



**Autism in Surrey**

Working to improve the lives  
of autistic people in Surrey

## Surrey Downs Autism Friendly Communities Group

### Notes and actions from our June 2025 Meeting



#### Barriers to accessing community activities

We discussed potential barriers that might prevent people from accessing community activities:

##### Cashless venues

Some venues do not accept cash as payment, which is a huge barrier for some people who choose to use cash, or do not feel able or safe to use debit cards. We need to highlight when venues are cashless.

##### Quiet performances in noisy venues

Whilst a performance may be quiet, you often need to navigate a busy environment to reach the quiet performance. It helps if you have information in advance about the sensory environment of the whole venue.



#### Leisure and Sports Centres

During June and July 2025 we will be finding out more about the inclusive activities and quiet times offered by leisure centres and sports centres across the Surrey Downs area. We will report our findings at our next meeting on Tuesday 5th August.



#### Training on Autism and Neurodivergence

We will be developing training for services, businesses and shops across Surrey. We will discuss this at our next meeting on Tuesday 5th August.

One idea is to develop bespoke workshops aimed at different types of services such as Leisure centres or libraries.



#### Autistic Adult Peer Networks

We will be inviting people on our mailing list who are autistic or neurodivergent to join us at online evening meetings to discuss further developing peer networks across Surrey. We will email a flyer in early June.



## Instagram

The group suggested we set up an Instagram account. We have set up an Instagram account for Surrey Autism Friendly Communities. This is now live.

**Click here or use the QR code to visit our Instagram.**



## Facebook

We have launched our **Autism Friendly Communities Surrey** facebook group which will be open to anyone keen to help make Surrey more autism friendly. Search for 'Autism Friendly Communities Surrey' in facebook - or click the wording in green above.

### Existing facebook groups for families

There are a range of facebook groups across Surrey for families with autistic /neurodivergent children. You can find these by typing the group name into facebook and searching:

- Neuro Diverse Support Group
- We Shine Local Network
- Surrey Autism Spectrum
- Surrey SEN Group

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## Our August meeting

Our August meeting will take place online on **Tuesday 5th August 2025 from 12noon to 1.30pm.** We will send the link and agenda in mid July.

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## Our work during June and July 2025

Our team will also be focusing on the following pieces of work during June/July 2025.

### Surrey Libraries

We will be working with Surrey Libraries to develop visual stories about using your local library as well as signing up for Super Access where you can use your local library out of hours.

### Surrey Hills Wellfest - click here to visit their website

We mentioned this event at our June meeting and have since met with organisers to support them in their aim to be inclusive. There will be a quiet area and activities specifically designed with autistic and neurodivergent children and adults in mind.

Members of the Autism by Experience team will be at the event, so if you're interested in going but feel a bit anxious going somewhere new we could meet you there - just email us

**Email** us at [AFC@autismbyexperience.co.uk](mailto:AFC@autismbyexperience.co.uk)

### Mary Frances Trust

We will be finding out more about the support groups and activities provided by The Mary Frances Trust and invite them to speak at our August meeting.