

Autism Partnership Group - April 14th 2015
Kindle Centre Hereford

Present

Valerie Fitch - Chair	Person on the Autistic Spectrum and Parent
Mary Godwin	Parent
Michelle Baillon	Parent
Melanie Kay	Parent
Sylvia Nicholls	Chair Hereford Disability United (HDU)
Sara Siloko	HDU
David Malins (from 11am)	Herefordshire ASPIE LINK and person on the Autistic Spectrum
Aubrey Baillie	Independent consultant in Autism
Colin Javens (from 11am)	Healthwatch
Les Knight	Head of Provider Services – Children’s Well Being - Additional Needs
Rob McAfee	Brandon Trust
Richard Elms	Rural Media
Sean Slater	2G
Fenella Lloyd (from 11 am)	Hereford College of Arts
Dave Andrews (from 11am)	Telecare Team
Paul Choppen	Herefordshire Council
John Gorman	Commissioning Officer Herefordshire Council

Apologies;
Ben Clayton
Jane Clayton
Paula Daniels-Symonds
Carol Soble
Neville Meredith
Chrissy Dunlop
Rose Hunt
Richard Green
Ewen Archibald

The Minutes were read through and various actions arising noted. There were two items to be taken forward to future meetings

- Expenses – John Gorman reported that a policy covering expenses was still being discussed.
- Transitions - Group members are asked to continue to access the test webpages on the Council website and to feedback thoughts and suggestions to Les Knight.

The minutes were proposed by Sylvia Nicholls and seconded by Aubrey Baillie. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Because several members of the meeting were running late the agenda was changed. The item “**Living in Fear – a report on Hate Crime**” will be taken at a future meeting

Action Point – Item to be on next agenda

1 - The Information and Guidance Task and Finish Group

Valerie Fitch reported that the task and finish group that she had been working with about information and guidance for parents and carers had met with Les Knight to look at how the 'Local Offer' webpages might be made more user friendly. Further work on this was needed and another meeting needs to be organised. **Action – Valerie and Les to organise.**

The group had produced a paper on their work which has been circulated. **Any comments on the paper to be sent to Valerie.**

2 - Action for Autism Herefordshire – a presentation from Richard Elms of Rural Media

Richard had been asked by members of the Partnership Board to come to the meeting to discuss ideas for the creation of a digital arts project to highlight the contributions young Autistic people can make to their local community.

Potential ideas include:

- Using techniques such as video profiling and digital media magazines to break down barriers that prevent employers taking on people with Autism.
- The creation of a support network where Autistic people can share their experiences on using personal budgets and different services.
- The creation of an advocacy platform to help train people to be more aware of autism.
- The creation of a space where information guidance and support can be offered to carers and parents

The funding for these ideas is still in an early stage but possible ideas that will be followed include the Advocacy strand of the Comic Relief Fund and the MoneySupermarket website which offers funding to raise financial awareness and educate people on financial issues.

Richard will circulate a proposal in the near future to the Adult Partnership Group about how the project might look and how funding might be obtained for it. He will try and have a proposal ready to be discussed at the next Partnership Group Meeting.

Richard also said that he was keen to create a 'team' of service users and others to participate in the creation and running of the project. Silvia Nicholls with her employment project and Rob McAfee from Brendon Trust both declared an interest in working with Richard on the project. If others are interested in offering their help or ideas they should contact Richard via e-mail.

It was noted that this project needs to be developed with reference to other on-going developments such as the 'Local Offer' in Childrens Services and the wider Advice Guidance and Information project that the Council is working on.

Action- Richard Elms to present to the next Autism Partnership Group meeting in July.

Action – John Gorman to send Richard the e-mail contact list of the Partnership Group

All – contact Richard if you wish to take part in this project

3 - Autism Self-Assessment – what did we say?

John Gorman introduced this item. He started by thanking Valerie Fitch, Sara Siloko and Sylvia Nicholls for their help in completing the self-assessment.

The self-assessment is an annual return to the Government that assesses how well we are meeting the needs of the Autism Act and National Strategy.

John noted that we are improving year on year. We now have an agreed Strategy, an active Partnership Group, a developing Action Plan and Autism is now on many local agendas (such as that of the Health and Well Being Board and the 'Making it Real' group.)

There were some themes from the self-assessment that need to be addressed. These are;

- Continue to update our Action Plan

- Develop a diagnostic pathway (1)
- Develop better ways of collecting and using our data (2)
- Improve our housing and employment opportunities

(1) Les Knight updated the group on this point saying that he and Lynne Renton of the CCG had met and had agreed to produce a streamlined unified pathway for children and adults. This work will begin shortly.

(2) Les Knight noted that the Local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a key central collection point for data and information and it is important that Autism is included within this JSNA.

Fenella Lloyd said that her college has data on the numbers and needs of students and offered to share this data.

Action – John Gorman to let Fenella know when the Research Team would need this data for inclusion within the JSNA

Action – John Gorman to circulate the self-assessment document to members.

4 - Community Composting – a business opportunity

Colin Javens explained that at the moment all of the County's green waste goes out of county to landfill or for composting elsewhere. He would like to create a social enterprise that would possibly work as a co-operative to use this green waste to make compost locally. The project would ask the council to provide a site at a low rent where green waste could be composted. Green waste would then get collected from private individuals and businesses. The compost could then be sold to generate income. There is also a possibility that in time the business could develop food growing and other horticultural opportunities. It is hoped that the project would provide jobs to people with Autism (and others) although it is too early to have exact numbers as the business case is still being developed.

If anyone would like to help Colin with this enterprise please contact him at colin@drivinghome.co.uk

5 – No voice unheard, No right ignored - a National Consultation on strengthening the rights and choices for people to live in their community.

John Gorman introduced this item by saying although the scope of the consultation appears to be primarily about the care assessment and treatment of mental health patients it will also affect those with Autism. Sylvia Nicholls and Valerie Fitch both noted that they had read the consultation paper and they had several questions that they felt needed to be asked. It was agreed that anyone in the group who wished to ask a question could feed it back to John Gorman who would co-ordinate a Partnership Board response. If anyone wishes to comment individually then they are welcome to do so

The consultation ends on **May 29**

Action – all – comments to John Gorman by May 20.

6 - The Autism Act – new Statutory Guidance

John Gorman noted that the Government had recently issued new Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support the implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy. He explained that the statutory guidance details what The Council and CCG should and must be doing to help people with Autism in Herefordshire and that we need to make sure our plans reflect the guidance.

Areas the Statutory Guidance covers include:

- Training of staff
- Diagnosis
- Transitions
- Local planning
- Preventative Safeguarding
- Equality

- Complex Needs
- Criminal Justice System

Action – John Gorman to issue the guidance with the minutes

7 - Autism Action Plan update

John Gorman noted that several areas of the plan had recently been updated and that a revised version of the plan would be brought to the next meeting of the Group. David Malins said that the names of the people responsible for carrying out specific actions need to be included in plan.

Action – John Gorman to update the plan and bring to next meeting

Any other business

Tele care-Dave Andrews

David explained that the Department of Health (DOH) has given the council £18,500 to spend on assistive technologies and Tele care for individuals with Autism. The Telecare Team have been working with social workers to assess possible beneficiaries of this grant money and now the Team was asking whether there were any more possible candidates in the wider community that might benefit. The grant is aimed to help people with autism to achieve and maintain their independence through the use of telecare and assistive technologies and to help assist with communication requirements. **If any members of the Partnership group know of possible candidates they should contact Dave at Dave.Andrews@herefordshire.gov.uk as soon as possible.** Please mark e-mails 'Autism Grant'

Note – this grant money is a one off payment – once it is gone it is gone!

Royal College of GPs - autism a clinical priority

Colin Javens noted that the Royal College of GPs have made autism a clinical priority for 2014 to 2017 and he wondered whether the Partnership Group should use this opportunity to raise awareness of autism amongst GPs. John Gorman noted that recently contact had been made with the post graduate training facility at the hospital and it is possible that a presentation on autism might be made there in the future. Other possible avenues include contacting Taurus (The local GPs group) to see if they can help disseminate information autism to GPs. Dave Andrews said that he had a list of GP practice managers that might be of help.

Action – John Gorman to invite Taurus rep and the CCG to the next Meeting

Valerie Fitch reported that she had recently been involved in some training sessions with Police cadets to raise Autism Awareness. These sessions had a been a success and others would be arranged.

There was insufficient time to hear about an issue that David Malins wished to speak about. This would be brought back to the next meeting as an agenda item

Action point – David Malins to present to the next meeting

The meeting ended at 13.00

Next meeting at the Kindle Centre

Tuesday 14 July 2015

Start at 10.00 and end at 12.30