

# Annual report

**Easy Read**

**2022 to 2023**



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In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are blue and underlined. These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

# Introduction



Surrey Coalition of Disabled People is run and managed by disabled people and people with a long-term health condition.



This is our **annual report** for 2022 to 2023.

An **annual report** is a document we write every year. It explains the work we have done in the last year.

# Who we are



We want a world where people who are different are seen as important.

It is good that our world is made up of people who are very different from each other.



We want everyone to:

- have the same **rights** as each other.
- **Rights** are things you are allowed to have and do by law. For example, you have the right to get married and the right to vote.



- have the same amount of freedom to do what they want as anyone else.



- be able to choose what they want.



- have the same opportunities as anyone else.

# How we work



We work to the **Social Model of Disability**.

The **Social Model of Disability** says that it's not your body that makes you disabled, it's the **barriers** put up by other people that stop you taking part.



A **barrier** is something that is put in your way. It makes it harder for you to do something.

We work to remove the barriers which are making you disabled.



We never stop trying to make things better.



We feel strongly about what we do.

We always speak up when something isn't fair.



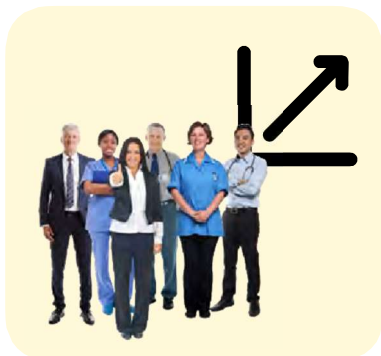


We look for new ways to solve problems.



All Disabled people and people with a long-term health condition are equally important to us.

# What we do



We work with disabled people and people living with a long-term health condition to:

- improve health and social care services.



- get the same rights for them as everyone else.



- **campaign** so that people can choose what they want and have control over their own lives.

A **campaign** is working to try and change something.



- help disabled people to live as independently as they want.





- campaign so that disabled people have the same chance of getting a job as everyone else.



- celebrate being different from most other people.



- be involved in our local communities.



- speak up about things with health and local council services.

# Board of Directors



The Surrey Coalition of Disabled People is run by a **Board of Directors**.

The **Board of Directors** is a committee of all the **directors**.



The **directors** are the most senior people in our organisation.



They are elected by the members at our AGM - annual general meeting.



The directors don't get paid.

This year the directors were:



- Jonathan Fisher, **Chair**

A **Chair** is a person who runs a meeting.



- Anna Sartori, **Vice-Chair**

A **Vice-Chair** is a deputy Chair. They run the meetings when the Chair can't make it.

- Alison Downer until January 2023
- Dan Hefferland
- Gemma Roulston
- Vikki Walton-Cole
- Cliff Bush OBE (Co-chair until January 2022)
- Mustafa Bilal
- Dean Beverley
- Neil Marsden
- Jane Sellers



- Derek Williamson, **Hon Treasurer**  
The **Treasurer** looks after the money.



This year the directors have:

- checked that the work is going okay.



- checked that the money is being spent in the right way.



- The directors also continued work on our 5 year plan.

# Chair's report



Nikki Roberts, became our new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)



A CEO is the most senior member of staff



It has been a difficult year for our members due to food, gas and electricity price rises.



We want to help Disabled People during these difficult times.



We are still meeting up but some people still want meetings online, so we have set up **hybrid** meetings.

**Hybrid** meetings - People can join

the meeting online or go to the meeting.



We are hoping to make some changes to The Coalition next year that we'll talk more about at the **Annual General Meeting**

**Annual General Meeting** – A big meeting



We hope to be a **charity**. Currently we are a **Not-for-Profit Limited Company**. We are asking our member to vote on this at the big meeting.

**Charity** – an organisation to provide help and support

**Not for Profit Limited Company** – a organisation that does not make any money



The changes will mean there will be some changes to our board. Board members will only be able to stay on the board for 9 years.



# What we have done

## Improving health and social care services



We work with health and care services as equal partners in improving services and setting up new projects.

This year we have been working on:

- A plan for Disabled People in Surrey



## Special Interest Groups

These groups are for people with particular conditions. The groups include:

- Surrey Vision Action group
- the Long-Term Neurological Conditions group
- The Hard of Hearing Forum





- The community equipment group



- The groups have been working with Surrey County Council on their plans for services for disabled people.

## **The Disability Empowerment Network**



The Disability Empowerment Network is made up of groups of disabled people who meet to discuss issues that affect them.

## **Campaigning**



We have been campaigning so that disabled people get fair access to all services, such as train travel.

## Sharing information and resources

We have shared information and advice about health and care in different ways:

- Our weekly email to members.



- Our newsletter - every three months.



- A phone line where you can listen to a recording of the latest newsletters.



- We have put our latest newsletters onto **Alexa**.



**Alexa** is a smart speaker. You can ask it questions and it can give you spoken information, play music and let you listen to the radio.



## **Mental health and wellbeing**

We work with the Independent Mental Health Network (IMHN).



- This year the network has been researching how we can work with mental health services.

## **FoCUS**

- FoCUS stands for Forum of Carers and People who Use our Services.



## **New technology**

**Technology** is gadgets and equipment that help people.



The 'Tech to Community Connect' project has grown a lot this year.



This project helps people to learn more about how to use computers and phones.



We have set up an online library of information for disabled people.



We have been working with many volunteers. We called them 'Tech Angels'.



## Tackling loneliness

Our social events have continued this year.

These included:

- some online social events. One of them is listening to music
- help for people to keep fit and active.



# Join us

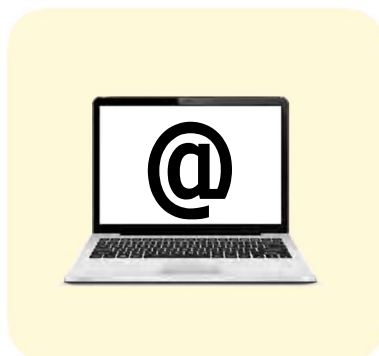


You can join us if you are over age 18 and disabled or have a long term health condition. It is free to join.



Family carers can be an **associate member**.

An **associate member** gets regular information from us but is not able to vote at the meetings.



## What you will get as a member

You will get:

- an email every week.
- a newsletter every 3 months.







- the chance to be involved in all our work with local services



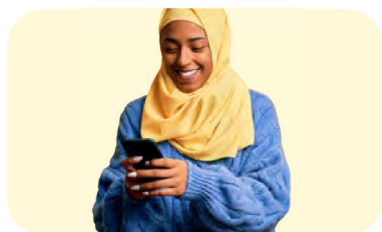
- the chance to meet up with members and joining various projects.

# For more information



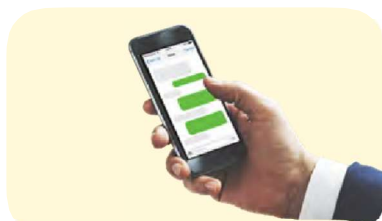
If you need more information please go to our website:

[www.surreycoalition.org.uk](http://www.surreycoalition.org.uk)



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