

Welcome to the June - July 23 issue of Surrey News

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Please note: Some of the articles in the front of the newsletter include information for young people and adults.

I am pleased to announce that we are starting a new NAS Surrey Branch parent support group in Reigate, and are also re-starting our Woking parent support group. We are very grateful to Victoria Nunn and Kate Sills in Reigate, and Paula Gerrard in Woking, for volunteering to run the groups for us.

Our local groups enable parents of autistic children to meet other parents in their area to share their knowledge and experience. See page 3 and the calendar on pages 6 - 7 for more details.

We have also gained three new committee members recently. Many thanks to Christine Malik, Jason Malschuk and Stella Smith for volunteering to join the team.

June is a busy month for awareness weeks which may be of interest to our members. Carers week is 5th - 11th June, and Learning Disability week is 19th - 25th June.

Look out for items in the media about those topics during the relevant weeks. You can find out what Action For Carers Surrey are doing during Carers Week here: <https://bit.ly/3N3HuW4>

You can also read more about Learning Disability week on Mencap's website: <https://www.mencap.org.uk/LDWeek>

Sara Truman,
Acting Chair
NAS Surrey Branch

Email: surrey.branch@nas.org.uk

Website: <https://NASSurreyBranch.org>

Tel: 07423 435413

Facebook: @NASSurreyBranch

Donations: www.justgiving.com/nassurreybranch

NAS Surrey Branch Contacts

General Information

Branch Mobile: 07423 435413

surrey.branch@nas.org.uk

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strumansurrey@gmail.com

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Nancy Rowell

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Events & Talks:

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Emma.ellis@nas-volunteers.org.uk

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emmawhitfieldnassurrey@gmail.com

Parents of Girls' Group

Sally Roberts

sallyaroberts@hotmail.co.uk

Parents of Adults' Group

Hilary Dyce hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk

Parents of Children with PDA Group

Emma Ellis

Emma.ellis@nas-volunteers.org.uk

Other Activities:

Jill Goulding

Rachel Boyce-Davies

Christine Malik

Jason Malshuk

Stella Smith

POSTAL ADDRESS

NAS Surrey Branch

c/o Walton Charities,

2 Quintet, Churchfield Road,

Walton on Thames KT12 2TZ

NB: No NAS staff / volunteers work here.

Other Useful Contacts

Unless clearly stated, organisations are not endorsed by NAS Surrey Branch or the NAS.

NAS website: <https://www.autism.org.uk/>

NAS membership: <https://bit.ly/3l84tBW>

Education Support

NAS Education Rights: <https://bit.ly/3BTfux6>

SEND Advice Surrey: 01737 737300

www.sendadvicesurrey.org.uk

SOS!SEN charity to support EHCPs etc, Tel:

020 8538 3731, Web: www.sossen.org.uk

Family Support & Representation

Family Support Service

Mindworks www.mindworks-surrey.org

Portage – support for children with SEND

under 3.5 years <https://bit.ly/3zLW635>

Family Voice Surrey parent representation

www.familyvoicesurrey.org

Action for Carers tel: 0303 040 1234

<https://www.actionforcarers.org.uk/>

Parent Programmes

NAS Stepping Up For Autism course

Email: Surrey.FamilySupport@nas.org.uk

Activities for children and young people

NAS Resource Centre, Godalming: 01483

521743 SEResourceCentres@nas.org.uk

interAKtive, Epsom-based charity for

children with ASCs and other difficulties

07876 762178 www.interaktive.org.uk

Adult Services

Surrey Adult Social Svcs: 0300 200 1005

NAS Surrey Service Tel: 01483 861600,

email: surrey.service@nas.org.uk

Employment Support

Employability for people with disabilities

including ASCs Tel: 01483 806806

<https://bit.ly/3f8WXTu>

AS Mentoring specialist mentoring and

employment support for autistic people

<https://asmentoring.co.uk/>

Benefits advice

For children: <https://bit.ly/3xblygN>

For adults: <https://bit.ly/3ydoXNq>

Cerebra Downloadable DLA guide:

<https://bit.ly/3lpEoyh>

New Branch support groups in Reigate and Woking

We are delighted to say that we will be starting a new NAS Surrey Branch support group for local parents of autistic children in **Reigate**, meeting monthly on Friday mornings, starting on 7th July. For more details please contact Sara Truman at strumansurrey@gmail.com

We will also be re-launching our **Woking parent support group** in a new venue in Goldsworth Park, Woking with the first meeting on Wednesday 7th June at 10.00 am. For more details about that group, please email Paula Gerrard at paulagerrard@live.co.uk

Dads Group Meetings, White Lodge, Chertsey

White Lodge in Chertsey runs a monthly group for Dads/male carers of disabled children who are finding things difficult. It offers monthly drop-ins to meet others, develop friendships, socialise and gain emotional and moral support, facilitated by two trained male befrienders from White Lodge Face to Face befriending service.

The group will meet this half term on 21st June and 19th July from 8pm - 9.45pm at Riverbourne Health Club, Herriot Road, Chertsey, KT16 9DR. Please contact the Face2Face Co-ordinator for more details at face2face@whitelodgecentre.co.uk or call 01932 567131.

Gamers Lounge Events – Spring / Summer 2023

The next sessions of the Gamers Lounge are at The Boileroom in Guildford on:

- Saturday 10th June
- Saturday 15th July
- Saturday 12th August
- Saturday 9th September

There are two sessions per day: 12 noon to 2pm, and 2pm to 4pm. Tickets are £5 (plus booking fee) from <https://www.theboileroom.net/>

The capacity is 20 people per session. These are not autism-specific events, but many adults and children who attend are autistic and they and the organisers will do all they can to help people enjoy the sessions.

There is a range of retro consoles to choose from including Sega Megadrive, SNES, NES, Playstation 2 and Dreamcast with a choice of hundreds of games. You can also bring along your Nintendo Switches and use these.

If you have a child/young person who's interested, but uncertain please get in touch with Andrew Smith to find out more or to arrange to drop in and visit without having to buy a ticket - email Andrew.smith38410@gmail.com or call 07885 723243.

Children cannot be left unattended at Gamers Lounge – you can get a drink in the covered garden area, where there is also a food outlet called Funky Pickle offering a range of Canadian foods and pizza (not always open during the day).

Please note, the Boileroom may sometimes need to change dates if they have other events booked, so do check their website for up-to-date information.

If you have problems clicking on any links, you may need to paste them into your browser

Meet with Surrey's Children with Disabilities Team

Family Voice Surrey are hosting a Face to Face meeting with Surrey County Council's Children With Disabilities Team on Tuesday 27th June 2023, from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon at Leatherhead Leisure Centre.

This is a chance for families to meet senior decision makers from the Children with Disabilities (CWD) Team to share lived experience and drive positive change. There are limited places available, and they must be booked in advance. To book go to Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/3BZqKce>

For further information email: lucy.y@familyvoicesurrey.org

Action for Carers Talk on Benefits

Action for Carers is hosting a talk on benefits for carers of children and young people with special needs age 14 – 25 from 10.30am – 12.30pm on Mon 5th June in Woking.

It should give you a good understanding of what's available, and what you may be entitled to, plus the opportunity to ask questions. Complete the form here to express interest and Action for Carers will come back to you:

<https://www.actionforcarers.org.uk/event/carer-benefits-young-people-woking/>

NAS Webinar on Planning for the Future

The NAS Wills and Trusts team has organised a Planning for the Future webinar on Wednesday 14 June. Specialist Lawyer Philip Warford will explain how to protect a loved one using carefully prepared Wills and a Trust.

Philip is widely recognised as a leading expert in this area of law. He will explain why it is so important to make a Will and how you can safeguard means-tested benefits and support, whilst providing financial security for your loved one throughout their lifetime.

During the 1 hour information webinar, Philip will talk about the different Trust options available, how they work in practice and when to consider setting up the Trust. He will talk about choosing the right Trustees, what to include in a Letter of Wishes, and Guardians for minor children. Philip will also provide tips on finding a Lawyer that can assist you and what to ask when making enquiries. Places must be booked in advance: <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/forms/planning-for-the-future-with-wills-and-trusts>

Reminder: Autism Reality Experience in Guildford

We wrote in the last newsletter about The Autism Reality Experience in Guildford, an immersive, hands on training designed to give non-autistic people an experience of the sensory processing difficulties faced by autistic people.

You can book a timed hour slot to visit the Autism Experience in Burpham, near Guildford on Friday 30th June from 9.30 am - 4.00 pm, with post-experience support from advisors from Action for Carers Surrey. There will also be other talks from carers and autism specialists. To book your slot, please call Action for Carers on 0303 040 1234, option 1.

If you have problems clicking on any links, you may need to paste them into your browser

ATLAS Autism Young People's Participation Group

ATLAS is one of several participation groups run by the User Voice and Participation team at Surrey County Council. ATLAS stands for Accept, Teach, Listen, Access, Support and is for young people aged 10 – 25 living in Surrey who have additional needs or disabilities.

The groups give an opportunity for young people to have their say on Surrey's services. They have recently started an ATLAS group for autistic young people, who are getting involved in some of the work on Surrey's Autism Strategy. The group meets online on the second Wednesday of every month. They would welcome new members, so if you or your son/daughter are autistic and aged between 10 and 25, you can find out more by emailing: user.voice@surreycc.gov.uk or go to: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/support-and-advice/youth-voice/additional-needs-and-disabilities/about>

Young people with Pathological Demand Avoidance would be especially welcome, as the group is currently working on a project around PDA.

Wellbeing Experiences for Neurodiverse People

Burpham Wellfest is Surrey's free-to-enter Wellbeing Festival which takes place on Sunday 9 July in Guildford. This year, it includes wellbeing experiences for the neurodiverse in the programme.

Appearing at Burpham Wellfest this year are:

- Suzy Rowland, Autism Advocate, Founder of the 'Happy In School' Project and author of 'I Can't Go to School' a book about PDA.
- Dan Jenney, an ADHD Coach who specialises in exercising and education for the neurodiverse in Surrey. He will also run an all-inclusive kids fitness session.
- Jane Tyson, Founder of Resilient Kids, mum coach and mentor to the neurodiverse.

All three of the above will be presenting as part of the Panel for 'The World of Wellbeing for Young People' hosted by Guildford youth charity The Matrix Trust.

To find out more visit www.burphamwellfest.com

Raise Money for NAS Surrey Branch For Free!

Do remember, you can support NAS Surrey Branch without it costing you a penny by using easyfundraising.org to raise FREE donations with your everyday shopping. It's quick and easy to sign up: <https://bit.ly/3sUfiGF>. And if you shop on your phone, you can now download the app from the Apple Store or Google Play.

NAS Parent to Parent Emotional Support Helpline

In addition to our local meetings (see overleaf) and online forum, you can call the NAS UK-wide confidential telephone service. The service is provided by trained parent volunteers who offer telephone support from their own homes. Please note, at busy times, it may take up to 10 days for someone to call you back. See the NAS website for details: <https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/help-and-support/parent-to-parent-emotional-support-helpline>

If you have problems clicking on any links, you may need to paste them into your browser

NAS SURREY BRANCH CALENDAR June- August 2023

NAS Surrey Branch support groups enable parents or other family members of autistic children or adults to meet up with others and share knowledge and experiences.

Please note, all dates are provisional and could change due to unexpected events. Please contact the host if you are planning to attend a meeting so that they know numbers and to confirm that the meeting is going ahead.

ZOOM SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN IN SURREY

Meets monthly during term-time. Your child does not need a diagnosis for you to attend. For Zoom links for these meetings, email support@nassurreybranch.org

Monday 19th June 8.00 pm

Wednesday 12th July 10.00 am

LOCAL IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUPS

In-person support groups run by parent-volunteers for parents/carers of autistic children in Surrey. Your child does not need a diagnosis for you to attend.

Ashtead

For venue contact: Tarah Basu tarahbasu@googlemail.com

Tuesday 13th June 12.00 noon

Frensham

For venue contact: Christine Malik christinemalik@btinternet.com and
Bonnie Noyce JBNoyce@yahoo.com

Monday 12th June 9.30 – 11.00 am

Monday 10th July 9.30 – 11.00 am

Guildford

For venues contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com

Friday 16th June 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Monday 10th July 7.30 – 9.00 pm

Hinchley Wood – via Zoom

For link contact: Emily Gorvy: emily.gorvy@hotmail.co.uk

Friday 30th June 9.30 am

Reigate

For venue contact: Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com

Friday 7th July 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Woking

For venue contact Paula Gerrard: paulagerrard@live.co.uk

Wednesday 7th June 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Wednesday 5th July 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Spouses and Partners Group, Guildford

Meetings for the partners of autistic people (no diagnosis necessary).

For details of future meetings, contact: Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com

If you have problems clicking on any links, you may need to paste them into your browser

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS / Cont'd

Parents of Adults Group

Face-to-face meetings in West and East Surrey alternate with Zoom meetings.
Contact hosts for venues/links.

Thursday 8th June 2.30 pm **Zoom** Contact Hilary Dyce hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk
Wednesday 21st June 7.30 pm **Zoom** Contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com
Thursday 6th July 7.30 pm **Woking** Contact Hilary Dyce hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk
Weds 19th July 7.30 pm **Leatherhead** Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com
Weds 2nd August 2.30 pm. **Zoom** Contact Hilary Dyce hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk
Weds 16th August 7.30 **Zoom** Contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com

Parents of Girls Group – Woking and Guildford

A group for parents of girls. Meets about once a month during term-time.

For venue contact Sally Roberts sallyaroberts@hotmail.co.uk

Thurs 15th June 10.00 am – 12.00 noon Woking
Friday 14th July 10.00 am – 12.00 noon Guildford

Parents of children and young people with Pathological Demand Avoidance

This group meets over Zoom. To receive the Zoom link contact Emma Ellis at emma.ellis@nas-volunteers.org.uk

Thursday 29th June 8.00 pm
Thursday 27th July 8.00 pm

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The Railway Children by The ActAbles

The Actables, the acting group for people with learning disabilities run by LinkAble, is staging a production of The Railway Children in Woking on Sunday 16th July.

Time: Doors open 2pm, the show starts at 2:30pm

Location: Buzz Theatre, Victoria Place, Town Quay, Woking, GU21 6YA

Cost: You can either choose to pay £5, £10 or £15 if you wish to donate to LinkAble.

For more details or to book your places, please go to <https://bit.ly/3C6GpXm>

Guildford Concert in Aid of NAS Surrey Branch

On Saturday 17th June, at 7.30 pm, Guildford Chamber Choir are performing a concert of "Songs for Summer", a series of folk song settings from around the British Isles with music by composers such as Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Rutter and Gustav Holst. The venue is the United Reformed Church, 83 Portsmouth Road, Guildford, GU2 4BS and proceeds from the concert will go to the National Autistic Society Surrey Branch.

Tickets can be bought in advance for £16.17 (including booking fee) or on the door, for £17.00. Tickets for under 16s are free. To buy tickets in advance, go to: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/guildford-chamber-choir/music-from-the-british-isles/e-kgrexv>

If you have problems clicking on any links, you may need to paste them into your browser

Disability Challengers Family Fun Days

Disability Challengers are providing new Family Fun days on Sundays at their sites in Guildford or Farnham. The Family Fun Days are free to attend - you can drop in any time from 10am and the centre will close at 4pm. Suitable for families with children up to 13 years of age, these sessions are a time for families to enjoy Challengers' centres together. Whilst there are a small number of staff on site, families are responsible for their children at all times. The centres have limited capacity and during busy times they may have to operate a 'one family in, one family out' system.

For dates and to book, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/disability-challengers-63867211743>

Science Museum SENSory Astronights

The Science Museum in London hosts 'SENSory Astronights' designed for children with special educational needs or disabilities. Families can enter the museum after it has closed to the general public to explore the galleries and take part in a selection of fun activities, including workshops and shows. You and your family can then stay overnight, sleeping in one of the galleries.

The next one is on Saturday 19th August – please note, these sessions get booked up very quickly! For more details go to <https://bit.ly/43y0Wjm>

Survey About Unpaid Carers' Experiences

Carers Trust is running a survey <https://bit.ly/3qnFDCY> to understand unpaid carers' experiences of accessing support. The findings will be used to raise the voices of carers and influence the Government to make positive changes.

This survey is for UK-based unpaid carers aged 18 and over who care, unpaid, for a friend or family member who cannot cope without care, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction. If you care for someone but don't identify as someone with carer status, you can still do this survey.

This survey will take 15-20 minutes to complete and will close at 23.59 on 11 June. You will have the chance to win a £45 Love2Shop voucher. They will not ask for any identifying information and responses are anonymous. There are details at the end of the survey where you can find out more about results from previous surveys.

For more information or details of local carer support services, go to www.carers.org

Summer Activities run by InterAKtive

InterAKtive, a parent-run group for families with autistic children, is running a series of events for members this summer:

- Summer Farm Evenings with exclusive use for members at Bocketts Farm Leatherhead on Friday 30th June and Godstone Farm on Friday 11th August, both sessions are from 5.30 - 7.30pm
- Horse riding session at RDA Epsom on Tuesday 8th August, from 10 - 10.45am.

You need to be a member of InterAKtive to attend. Membership is £25 per year. For more details go to <https://bit.ly/43tFQmo>

If you have problems clicking on any links, you may need to paste them into your browser

Personalised Courses For Students Starting University This Year

Marina King is a mentor specialising in mental health and neurodivergence who supports neurodivergent students while at university and into the world of work. She is running flexibly-delivered and personalised online courses intended for students planning to go to university in September 2023. The starting dates of each course will be in June and July, with more dates to be added if the demand is particularly high. Each course is 6 weeks long, with an hour of virtual 1:1 sessions each week.

The courses are designed to support individuals with a range of needs that each student can choose from, such as:

- Managing anxiety
- Creating structure
- Support networks
- Living independently or in halls

In order to make the courses accessible to as many people as possible, fees are on a sliding scale of £30-£70 per hour. Payment plans are available on an individual basis. For more information email Marina at hello@ndmentoring.org

Free Books on Enjoying the Countryside with Autistic Children

Many of our members know about the Alex and Rosie books by David and Tharada Blakesley. They have now published a new story about woods and trees, that aims to help families feel more confident about going into the countryside, and this and other stories are now freely available as videos or eBooks.

Video: Dame Virginia McKenna reads Alex and Rosie Learn About Woods and Trees: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHYAVaYWaEw>

eBook and pdf versions of a range of books on Autism and Nature: <https://autismandnature.org.uk/our-publications/other-publications/>

Campaign to Keep Sunday Sessions at Jump-in Adventure Park

Kayleigh Simmonds, a local Mum and carer of a six-year-old autistic boy, has started an online petition with Change.org to ask Jump-in Adventure Parks in Esher – and at other sites nationwide - to keep their Sunday morning relaxed sessions open. Jump-in are planning on changing SEND sessions to Monday evenings.

The campaign already has around 1000 signatures. You can sign up here: <https://chnq.it/2HvXst2n>

Karting Fundraiser Event for Halow

Halow project is hosting its annual karting event with its patron and co-founder, former F1 world champion Damon Hill. You can enter a team to race and raise money for halow on Wednesday 21 June 2023, from 1pm at Daytona Motorsport, Sandown in a 2.5 hour Le Mans-style endurance race.

Stars and experts from the world of racing will be there, along with some historic F1 cars. To book your team or spectators' tickets, or discuss sponsorship options please contact fundraising@halowproject.org.uk or call 01483 447 960.

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Tony Attwood Webinars

The Association of Child and Adolescent Mental Health is hosting two talks on autism with Professor Tony Attwood on 27 June 2023 and 4 July.

Autism; Making Friends: the session from 9.00am – 12.00noon on 27th June looks at strategies to improve social understanding and friendship skills for children and young people with autism. You can book here:

<https://www.acamh.org/event/autism-friends/>

Autism; Managing Feelings of Anxiety, Sadness, Anger: from 9.00am – 12.00noon on 4 July, Dr Attwood will look at complexities of expressing and managing feelings for children and young people with autism. Book your place here:

<https://www.acamh.org/event/autism-feelings/>

Tony Attwood is a clinical psychologist who has specialised in Autism Spectrum Disorders since he qualified as a clinical psychologist in England in 1975. He currently works in his own private practice, and is also adjunct professor at Griffith University, Queensland, Australia and senior consultant at the Minds and Hearts clinic in Brisbane. His two best-known books are *Asperger's Syndrome – A Guide for Parents and Professionals* and *The Complete Guide to Asperger's Syndrome*. He has several subsequent books published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers, Future Horizons Inc. and Guilford Press on emotion management, relationships and sexuality, and general advice for autistic children and adults.

The webinars will be of interest to mental health professionals, as well as parents and those that support children and young people with autism. Both sessions include a Q&A and plenty of effective interventions, tips, and advice, that can be used immediately. Delegates have exclusive access to the recordings for 90 days after the event. Tickets are £40 per webinar.

INFORMATION FOR ADULTS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

Employment Works for Autism

The Employment Works for Autism project helps to support autistic people into paid work or volunteering. Anyone over the age of 18 can apply for a place, and you don't need to have received a formal diagnosis of autism.

There are no eligibility criteria, and it is open to all people living in the Surrey County Council area who identify as autistic or neurodiverse and who aspire to find paid work.

Participants for the new programme are encouraged to attend at least two supported work placements to gain work skills and help to find the roles they will enjoy. The support offered will be as much or as little as they need with the aim to fade over time.

Alongside work placements, people are encouraged to keep fit, attend volunteering or social groups, building their skills and improving their ability to interact with others in their local communities. For details, go to <https://www.surreychoices.com/what-surrey-choices-does/employment-and-learning/employment-works-for-autism/> or email employability@surreychoices.com

If you have problems clicking on any links, you may need to paste them into your browser

Online Webinar on Autistic Burnout

Autistic advocate Viv Dawes is running a webinar on autistic burnout and extreme crisis in autistic adults on Monday 12th June from 7.00 - 8.30 pm. Autistic burnout is a term that autistic people have used for years, but it is still an unknown quantity for most professionals working with autistic people. This webinar will look at the different levels of autistic burnout, what an extreme burnout crisis is and why it might happen. It will tackle the dark side of autistic burnout and look at possible solutions for autistic people and our communities too.

Tickets are £10 per person. To book or for more details, go to Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-autistic-burnout-and-extreme-crisis-in-autistic-adults-tickets-638727179187>

Share Your Views On Mental Health Services For Adults In Surrey

You are invited to share your views on accessing support for health and wellbeing in Surrey and North-East Hampshire by completing a short survey to help shape the future of local mental health services.

The survey is part of a project funded by Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to support the final stages of its Community Mental Health Transformation Programme. The survey has been developed by the Independent Mental Health Network; a group run by Surrey Coalition of Disabled People.

If you are aged 18 or over, they want to hear from you whether you have used services in the past or not. The more responses are received, the more meaningful and impactful the findings will be. The survey is easy to complete, and will generally take less than 10 minutes to complete.

You can find the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/e/xamYNpc4u5>

For questions, please contact Wendy Smith Wendy.Smith@surreycoalition.org.uk

NAS Adult Services In Godalming

This is a summary of services run by NAS professionals in Surrey:

Day services in Godalming

Personalised services for more able adults with autism who have funding. Weekdays - from breakfast clubs to evening groups, plus weekend activities. Courses on skills such as travel training, job-seeking, money, cookery, etc. <https://bit.ly/3GecDjh>

Personalised services for adults with autism & learning disabilities who have funding. <https://bit.ly/3ocd9I9>

Residential services in Godalming

Stonepit Close is a residential service in Godalming, Surrey, for autistic adults in two houses designed specifically for autistic people where staff are highly trained. Funding from the authority via a community care assessment or needs assessment would need to be in place to fund residential services. <https://bit.ly/3o74O8Q>

Contact Melissa Lawson, Referral Development Manager on 07887 594628 or email: Melissa.lawson@nas.org.uk

If you have problems clicking on any links, you may need to paste them into your browser

Network for People with Learning Disabilities

The Surrey Peoples Group is a Surrey wide network for adults with a learning disability. Its goal is to become a Surrey wide user-led network where their voices are heard, and they connect to make real change. The group's next meeting is on Friday 23 June in Reigate from 10am to 2.30pm and you can choose to either attend in person or online.

There will be representatives from organisations including the Police, POhWER advocacy, Liaison Nurses, the Social Work team, Community Transport and Sunny Sessions Radio. Surrey Outdoor Learning will also be running some sessions.

For more information, please email ldcommunications@surreycc.gov.uk or go to <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/care-and-support/disability/spb/spn>

For up to date news and information about our events, and those organised by other local organisations, do sign up to the NAS Surrey Branch email forum <https://nassurreybranch.org/moderated-email-forum/>

About NAS Surrey Branch

NAS Surrey Branch is a volunteer-run, support group for the parents of autistic children and adults, and the partners of people with autism, and is part of the National Autistic Society. It's FREE to join (although a small donation is appreciated) and we have over 2,500 members in and around Surrey.

We run an active email forum and produce an email newsletter every two months. We also host talks, parent and partner support groups online and across Surrey and family events. To join for free, go to nassurreybranch.org or email surrey.branch@nas.org.uk to request a membership form.

If you're a member of National Autistic Society at national level, you can nominate us to receive part of your subscription by emailing supportercare@nas.org.uk.

We are part of the National Autistic Society which works for autistic people and runs services such as schools, clubs and adult centres. It has over 20,000 members, over 100 local branches and works in partnership with more than 50 local autism societies.

**National Autistic Society, 393 City Rd, London EC1V 1NG www.autism.org.uk.
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