

CABINET MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Mark Nuti, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, and Public Health

Health Integration and Mental Health transformation

We continue to work with partners across the health and social care system to improve how we collaborate and make joint decisions. We are streamlining many of the Boards and meeting structures across Surrey Heartlands to ensure we are using our collective time together focusing on the real issues which matter to our residents and populations. This means making sure the right partners are part of these decisions and we continue to be community led. As an example of this, residents of *North Leatherhead* led a highly informative and interesting session with members of the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) for Surrey Heartlands last month, showcasing some amazing examples of community activities and community collaboration which supports the health and wellbeing of residents of the town. I was hugely inspired by these activities and committed, as a member of the ICP, to share their experiences and learning across the County.

In April, we were able to confirm that the Surrey All Age [Mental Health Investment Fund](#) (MHIF) has granted funding of £3.6m to 13 projects that provide innovative, community-focused programmes. This is in addition to the £530,000 that was granted in 2023 to 9 projects. Established in 2022, the MHIF is an integrated funding programme with a total budget of £10.5m. Funding is used to support services which are non-statutory; developed by local, community-based groups. These initiatives aim to support the emotional well-being of our residents by focusing on preventing poor mental health and aiding those with mental health needs. This gives people access to early, appropriate support, preventing further escalation of their needs. Additionally, the MHIF has supported projects that work with communities to tackle isolation. The remaining MHIF will be distributed as grants to Voluntary and Community sector organisations by our partners in Community Foundation for Surrey. We have been working with them for a number of years and are delighted they will be seeking to match fund the remaining value so we can fund more programmes for longer, and ensure more residents feel the benefits of these innovative projects.



Beneficiaries of the fund, The Prospero Theatre Company, based in Caterham, is dedicated to enhancing the lives of adults and young people facing disabilities and mental health challenges through performing arts. Their performance of 'The return of Jafar' was developed collaboratively through weekly workshops, providing opportunities for creativity, emotional expression, teamwork, and empowerment.

Work is also underway to agree the priority areas - system wide - that are needed to transform our mental health service. This includes transforming how we deliver mental health in the community - both when in crisis and in recovery. Using the Community Mental Health Framework as a starting point, system leaders will come together to map existing services, identify gaps and agree priorities for future development. There may be a role for the voluntary sector to support individuals in the community to prevent escalation. In addition, we expect to improve access to services for those with complex needs, and to avoid individuals with multiple needs bouncing around the system.

PUBLIC HEALTH**Public Health Intelligence**

To ensure that leaders and commissioners have a clear understanding of the health and care needs of Surrey residents we continue to update the [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#). The focus of the updates is around the wider determinants of health (housing, economy, community safety) and population groups with the worse health outcomes (migrants, people affected by multiple disadvantage, Armed Forces and Veterans) to support our vision of No-one Left Behind.

A health protection [dashboard](#) has been developed, providing up to date intelligence around vaccinations uptake, air quality and hospital acquired infections to support the Health Protection Board in their decision-making

The team conducts surveillance on deaths on behalf of the system and recently conducted a 'deep dive' into excess deaths on behalf of the Heartlands Integrated Care System (ICS) to make sure we are not

missing any emerging concerning trends around cause of death. We are also exploring new ways of adapting the data collected for the Council so it supports the work of the healthcare sector.

The recent closure of 16 community pharmacies has seen the landscape of pharmaceutical provision change in Surrey. The team have therefore reopened the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) to reassess accessibility and availability of this essential service for residents.

Children and Young People's Public Health

Public Health have strategic oversight of the '[Core20PLUS5](#)' approach for children and young people. This involves working closely with key partners including ICB colleagues to deliver action on priority healthcare inequalities. The approach overlays action on clinical conditions with the most deprived geographies and priority population groups who experience the poorest health outcomes. Most recently, focus sessions have been on asthma and epilepsy.

Public health continues to engage with young people on important health topics to inform and shape future services. We are currently recruiting for (and will soon be delivering) the latest [Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire](#) for school aged children.

After extensive consultation with stakeholders, public health has a final draft of the children and young people's self-harm protocol. This has been an important piece of work linked to the children's emotional wellbeing and mental health strategy and the suicide prevention action plan.

Ongoing commissioning activity continues for future children's community health services. In-year priorities have also been established to ensure 0-19's community health services can deliver high quality care.

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Health Protection

In recent months the focus has been on **measles** following the request by UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to prepare for outbreaks and widespread community transmission as the number of measles cases rises across the country, ensuring we can respond quickly to contain the spread of measles. Together with partners we are working to encourage people to take up the offer of the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine, particularly in children and those aged 19-25 years, although anyone of any age is eligible for the free vaccines. We have been running a digital advertising campaign targeted at parents and carers and posters were delivered to community and health settings. The Vaccine Bus project started in June with 3 successful clinics to raise vaccine awareness and increase vaccine uptake for ages 5 to 19 years in areas of low vaccine uptake in Surrey.

Proactive work continues for summer (heatwaves, travel vaccines, vector born infections). Taking account of UKHSA 'Health Effects of Climate Change (HECC) in the UK' evidence report, we are working in partnership to **mitigate the health impacts of climate change** on our population's health, such as improving air quality. Working with environmental health teams in District/Borough Councils, highways teams, and health partners through the Surrey Air Alliance, we promoted the national Clean Air Day campaign in June, and continue to support local school air quality projects, and District/Borough to meet their statutory responsibilities for improving poor air quality.



We continue our public health leadership through the Health and Planning Forum, to bring local planners, health partners and colleagues in the Environment, Infrastructure and Growth Directorate together to **improve the built environment across Surrey**. We provide input into District/Borough local plan development, advise on health impact assessments, and respond to consultations of major developments, including the River Thames Scheme and Gatwick Airport Northern Runway expansion.

Other proactive work includes:

- working with partners to take forward recommendations from the migrant health rapid needs assessment
- working with Surrey Local Resilience Forum to update multi-agency pandemic plans
- working with Surrey Heartlands ICP to support care homes and other non-healthcare settings with specialist infection prevention and control support
- supporting UKHSA and health partners to manage and respond to outbreaks of infectious diseases, and incidents such as chemical spillages, flooding etc.

Healthcare Public Health (HCPH)

HCPH is one of the three core domains of specialist public health practice alongside health improvement and health protection. The local authority has a statutory duty to provide or make arrangements to secure the provision of a public health advice service to any Integrated Care Board (ICB) in their area, of which HCPH has a key role in this duty. The team supports the Surrey Heartlands Priorities Committee (SPC) by using an evidenced-based approach to ensure that local clinical commissioning policies are in line with latest clinical evidence and national guidelines, for example, from the National Institute for Health & Care Excellence (NICE) and the Medical Royal Colleges. Recommendations are made by the team to the SPC regarding any policy changes that are needed to keep commissioning in line with good clinical practice. The team also supports the Surrey Heartlands Individual Funding Request (IFR) Panel by providing evidenced-based reviews to support the decision-making process on whether funding should be approved for specific IFR requests. The team also supports the local health system in the development of specific healthcare clinical pathways, for example, the weight management pathway and Long-Covid services.

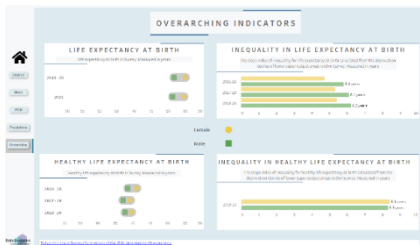
The work of the HCPH team is focused on maximising the population benefits of healthcare and reducing health inequalities in access to healthcare, whilst meeting the needs of individuals and groups. This is done by prioritising the use of finite resources on improving health-related outcomes through design and evaluation of effective and efficient health and social care interventions, settings and pathways of care.

The team recently contributed to the ongoing regional project to consolidate the clinical commissioning policies and IFR processes of the six Integrated Care Boards in the Southeast, with a view to standardising policy thresholds and reducing inequality of access to treatments.

Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board and Strategy

Highlights from the most recent Health and Wellbeing Board included:

Quarterly [highlight reports](#) of the strategy demonstrate the breadth of work happening to deliver the strategic priorities which are focused around priority populations and key neighbourhoods



Over the past year the **Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy Index** has had a soft launch. Additional indicators will be introduced in June and this will allow a common high level view on progress being made on our strategy and our ambition to reduce health inequalities so no-one is left behind.

Multiple Disadvantage

Work has continued to progress to support better outcomes and encourage system change and development for approximately 150 people at any one time experiencing multiple disadvantage (at least three aspects of Homelessness, Criminal Justice, Substance Use, Mental Health and Domestic Abuse). This includes complementary programmes of work including [Surrey Adults Matter \(SAM\)](#) multi-agency approach, delivery of trauma informed outreach ([Bridge the Gap Service](#)) focused on the individuals needs and wants, provided through 10+ VCSE partner organisations, alongside the development of lived experience and peer networks to ensure their insight is central to driving developments and system change. Most recently the work of the team on MD Lived and Living Experience was recognised through a national NHSE England and Career Matters UK Silver Charter Award.



Sexual Health Services

We commission a range of Sexual Health services on behalf of residents, delivered by Central and North West NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL), these provide face to face clinics, online services (Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing and contraception), and condom distribution scheme. Pharmacies are commissioned to provide emergency contraception and chlamydia and gonorrhoea testing

and treatment. Some pharmacies also provide the condom distribution scheme. GP surgeries provide Long Active Reversible Contraception (LARC) such as coils and implants.

Priorities in Surrey include: promoting HIV awareness and reducing late diagnosis, increasing testing, including promoting HIV point of care testing in community settings, and normalising HIV testing in primary care. Increasing uptake of Chlamydia testing, for example through campaigns and outreach to young people. Developing a whole systems teenage pregnancy action plan in response to the national upturn in teenage conceptions. Our CNWL outreach services have recently won a **'Pride in Surrey' award**, honouring those who have made a remarkable impact within Surrey's LGBTQ+ community.

Feedback from a local college leader said "The ongoing collaboration between CNWL and our college has been nothing short of exemplary, fostering a culture of innovation, learning, and mutual support. Our joint endeavours, particularly in the realm of health education and promotion, have yielded tangible benefits for both institutions and the communities we serve"

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Substance Use

A new chapter of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on [Substance misuse](#) has just been published, highlighting that alcohol and drug use causes harm not only to individuals, but also families and communities and costs millions of pounds every year in dealing with the associated health problems, loss of productivity, children and adult social care costs and drug related crime and disorder. Problematic alcohol and drug use can be a pathway to poverty, lead to family breakdown, crime, debt, homelessness and child neglect. By looking at data and listening to people's stories, we can work out the best ways to prevent and reduce substance misuse, provide help to those in need, and create a healthier, safer environment for everyone.

Public health commissions a wide range of services to support prevention, treatment and recovery from problematic alcohol and drug use, including Catch 22 services for children and young people and i-access services delivering treatment and recovery for adults. There is a strong focus on our most vulnerable residents including, high risk complex drinkers, people involved in the criminal justice system and children excluded from school.



Marketing campaigns have focused on alcohol reduction and reducing harm from drugs, including: 'January and Beyond', which promoted on-line screening and alcohol awareness, targeting neighbourhoods with the highest levels of alcohol related hospital admissions and 'Naloxone Awareness' campaigns, to highlight the intervention which is capable of reversing the effects of opioids, such as heroin and methadone and can save a person's life. Upcoming campaigns include Alcohol Awareness Week in July, and Overdose Awareness Day in August.

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Prevention

Smoking and obesity are the two of the most preventable risk factors associated with long term conditions such as cardiovascular disease and cancer. To support prevention of such conditions, Public Health works with a range of stakeholders including the NHS, trading standards and University of Surrey to design and deliver evidence-based and environmentally sustainable interventions. Services commissioned by the public health to prevent cardiovascular disease and cancer include:

An integrated lifestyle service, “[One You Surrey](#)” which supports adults who live or work in Surrey free support to stop smoking and to achieve a healthy weight. “[Be Your Best](#)” the **child and family healthy weight programme** jointly provided with Active Surrey. A whole system food strategy has been developed which aims to create a healthy place, where people are supported to make healthy food choices and work together to protect the environment, whilst growing the local economy through a resilient local food system.



Smoking cessation - Currently 10.9% of our population still smoke, around 110,000 residents. [Tobacco Control Strategy 2023-26](#) was published which outlines our plans to create a smokefree Surrey by supporting residents to quit for good. Over the past five years, One You Surrey have supported over 7,500 residents to successfully quit at 4 weeks. Whilst the proposed Tobacco and Vapes Bill goes through parliament, Surrey alongside other local authorities have been awarded extra funding (additional £1.1m per year) for the next five years to

enhance our local stop smoking services.

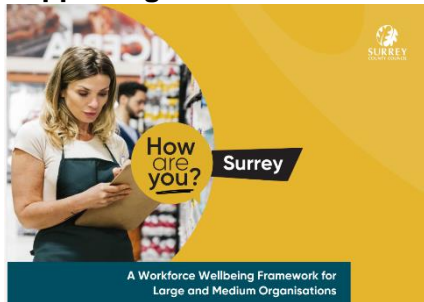


NHS Health Checks are offered to 40 to 74 who do not have a pre-existing health condition and are used to identify early signs of cardiovascular disease. Raising awareness of the importance of knowing your blood pressure, Mark had his blood pressure taken during ‘Know Your Numbers’ week. 1 in 3 adults in the UK have high blood pressure and 1 in 2 adults with high blood pressure do not know they have it. The campaign helped raise awareness of free blood pressure service in local pharmacies.

Mental Wellbeing

Population health management approach to mental health: The Population level need for support with mental and emotional wellbeing is well documented. To focus efforts, a population management approach to understanding demand, health inequalities and response for Severe Mental Illness (SMI), Common Mental Disorders (Depression and Anxiety) and sleep has been developed. A place-based population mental health system approach has been launched in North-West Surrey.

Supporting mental and emotion wellbeing in the places where people live and work: The ‘How are you Surrey?’ Workforce Wellbeing Programme assessment tool has been launched with a focus on care homes and the construction industry. A workforce wellbeing research collaborative has been established with SCC and Universities of Surrey and Kent.



The **Suicide Prevention Strategy for Surrey** has been updated to align with the National Strategy and will be out for consultation shortly.

The **Gambling Harm Reduction** needs assessment continues which has led to the creation of a targeted marketing campaign delivering a significant increase in people accessing support.

The **First Steps programme phonenumber** for anyone needing mental wellbeing support has been launched in Guildford, Woking, and Waverly boroughs. New chatbot technology is being used in the marketing campaign to encourage people to contact the phonenumber.





Surrey's **mental health crisis helpline** which helps almost 50,000 people a year to see how they support those in need. Surrey's Mental Health Crisis Helpline (0800 915 4644) is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and since it started in 2010 it has helped around 600,000 people. I recognise the dedication and compassion shown by the team at the Mental Health Crisis Helpline it's truly inspiring. It's clear that their work not only saves lives but also instils hope and provides a lifeline to those grappling with severe mental health challenges. Surrey County Council is committed to ensuring the well-being of our community, and this service exemplifies our ongoing efforts to support those in need. Witnessing the meaningful interactions and the genuine care offered by the helpline's staff has reinforced the importance of continued support and collaboration.

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Nature Based Wellbeing: St Ebba's Therapy Garden sits within the Children and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) site in Epsom. A previously disused space has been transformed into an outdoor space for children and young people's therapy. Designed as a therapeutic space, to create a calming and accessible place for those with mental health problems. Creating the garden brought together businesses, young people (not in education, employment, or training (NEET), who built the raised beds, a vocational programme for adults with learning disabilities (who maintain the garden), Surrey Wildlife Trust

(who donated the native hedge planting) and volunteers who planted the hedging. [Green health and wellbeing | Healthy Surrey](#)

Workforce Development

[Making Every Contact Count](#) (MECC) is an evidence-based approach to behaviour change that uses the millions of day-to-day interactions that organisations and individuals have with other people to support them in making positive changes to their physical and mental health and wellbeing. Public Health commissions a training programme as well topic specific training (including alcohol use, smoking, mental wellbeing) offered to frontline health and care professionals across the system.



Public Health Research

Public health has been successful in securing just over [£5m grant funding](#) from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to become one of the national Health Determinants Research Collaboratives (HDRCs) and build a public health research infrastructure in collaboration with the University of Surrey.

Towns and Villages and Team Around the Community

We continue to extend our **towns and villages approach** and the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) have now committed to further strengthen shared coordination at the local town and villages scale across the county. This is welcome as stronger joint working alongside communities between the County Council, District and Borough Councils, the local NHS and the VCSE is crucial to addressing health inequalities. A key part of this is our teams on the ground in communities (the "**team around the community**") and we continue to see the positive impact of working alongside our communities, including of course through the crucial role and contributions of local Members.



All our 11 **Community Link Officers (CLO)** now have their own Facebook pages, where you can find out about what's going on in your local area, things that might affect you and get in touch with your CLO if you need help. [Community Link Officers are making it happen across Surrey - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

The team have been out and about and had two community free events in May a cooking event and a Spring fun day that were designed to provide connections for people in their local area, knowing that social isolation is a key determinant of wider health issues. The Surrey Community Lounge provides the forum for people to quite simply come along and meet others, and join in as much or as little as they want to. Do spread the news with your residents. More details can be found here [Surrey Community Lounge - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)



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Meanwhile the positive impact of our **local area coordinators (LACs)** has been confirmed through an academic evaluation (see [full report here](#)). We currently have eight LACs working at the local neighbourhood level to offer individual 1:1, cross-agency support to anyone who might need it for a range of reasons - there are no eligibility criteria, thresholds or time limits, meaning they can build trusted relationships and provide early, highly accessible preventative support. The evaluation underlined the significant difference this is making to people's lives: "local area coordinators go beyond immediate needs, fostering longer-term relationships with people facing complex life challenges...[and] are positively contributing to people's health and well-being over the longer term".

Further fantastic examples of how our teams are working alongside a wide range of partner organisations were highlighted through the recent **Integrated Care Partnership Board visits** to Horley (April) and Leatherhead (June). Board members were rightly impressed by examples such as the [Horley Health and Wellbeing Network](#) and the inspiring [Jam Place](#) in North Leatherhead which is a safe and inclusive space for young people to express themselves through dance and movement, including specialised activities for neurodiverse children.



Community Prevention Team

The Community Prevention Coordinators continue to work closely with ASC locality teams, promoting a wider range of low cost, local services available in the community to help support residents who have met care threshold needs. An integral part of this work is identifying gaps in provision and developing projects to fill these gaps.



In East Surrey, we have secured funding to launch a Community Budget. This will support local residents by providing them with funding to take action on matters of local importance. Key principles of this work, among others, are local ownership, accessibility and empowerment.

The Team have been successful in securing a grant by the DWP to roll out Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care (IPSPC) across Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System (ICS) and the Frimley South area of the Frimley ICS. The programme will be known as **'Work Wise'**.

Work Wise will ensure adults in eligible locations with mental and/or physical health conditions or disabilities including learning disabilities and neurodivergence, receive the health and wellbeing benefits of accessing and maintaining employment for the longer term.

We have made excellent progress and have contracted two new Work Wise providers – Get Set UK & Surrey Choices. Whilst Richmond Fellowship have begun delivery, receiving 125 referrals in their first month. In addition, we've commissioned Revealing Reality to explore residents' experiences of in-work poverty and how we can support them to thrive in work.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI):

We have developed our action plan for 2024/25 on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion which builds on the successes achieved in the previous year. Some achievements from 23/24 include:

- Carrying out in depth research with disabled, ethnically diverse and LGBTQ+ staff to understand their experiences at SCC and what more we need to do to support our diverse workforce.
- Rolling out an improved process for assessing and implementing workplace adjustments for staff.
- Achieving Carer Confident level 2 status and introducing one-week paid carer's leave
- SCC website achieving full digital accessibility compliance and rolling out an AI driven checking tool for documents.
- Developing Inclusive Recruitment guidance for hiring managers and implementing inclusive practices in interviews.
- Launching an Inclusive Language Guide for staff.
- Improving guidance on undertaking Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs), developing EIA champions network and providing training for EIA champions.
- Funding an Inclusive Boards programme with 20 local voluntary organisations to improve understanding of inclusion and how to diversify trustee boards.
- Completing the launch of the Refuges for All project, providing 7 safe spaces for victims and survivors of domestic abuse from underserved backgrounds including LGBTQ+ and ethnically diverse people.

Areas we will be focusing on for 24/25 include

- Improving the physical accessibility of our key office sites, including the new Victoria Gate building.
- Responding to the recommendations from our disabled, ethnically diverse and LGBTQ+ staff reviews
- Continuing to improve our approach to using EIAs to help us develop services that meet the needs of all our communities, especially our most vulnerable residents.
- Providing evidence-based training relevant to people's job roles and responsibilities and giving clear, practical advice on our duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Working alongside our partners in Surrey Police and the voluntary, community and faith sector to pilot approaches to improving community cohesion and tackle hate crime.
- Work to embed EDI in our supply chains through our procurement and commissioning processes.

We are also pulling together data from the census and a range of other sources to better understand who is experiencing inequality in Surrey. We are using this evidence base to bring a range of partners together to look at how we can work together to address these inequalities.

Carers Week

I attended our Staff Carers Summer Festival which took place during Carers Week on 12 June where we shone a spotlight on our working carers across the Integrated Care System and beyond. The aim of the day was recognising the invaluable dedication of our staff who balance caregiving with their work responsibilities. It was organised and arranged by our Carers Staff Network.

It was so encouraging to see hundreds of staff attend the event and to be able to provide useful information. One of the most poignant outcomes was from staff only just realising that they are a carer. To quote one attendee "Being able to network in such a happy environment was great" ... "This was the first year I've recognised myself as a carer, and I cannot thank you enough for putting this event on. It really did put a spring in my step that day and truly appreciated it."

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