are assisting with a complete makeover of a much more accessible Directory of Services. My chief input with this huge project has been to test material for screen reader accessibility.

The Disabled community continue to experience a disproportionate impact from the pandemic and subsequently the Cost of Living Crisis. Our community, our staff team and many of our volunteers have responded magnificently to our mission of making life better in as many ways as possible. Government funding, via the Household Support Fund, to assist Surrey residents struggling with the rising energy and food costs was distributed to Disabled People in need via The Coalition. This work is continuing.

In the early part of the new financial year, we launched a new website and a new brand to make it easier for Disabled people to find information and support and to have their voices heard.

We have continued to deliver some face-to-face, in person activity, always being guided by members and how they felt about this as well as the public health advice.

We heard loud and clear that members wanted to be able to join from home if events were being held face-to-face (a 'hybrid' joining option) and we have made a commitment to enable this so that we do not leave any body unable to get involved - they can join the meeting from a digital device or just a standard telephone.

The staff team, the volunteer Directors including myself as Chairman have had to adjust to many changes, sadly some well respected Directors have stepped down and new names and faces are doing wonders to deal with the future.

During the autumn of 2023 The Coalition will be looking forward to increasing its financial security by applying for charity registration.

This AGM will also involve asking every Coalition member who is present in person at Leatherhead Sports Centre to approve an important change to our Articles of Association. The Articles of Association form a document that specifies the regulations for a company's operations and defines the company's purpose.

In order that The Coalition can raise additional finance beyond our present sources of income, our Articles of Association will need to change.

One of the significant changes to the Articles of Association is to include a time limit of how long all Directors can serve their Charity. The reason for this ruling is to make sure that fresh ideas and skills can be brought to our Board.

After more than 20 years enthusiastic service, Cliff Bush, and Anna Satori will be stepping away from our Board, Gemma Rouleston and I will also be stepping down after many years of service. New directors are being sought.

I ask for your approval to our reshaped Trustees and Board. Much hard work has gone into adjusting to these changes, my special thanks goes to all of our Board colleagues who will now find themselves in a very different but still positive and dynamic position.

I must thank of all of the staff, my fellow directors, Nikki, our CEO and Derek Williamson, our Treasurer for their commitment and kindness to us all.

The commissioners at County Hall especially in the Adult Social Care department and some serving Surrey County Councillors have also been very supportive.

I could not have done this job without any of them!

The future is bright and I will still be a Coalition member. I will always be proud to have been part of The Coalition.

Thank you all again,

Jonathan.

2022/23 ACTIVITIES REPORT

Our Board of Directors, Volunteers, Staff team and Coalition Members have had a busy year, working across the whole of the county.

We have included some of the highlights of work completed below.

Co - Production activities, consultations, groups and forums and service monitoring

Co-production

Physical Disability and sensory impairment strategy

Coalition members have been working with Sarah Ford, Senior Commissioning Manager for Surrey County Council on the Physical Disability and Sensory impairment strategy (PDSI). The strategy has now been published and is available on Surrey County Council website Adult Social Care Strategy for people with Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment (PDSI) 2022 to 2027 - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk) Coalition Members were part of a steering group to lead the strategy development.

A Disability Partnership Board has now been formed, with Coalition members and individuals from organisations across Surrey. All of the specialist interest groups are represented on this board.

Coproduction Policy

Coalition staff and members have been working with Jo Cranfield, Commissioning Manager in Adult Social Care to develop a coproduction policy. This policy will ensure that people with lived experience are supported and recognised for their contribution to projects.

The Coalition has also been involved with contributing to:

Surrey County Council Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Oversight Group

Whole System approach to Food strategy in Surrey

Wisley Old Laboratory Access Review

South East Network of Disabled People's Organisations (SENDPO)

Mental Health System Delivery

Surrey Wheelchair Service Quality and Contract Monitoring

Our engagement and involvement groups and forums

The groups and forums that we support are all over Surrey and include Disabled people with a range of different experiences who work with commissioners and service providers to co-design and monitor services and support on offer. New members are always welcome!

Our specialist interest groups - Hard of Hearing Forum, Surrey Vision Action Group, Long Term Neurological Conditions Group (LTNC), Community Equipment Group and the Disability Empowerment Network Surrey (DENS) groups have been working on:

- Discussion on barriers faced by under-represented groups in society to standing for election to the County Council
- Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Strategy
- East Surrey Hospital Update (SASH)
- Access Issues
- Get More Active
- Switching phone lines to digital
- Bus service improvement plan
- Surrey Police Hate Crime Strategy

- Accessing green Volunteering
- Bus Network review
- Discussion on GP Practices
- Access Visits in Reigate and Horley
- Purple Tuesday
- New Arts and wellbeing centre in Staines
- Accessibility to electoral registrations and elections
- Surrey fire and Rescue Service fire safety

Campaigning and influencing

- Coalition Board Directors, Coalition Members and Coalition Staff have represented the Disabled community on various strategic Boards across the county, often taking on Chair responsibilities
- A group of members visited Number 10 to deliver their support for the National Federation of the Blind UK petition against the proposals to remove staff from ticket offices and guards from trains.
- The Coalition have also been working with the centre for progressive change on campaigning for a Safe Sick Pay policy.

Sharing information and resources

- Coalition News continues to be a popular and valued communications method. Last Winter we developed a Cost of Living special edition sharing details of the Food Banks and Warm hubs in Surrey.
- Members have contributed experiences and stories as part of Coalition news and blogs on our website
- We have developed our Social Media communications and grown our audience. We have now expanded our social media presence to TikTok



Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

The Independent Mental Health Network (IMHN) Coordinating Group has led the Network over the course of the year, helping to progress the work outlined on the annual work plan and to provide a place for project leads to update on progress.

As part of the work of the Independent Mental Health Network, the Coalition and Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum continued to work together on mental health outreach and engagement with our minority ethnic community. A piece of research into the barriers of accessing mental health services in South Asian populations is due to be published shortly.

Thank you to this year's Independent Mental Health Network Chair Megan Siarey and Vice Chair David Muir for their help and leadership.

The Coalition's Peer Researchers also conducted a piece of research into on avoiding mental health hospital admissions and improving discharge and community provision. The recommendations from this project will be published shortly.

FoCUS (the Forum of Carers and People Who Use our Services) is coordinated by The Coalition on behalf of Surrey and Borders NHS Foundation Partnership Trust. For a significant part of the year we haven't had a dedicated member of staff for the FoCUS Coordinator role. However, thanks to Immy Markwick (Mental Health Lead) for acting as the FoCUS Coordinator during this period. During the year, FoCUS have been involved in a range of engagement, involvement and co-design activities with services from across the Trust.

In January (2023) the mental health team began work on understanding the barriers to accessing mental health services for certain populations in Surrey. This work is due to be completed in March 2024.



Technology and digital innovation

The Technology team has continued to grow and develop during the last year. We have managed to secure funding for the project to continue into 2023/2024 for most of Surrey. Sadly, we were unable to secure funding in North West Surrey so we no longer run it in that area.

The Tech to Community Connect project (which we run in collaboration with Action for Carers Surrey and other partners) continues to help people who are digitally excluded by providing devices, data and digital literacy support through our amazing team of volunteer Tech Angels. Vodafone have continued to support us during the year, to offer people who are digitally excluded a 6-month package of free data, calls and texts.

The team were very happy to be invited to share some of what they have learned at the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Assistive Technology in Westminster.

We have launched a Surrey Digital Inclusion Steering Group, involving all interested partners across Surrey. This group has enabled organisations to swap best practice and knowledge with each other.

We work collaboratively to coordinate projects to tackle key issues for the Disabled community, including those tackling loneliness and physical inactivity

Our weekly social events remain very popular as a way for members to come together each week.

Virtual trips continued over the Winter, thanks to funding from Community Foundation for Surrey. The virtual trips allow Disabled people to visit locations and venues as part of a group and to discuss them afterwards. The trips have also allowed members to make suggestions to venues to improve accessibility for those attending in real life. We have also seen the trips used as a way of gaining confidence in visiting venues later physically, knowing what to expect.

The trips we have been on this year include: Farnham Heath and the Old Operating Theatre.

We have also been working with Surrey Hills to improve access to the beautiful countryside. Coalition members have visited Newlands Corner, Devils Punchbowl and Farnham Heath. This has been an extremely successful project, with further work planned for 2023/2024.



Getting More Active together!

The Get More Active project was created in collaboration with SILC (Surrey Independent Living Council) following feedback from members during the pandemic. The service has continued to evolve thanks to Active Surrey for the Sports England funding.

The peer-support group continues to meet to talk about all things active as well as try out some gentle exercise on a Friday morning. The team have continued to offer regular 'Get Active Events, where we join up with community-wide offers, so people can try activities for the first time as part of a supportive group. These events have included cycling at Alice Holt and sailing at Papercourt.

Our 'Active Buddy' volunteer scheme continues. This is where people who would like to get More Active but would like some support and company to do so, are matched up with an Active Buddy volunteer.

Household Support Fund recipient

He says that he just received his Household Support Fund voucher, and he is very, very grateful. He wanted to pass on his great appreciation to everyone for the 'fantastic' work that we are doing for people like him.



Building our infrastructure

As mentioned in our Chair and Vice Chair report, we have worked hard this year to build our infrastructure to support the increase in our activity.

Following a comprehensive review by the company leadership (voted by the membership) of how the organisation has evolved, the future of the organisation as well as recent legal developments, it has been concluded that the organisation should move to a registered charity (In addition to keeping our registration as a limited company). This will happen in two stages. We plan to adopt a new set of Articles of Association which are Charity Commission compliant and then apply to have the company registered as a full charity.

The proposed changes have been discussed in full consultation with professional advisers including a charity lawyer. Being a charity will firmly establish us as the leading disability organisation in Surrey and North East Hampshire and make our purpose much clearer to those who engage with us or might wish to fund our work. Therefore, if the changes are approved the board of Directors will change to a board of Trustees.

A member that attended the virtual tours:

'I would never be able to visit these places and the virtual tours give me a sense that I am there with the cameraman. You have visited places that I never new existed and have learnt a great deal, about animals, local history and medical practice in the olden days. I really enjoy escaping to new places and look forward to what comes next!'

Board Members 2022/23

Anna Sartori (Vice-Chair), Jonathan Fisher (Chair),
Cliff Bush OBE (Co-Chair until November 2021), Alison Downer
(until January 2023)

Dan Hefferland, Gemma Roulston, Vikki Walton-Cole, Mustafa Bilal
Dean Beverley, Neil Marsden, Jane Sellers

Derek Williamson (Hon Treasurer)

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2022/23

I am pleased to present a satisfactory financial outcome for the year ending 31st March 2023, as shown in the Summary Accounts on the next page. Whilst the Summary Accounts show a deficit of £6,413, it should be noted that this deficit is the investment into ongoing projects.

Total income for the 2022-2023 year was £1,066,065, an increase of £316,143 on the previous year. Income for core activities received through a core grant with Surrey County Council was £125,539.

Expenditure, including depreciation totalled £1,078,441 creating a deficit of £6,413 after tax.

Surrey Coalition is the fund holder of a network called SENDPO (South East Network of Disabled People's Organisations). At the year end, we held funds for SENDPO totalling £9,044 which has been carried forward into 2023/24 and is shown as a creditor in the Accounts.

The balance sheet shows net fixed assets of £16,913 and net current assets surplus of £50,347 down from £53,355 in the previous year. Cash (including the SENDPO £9,044) was £669,623. Reserves have decreased £6,413 representing around four month's expenditure. The Coalition Board of Directors considers this level of reserves to be adequate to meet unforeseen circumstances on the basis of existing ongoing projects for which the coalition will receive a fee.

During the year the Coalition has taken on a number of projects for external bodies, hence the Accruals of £606,125. These projects continue into 2023/24.

Derek Williamson

Honorary Treasurer

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23

The Full Financial Statements for Surrey Coalition of Disabled People for the year ended 31st March 2023, produced by the Company's Accountants, Stewart & Co, will be available for inspection at the AGM on Friday 22nd September, or can be inspected at the offices of Surrey Coalition of Disabled People by booking an appointment for this purpose. Summary Financial Statements are given below.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	2021-2022	2022-2023
Turnover	£749, 922	£1,066,065
Administrative expenses	(£762, 305	(£1,078,441)
Operating surplus (deficit)	(£12, 383)	(£12,376)
Other interest receivable and similar income	£20	£7362
Surplus/(deficit) before tax	(£12, 363)	(£5,014)
Taxation	(£4)	(£1,399)
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	(£12, 367)	(£6,413)

Retained earnings brought forward	£73, 673	£73,673
Retained earnings carried forward	£73, 673	£67,260

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

	2021-2022	2022-2023
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	£20, 318	£16,913
Current assets		
Debtors	£65, 576	£4,155
Cash at bank and in hand	£835, 364	£669,623
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(£847, 585)	(£623,431)
Net current assets	£53, 355	£50,347
Net assets	£73, 673	£67,260

Capital and reserves		
Profit and loss account	£73, 673	£67,260
Shareholders' funds	£73, 673	£67,260

A Tech Member

I would not have been able to try and learn that way without someone like a Tech Angel who works at your pace. It would have been too fast, and I wouldn't have followed it all. I developed my skills through time.

Disability Partnership Board Member

‘Thanks for having such a good start this morning, all the issues done at a comfortable jog and a prompt finish. Positive vibes from all attendees really made my day’.