

Surrey Carers Partnership Group Carer co-chair

Unpaid Carers in Surrey

Health and social care partners in Surrey lead a joint programme of work to ensure that carers are recognised across the system, and have access to information, advice, and support when they need it.

The Carers Strategy 2021-2024 (extended to 2026), which was developed with carers is underpinned by the vision of “Surrey should be a place where carers are recognised, valued, and supported, both in their caring role and as an individual. Carers will be respected as partners in care, will have a strong voice that influences improvement, and will be able to access the support they need, when they need it, and in the way that works best for them. This support will be available equally to all carers.”

Role description

The role of the Carer co-chair is intrinsic to the delivery of our values and priorities. It will be both strategic and impartial, providing an independent view on the Surrey Joint Carers Programme. The role will act as co-chair with a senior officer employed within the Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership (Surrey Heartlands ICB and Surrey County Council).

Core functions

Working alongside the officer co-chair, the Surrey Independent Carers Lead and other key stakeholders, the role of the Carer co-chair will bring a unique perspective to the Surrey Joint Carers Programme. The Carers Partnership Group will be seeking assurance that:

- The strategies are being delivered across the Surrey Heartlands footprint and those parts of Frimley ICB that sit within the boundaries of Surrey
- The voice of carers is heard in the planning and delivery of health and social care services
- The interests of carers remain at the heart of discussions and decision making
- Surrey is continually improving the way they co-produce services/best practice recognising carers as expert partners in care

The Carer co-chair will also:

- Prepare thoroughly for each meeting, reading and digesting papers in advance of the meeting
- Work closely with member of the Carers Partnership Group to agree agenda items and minutes in advance of meetings
- Manage conflicts of interest

Period of appointment

Each appointment will be for a period of two years.

Conflict of interest

The Carer co-chair is required to declare any relevant and material personal or business interests for them or close relatives and will be required to abide by the Surrey Heartlands ICB and Surrey County Council Conflict of Interest Policies.

Personal attributes

- Understanding of carers' experiences, ideally with lived experience of caring
- Have an interest in or experience of helping to improve services and support for carers
- Be able to contribute confidently and respectfully to discussions
- Whilst using their insight, skills, and experience to support the process, they will adopt and maintain an objective approach
- Be aware of and committed to pro-actively addressing equality, diversity and inclusion, and health inequalities
- Understand the importance of and respect confidentiality
- Interest in local and county-wide community issues
- Commitment to empowering and facilitating user voice
- The ability to accept accountability, and probe and challenge constructively
- Confidence to question information and explanations supplied by others, who may be experts in their field
- Confidence in using and access to IT, or a willingness to receive appropriate support as needed
- Experience of participating in meetings.

Time commitment and support

The Carers Partnership Group currently meets four times a year (once per quarter). Meetings are held virtually, using Microsoft Teams, and are usually 2 to 2.5 hours in duration. The agenda for each meeting will need to be agreed at least two weeks in advance of the meeting, to be sent out to attendees along with any supporting papers. The time commitment for other activities that the Carer co-chair may be requested to support (if they are willing and able) will be discussed and agreed as such opportunities/requests arise.

This is a voluntary role. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

The Carer co-chair will have a named contact from the Joint Surrey Carers Programme to discuss any queries or concerns, and who will provide support and guidance as needed.

Expressions of Interest form – Carer co-chair

Please complete this form with the details below including a statement in support of your suitability and aspirations for the role and return to kim.jacobs@nhs.net by 12pm on Friday 12th January 2024, with the selection process/discussions taking place on Thursday 18th January 2024 between 1pm and 2pm and 4pm and 5pm.

Personal Details

Name	
Contact details (email and mobile)	

Supporting Statement (no more than 500 words)

--