

Autism Partnership Group – January 19th 2016

Kindle Centre Hereford

Present

Valerie Fitch - Chair	Person on the Autistic Spectrum, Parent and Trustee HCS
Helen Boughen	Person on the Autistic Spectrum
Amanda Leighton	Person on the Autistic Spectrum
David Malins	Person on the Autistic Spectrum
Michelle Baillon	Parent
Helen Young	Parent
Paula Daniels-Symonds	Parent
Sylvia Nicholls	Chair Hereford Disability United (HDU)
Rob McAfee	Brandon Trust
Christine Price	Healthwatch
Sara Siloko	HDU
Mandy Shrimpton	Rainbow Autism
Rob Gorle	ACSYL
Gill Gorle	ACSYL
Rich Matthews	Rural Media
Nicky Goodman	CCG
Rachel Noble	Crossroads
Tanya Stacey	2G
Sean Slater	2G
Jayne Davies	Strategic Health
Rosie Mockford	Community LD Team
Les Knight	Head of Additional Needs Herefordshire Council
Carla Preston	Adult Engagement Herefordshire Council
Paul Choppen	Partnership Support Officer Herefordshire Council
John Gorman	Commissioning Officer Herefordshire Council

Apologies;

Cllr Patricia Morgan
Martin Samuels
Sukhdev Dosanjh
Ewen Archibald
Lynne Renton
Colin Boughen
Colin Javens
Aubrey Baillie
Genevieve Lewis
Dr Jill Goodfellow
Dave Davies
Rose Hunt
Carole Soble
Neville Meredith
Nikki Pitt

Welcome, Introductions, Apologies

Valerie Fitch welcomed everyone before handing over to John to recap the previous minutes and the Matters Arising.

Matters Arising

- **Making Autism a Clinical Priority** - Valerie Fitch and John Gorman had met Dr Simon Lennane from the CCG and Dr Jill Goodfellow to discuss how we can improve GP awareness of autism – this is covered in more detail later in these minutes.
- **Hereford NAS** – John reported that Nicky Pitt had left the local group and that Debbie Hobbs was now the Branch secretary – a report from her is covered later.
- **Hereford Disability United's Autism Seminar** – This had been held in November and had been well attended.
- **LIAG Worcester meeting** - Valerie had attended a Hate Crime Event organised jointly by Worcestershire Council and the police.
- **WISH presentation** - It was mentioned that the WISH presentation which should have been issued with the previous minutes was not received by everyone.

ACTION - Paul to re-send presentation out with these minutes.

- **Action for Autism - Rural Media** – John noted that Richard Elms has left Rural Media and that Rich Matthews will be updating the group later on their work.
- **Update on Autism Action Plan** - Priority 3- Improving Planning in relation to the provision of services to people on the autistic spectrum as they move from adults to children. John Gorman said he had invited Ed Edwards to come along to the April Meeting to speak with Les Knight about the transition process for young people with Autism going through education.
Priority 8 - Helping people with autism into employment and training including further education. **John Gorman** said he would ask Alexia Heath to a future meeting to update the group on progress.

The minutes were proposed by Sylvia Nichols and seconded by Rob MacAfee. The minutes were accepted.

Must Do list - Valerie Fitch

Valerie went over some of the key things from the Care Act 2014 that the Local Authorities, the CCG and other public bodies such as the Police must do for People with Autism. The main areas that she highlighted during her discussion included:

- Section 9 of the Care Act 2014 which covers assessments by local authorities for community care services - these assessments should be carried out by trained practitioners, and where there are potential signs of autism, the assessment should take account of the communication needs of adults with autism. Assessment of eligibility for care services cannot be denied on the grounds of the person's IQ.
- Planning - Improving provision of services and the transition processes for people on the Autistic Spectrum, leaving school, getting training and getting a job.
- Ensuring that the Local Offer has got the right information, and is readily accessible. **John Gorman** noted that the Local Offer is linked to the new WISH website.

- Ensure that employment is promoted as a positive outcome for the majority of children and young people with autism who have EHC (Education Health and Care) plans and that routes to employment are fully explored during the reviews of those plans from Year 9 (age 13-14) onwards.

Rural Media - Rich Matthews

Rich introduced himself to the meeting. He has a long history of working on media and has worked for the NAS on their media image and publicity. He said that Rural Media will use the funding they have received so far to refine their “proof of concept” to demonstrate how effective video diaries and CVs can be. Ideas being discussed include the issues of Transportation, Transitions and Rurality. Rich asked for any other ideas to be sent him. His email is RichM@ruralmedia.co.uk.

Rich also said that he needs Match Funding to help fund the project. This funding could be in the form of ‘help in kind’ such as posting information on social media, in newsletters and on websites.

Les Knight asked if the finished specification could be circulated – Rich agreed that it would be.

Self-Advocacy - David Malins

David explained he has set up an Enhanced Self Advocacy Community Monitoring project. The idea is to gather data on the age, location and types of people who are on the Autistic Spectrum in Herefordshire. The aim being to help gather information that can be used to highlight needs and secure more specialised services. David hopes to use crowdfunding to help raise awareness of the project as well as his own organisation, Aspie Link, as well as and the needs of rural people on the Autistic Spectrum.

Valerie Fitch informed the group that she had received an e-mail from **Aubrey Baillie** who had attended the latest Aspie Link meeting on the 18th of January. Aubrey wished it to be minuted that he thought the meeting was clearly useful for those who attended.

Meetings of the Aspie Link group are held on the 3rd Monday of every month in the Barrels Pub function room. The meeting starts at 11am and is open to anyone.

Valerie asked if the Aspie Link meeting was on the WISH website. David said that the WISH website had been difficult to navigate. **Carla Preston** offered to put David in touch with SIL (who manage the wish website) who could help him load the information.

NAS Herefordshire

Debbie Hobbs - Branch Secretary – had sent her apologies. **John Gorman** read a report from her on the groups recent activities. These included:

- Attending autism friendly showings at the Odeon Cinema to help raise awareness.
- Holding a Christmas Party for Children on the Autism Spectrum and their siblings.
- Running a stall at Hereford Charities Market in December to help raise awareness of the group presence within Herefordshire.
- They are awaiting a community grant from Herefordshire Council so that they can start a Children's and teens social group meeting once a month which will incorporate a Parent/Carers group.
- They are also about to send out to schools a pack detailing what they as a branch have to offer and to invite them to hold a School Autism Friendly week in March. **Les Knight** noted that his team would be able to help with sending out packs of needed.
- They are also hoping to hold an Autism Fair in the near future.

ACTION – John Gorman to contact Debbie to:

a) see if the Partnership group can help with the proposed Autism fair, and

b) ask if they need help with sending their schools pack.

Crossroads – Rachel Noble (Autism Lead for Herefordshire and Gloucestershire)

The group heard from Rachel about the work that Crossroads do. They have a contract with Herefordshire Council to provide help for all age groups with a range of domiciliary and other help. They also provide help for Carers to help them keep caring. They work in tandem with Herefordshire Carers Support who provide advice, guidance and signposting. Crossroads provide the practical help. Rachel circulated the latest quarterly Crossroads magazine which lists the services on offer. This is attached to the e-mail version of these minutes.

Diagnostic pathway – Nicky Goodman CCG

Nicky introduced herself by saying that she was new to the post and was representing Lynne Renton who had sent her apologies. Nicky said that a revised Children's pathway would shortly be out for comment (before the end of March). There is also an adults pathway in draft which was also expected to be circulated by the end of March. She said that the CCG would need input from the Partnership Group to develop the pathway.

Sylvia Nichols asked whether the draft adult pathway was the same as the one discussed at the Making it Real Board and if not, why are there two pathways? It was explained that the one discussed by Making it Real was a Social Care Pathway not a medical one. Sylvia thought that there should be a synergy between different pathways.

Sean Slater asked that 2G be involved in the drafting of the pathway. He also noted that, at the moment, the IQ criteria was still in place when 2G diagnoses possible cases. **Valerie Fitch** asked why the NICE guidance on IQ was not being followed. Sean said that whilst IQ does NOT count for assessments and diagnosis it DOES count when deciding how health services are delivered. He also said that the service with 2G was being reviewed by **Ewen Archibald** (Commissioning Lead Herefordshire Council) and that this issue would be looked at.

Mandy Shrimpton (Rainbow Autism) said that in her experience different areas fund services differently but that the key issue was that Social Care and Health Care must work together to make services work.

ACTION – John Gorman to clarify with Ewen Archibald and Lynne Renton what is happening with the adult pathway.

Report back on GP meeting – Valerie Fitch

Valerie reported that she and John Gorman had met with the CCG Lead on Mental Health, **Dr Simon Lennane** and the Partnership Autism GP Champion, **Dr Jill Goodfellow**. Valerie said that the meeting had been very positive and that both Simon and Jill welcomed the findings of the Healthwatch GP survey.

Other points:

- Simon is starting to collect data on Autism within his own surgery.
- He is also looking at how to ask other surgeries for their prevalence data.
- He is also looking at how autistic people are coded on their GP records.
- Worcestershire Council have produced a GP guide which Jill is looking at to see if it can be adapted for Herefordshire GPs, and Valerie mentioned a Leicestershire Council leaflet which did the same.
- Another idea that was discussed was having a GP Autism Lead at each surgery (in the same way that Herefordshire Carers Support have established a Carer's Lead network in GP surgeries).

Valerie also reported that there is a good chance that the Partnership will be given a 15 minute slot at the GP post grad training event in June. She also said that we might be able to get a stall at the event.

Carla Preston said that with only 15 minutes available the messages will need to be short and sharp in order to be effective.

There was a discussion on the robustness of the approach being taken to obtain data. It was also noted that there is national data that can be used. The meeting agreed that more local data would be helpful, especially if services are to be targeted at specific geographic areas.

ACTION – Valerie to follow up with Simon on whether there will be a 15 minute slot available at the GP training event.

ACTION – All – those willing to staff a stand (should one be required) to let John Gorman know.

Healthwatch GP survey – Christine Price

Christine said that the survey had been created by **Colin Javens** and **Valerie Fitch**. It ran during October and November 2015 and gathered in 87 responses. The survey had been completed by people from a wide age range and there had been a fairly even split between men and women.

Christine said that the findings from the survey would be useful in influencing the shape of future GP Training events. **Jayne Davies** agreed and said that with her previous experience of developing awareness of LD issues amongst GPs she would be happy to act as a named link for getting messages through to GPs. Valerie asked whether Healthwatch would be able to act as a focus point for the possible June GP event (see above). Christine said that they would.

Sean Slater suggested holding the survey again in two years to measure distance travelled. This was agreed.

Christine also said that as a result of the survey Healthwatch were looking at developing a 'passport' for people to use when accessing services. She said that the Partnership would be asked to contribute towards the development of this document. **Michelle Baillon** mentioned that the NAS already had a very good one which could be used or adapted.

The presentation and the survey results have been circulated with these minutes. Copies can be obtained from **Paul Choppen**.

Any other Business

WISH – Carla Preston – Carla informed the meeting that within the WISH website there is a section called "Your voice" which asks people to get involved in redesigning services. The section also allows groups to add information about themselves such as meeting papers, agenda and so on. Carla wanted to know whether this was something that the Autism Partnership Board would be interested in. There was a unanimous agreement that the Board should have a web presence.

Action – John Gorman and Carla to draft some ideas to be presented to the Board.

Action – All – ideas for logos and group names to be sent to John Gorman.

HDU – Sylvia Nichols

Sylvia informed the meeting that the HDU meeting on Autism in November had been a great success with some very informative feedback coming from attendees. She asked that the Autism Partnership Board consider what other subjects they might want to be covered at future HDU seminars. **Ideas to Sylvia please.**

Autism Self-Assessment results and other documents

John Gorman informed the meeting that Public Health England had recently issued the results of the 2014 Autism Self-Assessment. The website containing the results can be accessed here <https://autism-connect.org.uk/users/myarea>

He also drew the meeting's attention to a range of documents that had been published:

- A Cross Government progress report on the Think Autism strategy for adults with Autism - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/progress-report-on-strategy-for-adults-with-autism>
- The National Autistic Society's guide for Local Authorities on the 2015 Autism Statutory Guidance at: www.autism.org.uk/autismstrategyguide
- The Local Government Association's practice examples from councils at: <http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/7632544/L15-497+Think+autism/7d2e2654-cb18-4e35-a428-ac04487c2da4>

The Adult Safeguarding Board has issued a draft strategy. They have asked for comments. The document will be sent out separately to these minutes

ACTION - Please feed these back to John Gorman as soon as possible.

Possible items for discussion at the next meeting:

- The Autism Self-Assessment results.
- Ategi Shared Lived.
- Progress on services for children with additional needs.
- Travel training.
- Your Voice.

The meeting ended at 12.45pm

The next meetings of this group will take place on:

19th April 2016,

12th July 2016,

18th October 2016.

All meetings to start at 10am and end at 12:30pm.

Venue: Kindle Centre Hereford