

**Autism Partnership  
Kindle Centre 18/10/16**

**Please note – the venue for the January meeting of the Partnership has been changed – please see page 4 of these minutes for details**

**Attendees**

Valerie Fitch (Chair)	Parent
Colin Boughen	Parent
Jane Clayton	Parent
Paula Daniels-Symonds	Parent
Genevieve Lewis	Parent
Keith Bladon	Parent
Debbie Hobbs	NAS Herefordshire
Cathy Dunn	NAS Herefordshire
David Davies	Ategi Herefordshire
Carol Condie	Ategi Herefordshire
Sally Anne Green	Ategi Herefordshire
Ruth Nolan	Senad Group
Amanda Mellings	Winslow Court
Robert McAfee	Brandon Trust
Colin Howarth	Summerville House
Sarah Davey	Autism representative
Rob Gorle	ACSYL
Gill Gorle	ACSYL
Sylvia Nicholls	Hereford Disability United
Aubrey Baillie	Aubrey Baillie Consultancy
Sean Slater	2G
Cllr Elissa Swinglehurst	Herefordshire Council
Alexia Heath	Herefordshire Council Transitions
Les Knight	Herefordshire Council Additional Needs
Ewen Archibald	Herefordshire Council Commissioning
Carla Preston	Herefordshire Council Engagement
John Gorman	Herefordshire Council
Paul Choppen	Herefordshire Council

**Apologies**

Helen Boughen	Person on the Autistic spectrum
Michelle Baillon	Parent
Helen Young	Parent
Abi North	NAS Herefordshire
Nikki Pitt	Parent
Neville Meredith	Herefordshire Council
Lynne Renton	CCG

### **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

Valerie Fitch welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves. John then went through the previous minutes and matters arising. The minutes were agreed. They were proposed by Paula Daniels-Symonds and seconded by Sylvia Nicholls.

### **Making it Real - Carla Preston**

Carla handed round leaflets that gave a brief overview of what the Making it Real group does. She said the group are working on simplifying information about Direct Payments to make it easier to understand as well as working on a leaflet to help people better understand assessments.

Carla also said that the Making it Real group wanted some new members to represent the needs of people on the autistic spectrum.

If you want to get involved please email Carla at [cpreston@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cpreston@herefordshire.gov.uk)

### **Action on Autism - Rural Media Update**

John read out an update from Nathan Williams. Nathan said they have had 4 workshops so far and have 8-10 regular members of various needs. They are currently in pre-production with people being cast this week. Debbie Hobbs said that she is involved in the production currently underway and the intention is for it to be premiered to the Board before it goes out on wider distribution.

### **Shared Lives - David Davies, Ategi**

David said Ategi Shared Lives started 2001 as a short breaks service in Rhondda Cynon Taff. David explained that Shared Lives enables people to be matched with families or individuals that will accommodate and support them to live their lives. All Shared Lives carers have been specially recruited and trained. David said all carers are self-employed and that the tenant will be expected to pay rent. David said Ategi wanted to do more short break and cover break work. If you would like more information on the Shared Lives scheme please contact David at [DavidD@ategi.co.uk](mailto:DavidD@ategi.co.uk)

### **Transforming Care - Ewen Archibald**

Ewen said Transforming Care was about taking people with complex needs or challenging behaviour out of specialist hospitals to be supported within their local community. He said that Transforming Care is a national NHSE programme. All councils must draw up a risk register for any patient who is currently in hospital placements, recently discharged or at risk of being submitted in the near future. Currently in Herefordshire we have 3 patients in NHS beds and 4 in CCG funded beds. There also needs to be a programme of Care and Treatment reviews for people in placements or at most risk of being placed. These are intensive reviews of the person's progress and needs. For those at a lower risk there will be light touch reviews of progress. Locally we currently have three commissioning priorities. These are; setting up a small number of highly supported 24 hour care units in community settings, building a rapid response team to deal with crisis events and setting up a crisis bed unit for longer term support.

A key element of Transforming Care is engagement and Ewen asked that if anyone on the Board would like to be part of the programme as an expert by experience they should get in touch. Ewen can be contacted at [Ewen.Archibald@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ewen.Archibald@herefordshire.gov.uk)

### **National Autistic Society (NAS) Herefordshire – Update.**

John read out an update of what the local group have been doing. This is attached with these minutes.

### **Summerville House – Colin Howarth**

Colin spoke to the group about a new residential, respite and day school being opened by Orbis Education at Summerville House near Presteigne in Powys. He described how the school would offer a

personalised holistic service for students which would include behavioural support, language therapy, life skills and work skills. It will serve those aged 8 to 19 and can accommodate students in a wide variety of ways such as on a day basis, boarding Monday to Friday or boarding term time only. It will offer 8 beds from the New Year with a further 10 beds to follow in due course. There will be an open day on October 27<sup>th</sup> 10am to 3pm. More at [Colin.Howarth@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:Colin.Howarth@orbis-group.co.uk) and <http://www.orbis-group.co.uk/summergil-house-presteigne/>

### **Transitions - Alexia Heath**

Alexia said that an employment pathway has been set out within the Children with Disabilities work programme to offer a range of options, advice and routes into employment for young disabled people moving into adulthood. The purpose of the programme is to raise aspirations, improve outcomes and improve planning to ensure clear pathways into work. It will also offer support to employers.

The programme will raise awareness of the help available to move into employment, help those who wish to become self-employed, identify suitable jobs and roles for those with autism and help employers to offer autism friendly interview and employment strategies.

Alexia asked the Board for their views on this work. Sylvia said that work experience needed to be designed differently for young people with autism. Valerie said that more life skills are needed to help young people cope. There needs to be more 'real world training'. Ruth Nolan noted that there was a work experience programme for those with autism at her school within the Senad Group.

Alexia said that she wanted the Board to be fully involved in the work of the Transitions group and that she would attend future Board meetings. If anyone would like more information on employment and transitions please contact Alexia at [ah Heath1@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ah Heath1@herefordshire.gov.uk)

### **GP Awareness day**

Valerie updated the Board on how the GP awareness event, run by Healthwatch and the Board, had gone. She said that it had been well received by the GPs who played an active role in the event. There have since been a series of GP staff training events led by members of the Board. Valerie said that the key messages of the day were to improve how diagnosis were handled, how reasonable adjustments to GP surgeries can be made and how GPs can help in improving the collection of data on the incidence of autism.

### **Autism Self-Assessment – John Gorman**

John explained that every 18 months or so the Council is asked by the NHSE Statistical Observatory to assess how well it, and its partners, are meeting the needs of those with autism in the county. The assessment looks at a range of subjects such as housing, planning, training, diagnosis and employment. The most recent assessment has just been completed and he thanked the members of the Board who had made contributions to writing it.

Looking at the overall outcome of the assessment it appears that we have done the same as in previous assessments. Areas to improve upon include fully embedding the diagnosis pathways, raising awareness of autism within planning processes and improving the collection of data generally.

He noted that the questions asked by the Observatory did not, in his opinion, allow the response to truly reflect the progress that has been made locally during the recent past. To get around this a series of statements highlighting areas of progress had been included at the end of the assessment to demonstrate and describe this progress. John went on to highlight the areas of improvement that have been made including having a very active partnership board with an independent Chair, a local branch of the NAS has been launched and is running successfully, we are using innovative methods to raise awareness of autism through projects such as the Rural Media project (see above) and the

work the Board and Healthwatch with GPs (see above). In addition, our diagnosis pathways will soon be in place.

Finally he went on to outline the areas of further work needed in the coming year. These include setting a future work programme, developing the work on employment, developing the work on meeting housing needs, improving data collection and updating the autism strategy.

#### **AOB**

Sylvia said that the next HDU event will be on November 16 at Hinton – it will include news on the restructure of the Care Home market, the new Summerhill School (see above) and a new disability award. Further details are attached

Valerie noted that she was continuing to carry out training with the Police. She is hopeful that we will soon have a permanent ‘police champion’ on the board – this to be confirmed.

Les Knight noted that the children’s diagnostic pathway is in its final stages of governance and should be published shortly.

Les also informed the Board that he was working with the council’s Research Team to improve the quality and amount of data on autism being included with the Children’s Needs Assessment to be published later this year.

The meeting ended at 12.30

The next meeting of this group will take place on:

**Tuesday the 24th of January 2017.**

**Start at 10am and end at 12:30pm.**

**Venue: Kindle Centre Hereford PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE**

#### **Future meeting of the group;**

Tuesday 4th of April, Plough Lane 10-1pm

Tuesday the 11th of July, Plough Lane 10-1pm

Tuesday the 17th of October, Plough Lane 10-1pm

#### **Attachments;**

Rural Media update

NAS Hereford update

HDU seminar flyer