

Autism Partnership Board

23 January 2018

10am-1pm, Leominster Room, Plough Lane, Hereford

Attendees	Role/ Organisation
Valerie Fitch (Chair)	Parent / Person on the Autistic Spectrum
Debbie Hobbs	NAS Herefordshire
Aubrey Baillie	Autism Consultant
Rob Gorle	ACSYL
Gill Gorle	ACSYL
Colin Boughen	Parent
Mary Simpson	Healthwatch
Nikki Pitt	Parent / Person on the Autistic Spectrum
Alan Harrison	Person on the Autistic Spectrum
Sara Siloko	Herefordshire Disability United
Jane Clayton	Parent
Lisa Byrne	Herefordshire Fire and Rescue
Les Knight	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Rone	Herefordshire Council
Greg Atherton	West Mercia Police
Lynne Renton	CCG
John Gorman	Herefordshire Council
Paul Choppen	Herefordshire Council

Apologies	Role/ Organisation
Paula Daniels Simmonds	Parent
Michelle Baillon	Parent
Alexia Heath	Herefordshire Council
Helen Young	
Abi Bryn	
Neville Meredith	Herefordshire Council
Rhaine Green	
Christine Price	Healthwatch

Introductions, Apologies and Previous Minutes

Valerie Fitch welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

John then went through the previous minutes.

Matters Arising

The board is still waiting for Stephen Vickers to send through his Accessing Social Care services - the New Blueprint document.

Action - Paul and John to chase

Personal Independence Payments (PIP) - Valerie Fitch

Valerie explained that her son has got PIP and didn't need an assessment. Valerie has offered to give advice to anyone who is applying for PIP.

Hereford Fire and Rescue Service – Lisa Byrne

Lisa explained that Herefordshire and Worcester Fire Rescue service offer free Fire Home Safety Checks and Safe and Well Checks to anyone who is over 18 and is considered vulnerable as well as anyone over 70 years old.

The checks will make sure you have working fire alarms, fire retardant blankets and any other safety equipment you may need They will also help you work out an escape plan specific to your circumstances in case of an emergency.

To arrange a free home safety check please contact the Community Risk team via the on-line form or call 0800 032 1155 for advice.

Action – Lisa to send examples of the referral and sign posting forms - John and Paul to circulate them

Debbie Hobbs-NAS Update

Autism Awareness starts on Monday the 26th of March. PLAYMOBIL are the sponsors of this year's World Autism Awareness Campaign and they have donated toys to the local branch. .

In aid of Autism Awareness week the Co-op are promoting Autism Awareness training. As part of Autism Awareness week Hereford NAS are holding a "What is Autism?" day on Thursday the 29th of March at the Saxon Hall. Places are going fast with around 42 people having already booked there places.

Debbie said that the Old Market has been given the Autism √ meaning staff at each shop have had Autism Awareness training.

Debbie said that she has also tried to engage with commissioners to attend a meeting to discuss the Held Back campaign that aims to make sure children are not held back in education or from achieving their potential because they are autistic.

Action- Debbie to liaise with Cllr Rone

Action – Debbie to send John and Paul a revised NAS update for circulation

LIAG - Greg Atherton-West Mercia Police

Greg said that training was continuing for all police ranks and that there now just two shifts awaiting their Autism Awareness training.

Greg also discussed the Vulnerability Strategy called "Seeing past the Obvious". The strategy aims to improve the aftercare support victims of Hate Crime receive. Police are taught to try and see past the obvious and look at the underlying causes of Hate Crime and signpost people onto other services if needed.

Valerie mentioned that Hate Crimes across Herefordshire are up (54) although Hate Incidents are down. This has been attributed to better reporting.

Valerie also mentioned that Police will soon all be supplied with a laptop and a phone that the victim of a hate crime can use to write their own report of the incident.

Regarding hate crime Greg acknowledged that the police were not doing enough to prevent secondary victimisation once the victim has perceived to be interacting with the police.

Valerie said that the LIAG group was always happy to hear views from as wide a range of people as possible. If anyone wants to know more they should contact Valerie

Strategy update

Lynne Renton from the CCG explained that the draft Diagnostic Pathway (which had been discussed at a previous Board meeting) had been further refined and pilot tested at several GP surgeries. The most recent NICE (The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) guidance had also been issued to GPs.

The draft pathway will shortly be going through the CCG governance process.

There will also be an audit undertaken of the current diagnosis processes to see where there are gaps and overlaps in service. There will also be a consultation with services users, past and present, to see how their experiences of diagnosis have gone and how well the referral pathway is working.

The audit will be conducted over the next few months by Cathy Heatherall of the CCG.

The current model for diagnosis means that people are still having to go to either Bristol or Bath for diagnosis. CCG are currently speaking with 2gether to see whether a Herefordshire based diagnostic service might be constructed. The main issues that need to be addressed are securing the right level of funding and identifying the correct mix of skills in a multi-disciplinary team to conduct the diagnosis process.

Lynne noted that the current draft action plan within the strategy needs to be amended to include reference to the pathway and audit.

Action; Lynne to update her section of the draft action plan

Alan Harrison asked what services are available for those who are diagnosed.

Action - Cllr Rone offered to write to Alan with information on services

Valerie Fitch (and others) pointed out that having a diagnosis can help open doors to services. People can also then be signposted to other services once they have been diagnosed.

John Gorman said that with budgets being so tight the most effective improvements that can be made to services would be improving staff awareness of autism and making services more autism friendly.

Mary Simpson noted that at a recent Healthwatch Mental Health Forum attendees noted that there 'no services for people with Autism or ADHD in the county'.

It was noted that ADHA is a subject better discussed with the CCG. Lynne suggested that Mary speaks to the person dealing with ADHD in the CCG.

Action – Mary to speak with Jade Brooks of the CCG.

John also asked Mary her to go back to the forum (when it meets in February and define what the group meant by 'services' and to highlight such services in other counties. Aubrey noted that Autonomy run a group in Shropshire and Debbie noted that Aspie House run a service in Worcester.

Action – Mary to ask forum about services and examples from elsewhere.

The discussion moved to obtaining data on the number of people with autism in the county. Lynne said that this data might be downloadable within the CCG.

Action – Lynne to ask Andrew Tanner of the CCG to see if the data is available

Les Knight then spoke to the meeting about the work going on in Childrens Well Being (CWB) regarding autism.

He said that the key actions he expects to include within the action plan are;

- 1 – a full needs assessment to identify gaps in provision
- 2 – a review and remodel of therapy services (especially for autism specific services)
- 3 – revise the diagnostic pathway for children
- 4 – expand and improve the education, training and supported employment offer for the 16 to 24 age group

Lynne noted that there is a workforce development group that works across the council and the CCG.

Action - Les and Lynne to discuss how this group might be used to help develop employment opportunities for people with autism.

Les asked people to look at the current draft plan and to let him know if there are any gaps in the Children's section

Mary Simpson asked whether there had been detailed needs assessments to support the strategy. Les explained that detailed assessments would be done to support each of the key actions points he had outlined earlier. John explained that an engagement exercise on the draft strategy had been drafted by the Board last summer and that this had been issued around the county.

It was noted that in April the Childrens Scrutiny board would be considering the draft strategy. The meeting agreed that the next planned Partnership Board meeting would be too late to influence this timetable and so an extra meeting was agreed for Friday the 9th of March.

Action – John and Paul Choppen to arrange meeting

UPDATE – room booked – Committee room 2 Town Hall, 10.30 start Friday 9th March.
Meeting to discuss draft strategy.

John agreed that a revised draft of the strategy would be issued before the meeting to give people time to consider their comments.

AOB

Research programme

Gill Gorle said that she had been approached by Jeremi Korhonen at the University of Glasgow who is running a research investigating the ways in which individuals on the autism spectrum perceive and engage with emotions in music.

If you are interested in taking part in the research please the details attached to the electronic copy of these minutes

19-25 Coffee Group

Valerie said that she has had a letter from someone looking to set up a coffee morning for the 19 to 25 age group. Details attached to the electronic copy of these minutes

Healthwatch

Mary said that Healthwatch will shortly start work on a study of the new Adult Social Care pathway. This will have four strands looking at the experiences of carers, service users, organisations and staff

Healthwatch will also be competing their work on the GP access study which has thrown up the need for reasonable adjustments for people with autism in GP surgeries

There is also an end of life project which is about to be completed

There is also an online Public Health Survey that can still be responded to

Patient voices on the CCG

Alan asked whether there was an autism rep on the CCG.

Action - Lynne said that she would check.

Lynne also said that the CCG lay member for patient engagement – Di Jones – would like to hear from people who would like to get involved in the work of the CCG. Lynne can arrange meetings if needed.

Chair

Valerie said that if anyone would like to take on the role of chair of the Partnership Board she would be happy to hear from them. Please contact her if you would like to know more.

Late addition.....

Eastern Cloisters Project, Hereford Cathedral: Focus Group for Autism

We have been asked by staff at the Cathedral whether anyone on the Board (or perhaps someone you know) would like to be part of a focus group looking at how to make the Cathedral – especially the Eastern Cloisters more autism friendly. Attached is a description of what are hoping to do.

The meeting will be on 28th February - 10 - 11.30 - at the Cathedral. Refreshments will be provided and travelling expenses paid.

Please let John or Valerie know as soon as possible if you would like your name to be put forward.

A reminder of the actions from the meeting:

- **Paul and John to chase Stephen Vickers for the Accessing Social Care services- the New Blueprint document**
- **Lisa Byrne to send examples of the referral and sign posting forms and John and Paul to circulate them**
- **Paul and John to arrange a meeting to discuss the children's element of the Autism Strategy**
- **Debbie to liaise with Cllr Rone about getting more commissioners to attend the Heldback event.**
- **Mary to ask Mental Health forum about autism specific services and get examples from elsewhere**
- **Action Mary to speak with Jade Brooks of the CCG about ADHD**
- **Lynne to update draft action plan regarding the Autism Strategy.**
- **Lynne to ask Andrew Tanner to see if the data is available on the number of people registered as being on the Autistic Spectrum by their GPs.**
- **Les and Lynne to discuss whether the workforce development group might be used to help develop employment opportunities for people with autism.**
- **Lynne to check whether the CCG has a autism rep.**
- **Cllr Rone offered to write to Alan with Information on autism services.**

Dates of Future meetings:

**Additional Meeting Friday 9th March 10.30 start
Committee room 2 Town Hall
To discuss the draft strategy**

24th April 2018 -10-1pm, Hereford and Leominster Room, Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford,

24th July 2018 -10-1pm, Hereford Room, Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford,

30th of October 2018-10-1pm, Hereford and Leominster Room, Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford,

22nd January 2019 10-1pm, Hereford and Leominster Room, Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford

