Welcome to the February / March issue of Surrey News

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Please note – there is no Branch talk in April.

The NAS has a new strapline ‘Until everyone understands’ which I think will resonate with most families that include someone with an ASD. If you want to play your part in improving understanding in schools, there are some downloadable resources to help them understand better how to support children and young people on the spectrum on the NAS web site www.autism.org.uk.

As part of this, the next national NAS campaign continues this theme: it is called ‘Too Much Information’ and is aiming to transform public understanding of autism with a two year, UK-wide campaign. The campaign will focus on how overwhelming the world can be for some autistic people and launches on 2nd April, the first day of World Autism Awareness Week.

99% of the public say they have heard of autism but 87% of autistic people don’t think the public really understand what autism is or how it affects people. As many families know, this can have an isolating effect on people on the autism spectrum and their families, as they may feel worried about being judged in public and avoid going out.

We will be picking up this theme in future events – please check out our web site, online email forum and future newsletters for details.

Emma
Emma Whitfield
Chair (volunteer)
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Parents of Girls’ Group
Rachel Pearson 01483 727378 racheldpearson@gmail.com

Fathers’ Group:
Martin Trenaman 01737 360069 trenamans@talktalk.net

Parents of Adults’ Group
Hilary Dyce 01276 66032 hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk

Fundraising
Sarah Mason 07973 379131 slmason78@gmail.com

Other Useful Contacts

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

NAS web site: www.autism.org.uk
NAS Helpline: Tel: 0808 800 4104 (10am – 4pm), or email autismhelpline@nas.org.uk (replies within 14 working days)
NAS national membership: 020 7903 3563 Email membership@nas.org.uk

Education Support
NAS Education Rights: 0808 800 4102
SSIASS Parent Support: 01737 737300
http://www.surreyparentpartnership.org.uk/
SOSSEN charity to support statementing, tel: 020 8538 3731, Web: www.sosseen.org.uk

Family Support & Representation
NAS Family Support worker
Michelle Slade@nas.org.uk 07436 261 163
NAS Parent-to-Parent line 0808 800 4106
Portage – support for children with additional needs under 3.5 years 0300 200 1004
Family Voice Surrey
www.familyvoicesurrey.org

Local parent programmes
Early Bird (parents of under 5s) / Cygnet (parents of children aged 5 – 18). Vicky Jones training@linden-bridge.surrey.sch.uk Tel: 07747 595 155
Redhill CAMHS group for parents of children with ASDs, tel: 01737-287002

Activities for children and young people
NAS Resource Centre, Godalming Tel: 01483 521743 SEResourceCentres@nas.org.uk
interAKtive, Epsom-based charity for children with ASDs and other communication 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 learning disabilities/ASDs tel: 01483-519690, email: employability@surreychoices.com

Benefits advice
Carers Support https://www.carers.org/
NAS Tips page – via www.autism.org.uk

Cerebra DLA guide: 0800 328 1159
About NAS Surrey Branch
The Surrey Branch of the NAS is a volunteer-run parent-to-parent support group for families in Surrey affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders. It’s FREE to join (although a small donation is appreciated) and we have around 1,500 members. The branch holds regular meetings and organises social events, local coffee mornings and special interest groups, and represents parents in meetings with health, education and social services. We host an active Yahoo! online forum, and produce this newsletter every two months. To join, email emma@mugsy.org for a membership form.

If you are a member of the NAS at national level, you can nominate us as your branch by emailing supportercare@nas.org.uk which means we receive a percentage of your annual subscription.

We’re part of The National Autistic Society, a national charity founded by parents in 1962 which runs a wide range of services such as schools, clubs and adult centres. It has over 20,000 members, 100 branches and works in partnership with more than 50 local autism societies. The NAS exists to champion the rights and interests of all people with autistic spectrum disorders and to ensure that they and their families receive quality services appropriate to their needs. National Autistic Society, 393 City Rd, London EC1V 1NG www.autism.org.uk. The National Autistic Society is a registered charity, number 269425. Company limited by guarantee number 1205298.

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EHCPs Talk in Redhill
We are hosting a talk by Wendy Jenkins of Core Assets designed to help parents to understand what is involved as their child transfers from a statement to an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP), or as they apply for one for the first time.

Time: 7.45 for 8.00pm
Date: Weds 10th February
Venue: PNL Centre, St Joseph’s Catholic Church, 122 Ladbroke Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1LF (map on p11)
The talk will include a chance for parents to meet with one another informally after the presentation. Please email emma@mugsy.org to let us know if you are planning on coming along.

Core Assets is the organisation that has been commissioned by Surrey County Council to provide Independent Support to parents during the introduction of EHCPs. For more information, contact Core Assets on 0800 028 8455 or go to www.coreassets.com
If you are not able to attend, you can download a copy of the slides from this talk from our web site at www.nasssurreybranch.org

Talk by Family Voice Surrey in Woking
Family Voice Surrey will explain why we should all sign up and get involved with Surrey’s official parent /carer forum.
Time: 7.45 for 8.00pm
Date: Tues 8th March
Venue: DoubleTree Hilton, Victoria Way, Woking GU21 8EW NB this is not our usual venue.
They will also talk about the feedback they are collecting from parents and carers, including members of NAS Surrey Branch, to contribute to Surrey’s joint autism strategy. If you want to understand more about the power that a collective voice can have in reshaping services, it’s worth watching their explanatory animation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Rj-SDTdQls Whilst they are pan-disability, a large percentage of their members are the families of children with some form of ASD diagnosis.
Women and girls with ASD event – Save the date
On Saturday 1st October we will be running an information day in Leatherhead about women and girls with autism. There will be several speakers, including Sarah Hendrickx, who many people may have seen on TV or heard on the radio talking about her experiences as a women with Aspergers. Full details will appear in the next issue of the newsletter and on our email forum, but if you are interested in attending please save the date.

Pub meet in Weybridge
We are holding a pub meeting from 8.00pm on Weds 24th February at the Oatlands Chaser, Oatlands Chase, Weybridge KT13 9RW. There is plenty of parking and the pub is about a 15 minute walk from Walton-on-Thames station. Please email emma@mugsy.org if you need more information.

Cygnet course in Redhill
We still have places available at our two-day Cygnet seminar for parents of children with ASDs (with or without final diagnosis) aged 5 – 18. The seminar will run on 2nd and 3rd March at the YMCA in Redhill.

Topics covered will include
• Autism & diagnosis
• Communication
• Sensory issues
• Understanding behaviour
• Managing behaviour

The course is delivered by experienced SEND Education Consultant Elizabeth Waters and is FREE to parents, but a refundable deposit of £10 per person is required to secure your place.

Thanks for the generous donation from Horley Lions which has enabled us to offer this.

SORRY THIS EVENT IS NOW FULLY-BOOKED. WE WILL BE RUNNING ANOTHER ONE IN THE FUTURE.

Helping your young person find employment
We have just a few spaces left on our seminar on supporting your young person to find work by AS Mentoring.

Time: 10.00am – 2.30pm
Date: Friday 26th February
Venue: Christ Church, Woking – if you are used to coming to our evening talks at Christ Church, please note you need to use the main entrance on Jubilee Square (not the rear night entrance).

The course is FREE to parents, although a refundable deposit is required to secure your place.

The seminar is designed for parents/carers of young people aged 16-25 with an ASD to help them understand what they can - and can’t - do to help their young person to prepare for the world of work and how best to support them to find employment as they leave education. It aims to give parents practical advice and ideas and signpost them to potential areas of further support/funding. Topics covered will include:
• Routes into work and higher education
• Looking for work – the role that parents/carers can and can’t play
• Declaring an ASD diagnosis to an employer?
• Reasonable adjustments in the workplace
• Available support

AS Mentoring www.asmentoring.co.uk is a specialist organisation which works with people with ASDs to help them find and retain work, as well as encouraging employers to develop more inclusive workplaces. For more information about the seminar, contact Rachel Pearson rachel.pearson@asmentoring.co.uk

SORRY THIS EVENT IS NOW FULLY-BOOKED. WE WILL BE RUNNING ANOTHER ONE IN THE FUTURE.

Tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring your own lunch.
DATE CHANGE: Ice Skating now 28th May 2016
We have had to move our ice skating event forward by one week to Saturday 28th May as the rink is no longer available in June. Times remain unchanged at 4.45 – 5.45pm. The booking form will appear in the April/May newsletter and there will be a link posted on the email forum.

Autism Conference, Dorking
The SEND Teaching School at Linden Bridge and Surrey County Council are holding an Autism Conference at Denbies Vineyard, London Rd, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6AA on Friday 18th March from 9am – 3.30pm. NAS Surrey Branch are exhibiting, so do come and say hello if you are going. The event will feature presentations and an exhibition. For more details, contact Vicky Jones at Linden Bridge at courses@sendteachingschool.co.uk Tel: 020 8330 3009 extension 237.

NAS Educational Rights Workshop
A workshop dedicated to Educational Rights with external speakers hosted by Michelle Slade, Surrey Family Support Coordinator.
Date: Tuesday 16th February
Time: 10.30am to 1.00pm
Venue: Linden House, Woodside Park, Catteshall Lane, Godalming GU7 1LG

It is being delivered by Liesel Batterham and Abbie Woodling from the NAS’ Education Rights team and will focus on the processes of an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) and the rights you have as parents. In addition, advice surrounding tribunals and information about this topic can be given. PLACES MUST BE BOOKED AND PAID FOR IN ADVANCE. COST £3 per person. For enquiries please call 01483 521744 or email Leanne.hammond@nas.org.uk
Cancellations can be made up to 24 hours before the workshop starts.

Please note, this is not organised by the NAS Surrey Branch.

Volunteers urgently needed in Redhill
Both the wonderful, long-standing volunteers who help out at our Redhill meetings are having to stand down for personal reasons which leaves us with no local volunteers to run Redhill talks or events in east Surrey.

We currently put on one evening talk per term in Redhill (in February, June and October), but we also need help at other events such as training courses, local support group meetings or other seminars from time to time. Please email emma@mugsy.org if you think you might be able to help - even if it is only on a one-off basis. We will need someone to take over the library from June.

Huge thanks go to Marion Simpson, who has provided and made teas and coffees (as well as much more..), and to librarian Jenny Lawson for their support, knowledge and help over recent years.

Research on learning and friendships in girls
Anna Cook is a PhD student in psychology at the University of Surrey and is investigating the experiences of learning and friendships of girls with an ASD. Anna is looking to interview girls in years 7 – 12 (age 11 – 17) with an autism spectrum disorder and their parents/carers. She would also like, if possible, to interview a member of staff from their school about its policies and practices relating to ASD. The interviews will be about 30 minutes and all information collected will be anonymised. This study has been reviewed and received a favourable opinion from the University of Surrey Ethics Committee. Anna also has a DBS certificate.

If you and your daughter would be willing to help, or would just like to find out more with no obligation, please contact Anna Cook direct at a.h.cook@surrey.ac.uk
Survey to improve Autism ‘Diagnostic Pathway’
Virgin Care, which provides NHS services including autism diagnosis, is currently conducting a survey to help them design a new Autism Diagnostic Pathway for people aged 0 – 19. The pathway is the process that people go through before, during and after diagnosis and Virgin Care is collecting information with the aim of creating a better experience for those involved.

If you or someone close to you is currently going through the diagnostic journey (Virgin Care or otherwise), or has received an autism diagnosis, please share your experiences via an online questionnaire http://surveys.virgincare.co.uk/s/autismpathway/

This survey is for anyone in the UK that has been involved in a diagnostic pathway - child or adult, person with a diagnosis or a family member. Parents can complete the survey with their child if they wish. Your information will remain anonymous. The pathway will initially be trialled in Virgin Care services in Surrey, with the hope to roll it out to other areas in England.

Face2Face talk on Benefits
The volunteer-led support organisation Face2Face is holding a talk about DLA, Personal Independence Payments and benefits on Friday 26th February at YMCA East Surrey, YMCA Sovereign Centre, Slipshatch Road, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 8HA from 10.30am-12.30pm.

The speaker is Linda Bowman, Family Income Adviser, from Surrey Welfare Rights Unit. For details contact Sandhya Gulati Face to Face Coordinator, Sandhya.Gulati@ymcaeastsurrey.org.uk Tel: 01737 229230

Face2Face is a group for parents and carers who have a child or young person with a disability and offers friendship and support to other parents. All befriencers are trained.

Surrey Branch ‘Branch of the Year’ runner up!
We were delighted to find out recently that the NAS Surrey Branch has been selected as the runner up ‘Branch of the Year’ in the NAS Staff & Volunteer Awards 2015. NAS Branches Manager Helena Bateman at the NAS told us, “This really is an exceptional achievement to have been selected from over 100 branches across the UK, CONGRATULATIONS! We know you all give up your valuable time and energy to support other local families and without your commitment, these families would not access the support and information the Surrey branch so successfully provide”.

FAQ on Carers’ Benefits
Contact-a-Family have published a helpful list of questions and answers about Carers Benefits. You can either read the information or listen to it as a podcast http://www.cafamily.org.uk/carersallowance

Support for parents of children with PDA
The support company Positive Autism Support and Training (PAST) is running a one-day seminar on Parenting Children with PDA, Autism and Challenging Behaviour on March 11th in Leatherhead from 10.00am – 3.00pm. The company also runs a regular support group meeting for parents of children with PDA and ASDs. The next group will meet on Friday 4th March from 1.00 – 2.30pm at the Burview Hall, Hersham, KT12 5AB. Reflexologist Carly Garret will explain some simple reflexology that parents can use to minimise anxiety.
For more details, contact Laura Kerbey on 07769 116382 or see their web site at www.positiveautismsupportandtraining.co.uk

Haslemere Museum
Haslemere Educational Museum will be opening early on Tues 16th Feb especially for families with autistic children. To find out more, contact Kay Topping, Education Officer, Haslemere Educational Museum, 78, High Street, Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 2LA Tel: 01428 642112 email: education@haslememeremuseum.co.uk
Changes to Surrey’s CAMHS service

From 1 April 2016, Surrey’s mental health and learning disability services for children and young people are changing for the better.

To achieve this, Surrey and Borders NHS Foundation Trust (SABP) are partnering with national and local voluntary, statutory and private providers, who have proven track records in delivering services to children and young people. The goal is to deliver greater support to more children and young people with the aim of reaching them before they become seriously unwell.

Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups and Surrey County Council have invested an extra £2.3 million (we are told this is a 30% increase) to improve services following a period of extensive public consultation last year.

One of the key changes under the new CAMHS model will be the creation of a single point of contact for referrals to CAMHS services and booking of appointments. This will be managed by a company called Beacon UK, and aims to ensure that those being referred are in contact with the right service and get the appropriate level of treatment and support. Other key changes include:

- Expanded operating hours 8:00am – 8:00pm Monday to Friday and 9:00am -12:00pm on Saturday.
- The threshold criteria for acceptance into CAMHS will be lowered, which means that volumes are expected to increase significantly.
- Many current CAMHS pathways will be enhanced.
- Additional and specific support for adopted children and their families.

Some of the partners due to work with SABP include:

- The National Autistic Society SE Resource Centre in Godalming who, along with Barnardo’s and technology firm Brain in Hand, will deliver peer support networks, digital health apps and accredited pre/post parenting support programmes for children and young people with behavioural issues, emotional problems and neuro-disability.
- Xenzone which offers British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy accredited online counselling, self-help and moderated peer support. This will be available to young people aged 10 plus.
- Surrey’s Youth Support Service will lead on the development and implementation of a ‘No Labels’ Service to engage with the most hard to reach young people who are leading chaotic lives.
- The Richmond Fellowship will provide education, training and employment and support to those aged 16-25.
- Other voluntary sector organisations in Surrey including Heads Together, Learning Space, Eikon, The Lifetrain Trust, Redhill Counselling Centre, Reflex Working, Step by Step and Relate West Surrey will also offer specialist services for groups of children aged six upwards.

For further information and a full list of the partners, download the brochure Creating a new vision for Surrey CAMHS http://www.sabp.nhs.uk/services/mental-health/young-people/camhs-mental-health-services/about/camhs-leaflet

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£80m investment in SEN

On 29th January, Minister Edward Timpson announces £80 million to extend opportunities to children with special educational needs and disabilities, designed to ensure that “thousands of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) have the same opportunities as any other child.” https://www.gov.uk/government/news/80-million-to-boost-support-for-special-educational-needs
EmployAbility support into work programme

After a successful one-year pilot, the Employment Works for Autism programme has been funded for another year by the Department of Work and Pensions via the Job centres. It is designed to provide specialist autism employment support for people living in Surrey. The one-year programme is aiming to help 30 people on the autistic spectrum find a six month unpaid internship to help them move closer to paid work.

The project, starting in March 2016, is led by Surrey Choices EmployAbility team, but also has support from the National Autistic Society Surrey Branch, Surrey County Council and the Job Centres in Surrey.

Surrey Choices EmployAbility will be looking for people whose aspiration is to find full time paid work and who are on the autistic spectrum, but would not otherwise get employment support. The focus is on those people with Asperger’s Syndrome or high functioning autism, but it is open to anyone who identifies themselves as having an ASC (no diagnosis required).

The goal is to provide enough support to enable 40% of those on the scheme to find and keep paid work, but just as important are steps towards employment such as sustaining the internship, attending job clubs and increasing work skills. Surrey Choices will be working closely with staff in local Job Centres, providing training on autism and helping identify suitable candidates.

Applications will be through Job Centres, but you can express interest or get further information directly through Surrey Choices - Email: employability@surreychoices.com or call 01483 806806.

New support group for adults in Haslemere

Aut-Haslemere is a new group for adults being run by and for autistic or Asperger adults. It will meet monthly not far from Haslemere high street/station to talk through various issues, share tips and strategies and provide the opportunity to make new friends. You do not need a formal diagnosis to attend.

The group will meet on the first Monday of each month from 6.00-8.00pm, starting in March. Attendance costs £2 per session. The first meeting topics will be:

7th March
Introduction to the group, establishing group rules.

4th April
Building fulfilling lives, work, education, hobbies; challenges and strategies.

2nd May
Building friendships and relationships; challenges and strategies.

For more information contact laura@autangel.org.uk or call/text 07793 766 494. Look for ‘authaslemere’ on Facebook.

Annual Health Checks for people with LDs

GP surgeries should now be offering annual health checks for people with learning disabilities who need more health support and who may otherwise have health conditions that go undetected.

If you have been assessed as having moderate, severe or profound learning disabilities, or if you have a mild learning disability but have other complex health needs, you should be entitled to a free annual health check.
http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Childrenwithlearningdisability/Pages/AnnualHealthChecks.aspx
National Autism Strategy Update

Three documents were published in January looking at the work being done for adults with autism across the country.

The government published a progress report on “Think Autism”, the updated national strategy for adults with autism. The report describes what has been done to implement the 33 actions which were given in the original Think Autism strategy. It also lists 31 new actions for delivery over the next four years. You can see the full report here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/progress-report-on-strategy-for-adults-with-autism

The government also published the Autism Self-Assessment Framework results for 2014, looking at progress made within each local authority area by the end of that year. Authorities had to answer a set of questions rating themselves against a set of criteria which gave a score of “green”, “amber” or “red”, or in some cases giving actual numbers, and the results are presented largely as graphs or maps showing how the areas compare, followed by a written summary. You can see the full results here: https://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/projects/autsaf2014results

There is also a website where you can find the results for your area and give your own feedback: https://autism-connect.org.uk/users/myarea

Finally, the Local Government Association published a report giving examples of good practice in the way local councils support people with ASDs. Surrey features in the report for its Autism Champions scheme, which trains a network of people from various backgrounds including local authority staff, colleges, the police and probation service and employment agencies. You can see the report here: http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/101807632544/L15-497+Think+autism/7d2e2654-cb18-4e35-a428-ac04487c2da4

Finding information

A reminder that you can find a lot of useful information on the Surrey Autism Partnership Board website. There are factsheets on topics such as ‘Useful Strategies For Life’, ‘Social Care and Community Support’ and ‘Health Services’ amongst others, information about the Pegasus card (an Autism Alert card to help Police, Fire and Ambulance services to understand how to communicate with you), details of how to find local groups and information and more: http://www.surreypb.org.uk/modx/welcome-to-the-surrey-autism-partnership-board.html

For people who have a learning disability, there is also Surrey’s Learning Disability Partnership Board website with much more information and links to easy-read documents for health and other topics: http://www.surreypb.org.uk/Home.html

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Adult Strategy Consultation Meeting

Our January meeting in Guildford gave local families a chance to provide feedback on Surrey County Council’s draft strategy for 2016 – 2020 for people with learning disabilities and/or autism, which has been out for consultation and gathering feedback from local groups. The consultation closed at the end of January. An updated draft will be considered by the Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Health & Wellbeing Board and recommendations will then go to Surrey’s Cabinet for approval at the end of March.

The session was led by Tom Moore, Commissioning Manager, East Surrey and Autism Lead, Adult Social Care at Surrey County Council and Mary Hendrick, commissioner for LD services in East Surrey and lead for Surrey’s Learning Disability Partnership board. Continues overleaf
National Autism Strategy Update / Cont’d

NAS Surrey Branch members who are parents of adults with ASDs were asked to comment on the three goals of the strategy:

- Staying Healthy
- Living My Life
- Keeping Safe

Each of these sections has several detailed action points towards achieving these goals.

In answer to some questions Tom and Mary admitted that it will be a challenge in the current economic climate, but this is why it is important to have a good plan, with input from people using services and carers.

Links to other strategies
The strategy aims to link in to other relevant strategies that are already in place, such as the Carers Strategy and Safeguarding, as well as work done by the Clinical Commissioning Groups. Mary Hendrick added that each of the six areas in Surrey will have a commissioner responsible for making these links, establishing priorities and carrying out action plans in their area.

One parent asked how people who lack the capacity to make choices for themselves could be included. Tom explained that the advocacy services, available via Surrey Disabled Peoples’ Partnership (SDPP) are designed to give people as much autonomy as possible. He explained that people who are currently in services outside Surrey should receive advocacy from a service that is local to them.

Health
Concerns were raised about the availability of annual health checks (see p8) and screening for people with LDs in Surrey, as GP surgeries are not all signed up to offer these, especially for people with autism. The point was made that many adults with autism, but without a learning disability, are unlikely to take up the offer of health checks without a carer or other advocate to monitor this.

It is recognised in the strategy that there is little autism awareness at primary care level. This led to a discussion on the need for more and better training for health professionals, which could be led by parents and carers.

There was agreement that there is a great need for better links with employment support for people with autism, as well as with the police and criminal justice system for better understanding in the community.

It was pointed out that some people with autism feel that the police are a threat rather than a service to keep them safe.

Housing
Another issue raised was the lack of reference to housing support for people with autism, whose needs can be very variable and who are not always eligible for services.

Setting priorities
A major concern was that there are no priorities mentioned and parents questioned whether a four year plan was enough to carry out all the good intentions listed in the strategy.

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Bowling group for adults with LDs
Mencap are running fortnightly bowling sessions for adults with learning disabilities at Charrington Bowl, Tolworth. They run on Thursdays from 11.15 a.m. – 1.15 p.m.

The cost is £5.30 for 2 games, and participants should bring money to buy a snack/lunch or bring a packed lunch with them.

For more details and to book a place, contact Ben on 07506 549609 or Alex 07984 524367 at Mencap or email surrey.leisure@mencap.org.uk
Forthcoming Meetings
All our talks start with coffee at 7.45pm with a chance to view our extensive libraries of books and chat to other parents and NAS Surrey Branch volunteers. The talks start at 8.00pm and usually last an hour and a half, including a chance for you to ask questions.

10th FEBRUARY 2016 - Redhill
PNL Centre, St Joseph’s Catholic Church, 122 Ladbroke Road, Redhill RH1 1LF
Education Health & Care Plans
Speaker: Wendy Jenkins, Core Assets Independent Support

8th March 2016 – Woking
DoubleTree Hilton Victoria Way, Woking, Surrey GU21 8EW (NB not our usual venue)
Why you need to find out more about Family Voice Surrey
Speaker: Fran Morgan and Andrea Collings, FVS
NAS SURREY BRANCH CALENDAR FEBRUARY – MARCH

Our local support groups are a great place to meet other families who also include someone with autism or Aspergers. Please always email or call ahead of our meetings to make sure nothing’s changed.

**FEBRUARY**

**Fri 5th 10.00am GUILDFORD SUPPORT GROUP** Sara Truman 01483 822630 nas@mugsy.org

**Mon 8th 10:00am FRENSHAM SUPPORT GROUP** Christine Malik 07941 121395 christinemalik@btopenworld.com or Bonnie Noyce jbnoyce@yahoo.com

**Weds 10th 7:45 for 8:00pm REDHILL PNL Centre, St Joseph’s, 122 Ladbrooke Rd TALK on EHCPs by Core Assets** Emma Whitfield emma@mugsy.org

**Weds 10th 10.00am WOKING Support Group** Wyevale Garden Centre Sarah Norris sarah4ian@ntlworld.com

**Wed 24th 8.00 pm WEYBRIDGE PUB SOCIAL MEETING** Oatlands Chaser, Weybridge Emma Whitfield 07423 435413 emma@mugsy.org

**Thurs 25th 10.00 am REDHILL SUPPORT GROUP** Helen Ruffhead 01737 212043 h.ruffhead@ntlworld.com

**Thurs 25th 10.00 am Ewhurst SUPPORT GROUP** Lucy Tosh 07968 948513 Lucy@lucytosh.co.uk

**Friday 26th 9.30am – 2.30pm WOKING PARENT SEMINAR Supporting your young person into employment * BOOKING ESSENTIAL * Sarah Mead sarah_mead@hotmail.co.uk**

**MARCH**

**Wed 2nd & Thurs 3rd 9.30am – 2.30pm EAST SURREY YMCA, REDHILL PARENT SEMINAR Cygnet course * BOOKING ESSENTIAL * Sarah Mead sarah_mead@hotmail.co.uk**

**Thurs 3rd 10.00 am HASLEMERE SUPPORT GROUP** Fiona Bowring Fiona Bowring 07729 024040 timandfiona@btinternet.com

**MARCH / Cont’d**

**Thurs 3rd 7.30pm GUILDFORD PARENTS OF ADULTS GROUP** Sara Truman 01483 822630 nas@mugsy.org

**Fri 4th 10.00 am GUILDFORD Support Group** Sara Truman 01483 822630 nas@mugsy.org

**Fri 4th 2.00pm HINCHLEY WOOD SUPPORT GROUP** Juliette Sturge 07703 287120 juliettesturge@gmail.com

**Tues 8th 7.45 for 8.00pm WOKING TALK by Family Voice Surrey** DoubleTree Hilton Victoria Way, Woking, Surrey GU21 8EW (NB not usual venue) Emma Whitfield emma@mugsy.org

**TBC 7.30pm MILFORD SUPPORT GROUP** Cullum Centre, Rodborough School Sue Briggs Home School Link Worker sbriggs@rodborough.surrey.sch.uk 01483 411100 x185

**Mon 14th 10.00am FRENSHAM SUPPORT GROUP** Christine Malik 07941 121395 christinemalik@btopenworld.com or Bonnie Noyce jbnoyce@yahoo.com

**TBC 9.15am CHERTSEY SUPPORT GROUP** Emma Whitfield 07423 435413 emma@mugsy.org

**Wed 16th 10.00am WOKING SUPPORT GROUP** Wyevale Garden Centre Sarah Norris sarah4ian@ntlworld.com

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Dates have not yet been set for the next parents of girls group meeting – please email parent volunteer Rachel Pearson at racheldpearson@gmail.com for details.