

Autism Partnership Group – October 13th 2015
Kindle Centre Hereford

Present

Valerie Fitch - Chair	Person on the Autistic Spectrum and Parent
Helen Boughen	Person on the Autistic Spectrum
Michelle Baillon	Parent
Colin Boughen	Parent
Nikki Pitt	NAS Herefordshire Branch
Sylvia Nicholls	Chair Hereford Disability United (HDU)
Rob McAfee	Brandon Trust
Colin Javens	Healthwatch
Aubrey Baillie	Independent consultant in autism
Mandy Shrimpton	Rainbow Autism
Carole Soble	Specialist Teacher for Complex Communication Difficulties
Rob Gorle	ACSYL
Gill Gorle	ACSYL
Genevieve Lewis	Hospital Discharge Worker
Richard Elms	Rural Media
Sean Slater	2G
Paulette White	WISH
Darren Birch	WISH
Dr Jill Goodfellow	GP
CLlr Patricia Morgan	Cabinet Lead Adult Social care
Martin Samuels	Director Adult Well Being
Paul Choppen	Partnership Support Officer Herefordshire Council
John Gorman	Commissioning Officer Herefordshire Council

Apologies;

Ewen Archibald	Mary Godwin	Lynne Renton
James Baker	Rose Hunt	Sara Siloko
Keith Bladon	Cate Johnson	Adrian Symonds
Jane Clayton	Melanie Kay	Ali Thompson
Paula Daniels-Symonds	Les Knight	Philippa Winstanley
Dave Davies	Amanda Leighton	
Claudia Don	David Malins	
Richard Green	Neville Meredith	

Valerie Fitch started the meeting with apologies from David Malins and Dave Davies who were on the agenda to talk about an Enhanced Self Advocacy Project and Ategi respectively. These items can be taken forward to future meetings.

As a consequence of these changes the running order of the meeting differs from that as shown on the circulated agenda

Previous minutes and matters arising

The Minutes from the previous meeting were read through and various actions arising noted. Issues;

Making Autism a Clinical Priority – Aubrey Baillie noted that the CCG should attend future partnership meetings. John Gorman said that he would ensure that invitations would be sent using Outlook in future rather than relying on e-mail alone.

Colin Jevons noted that a survey of services offered by GP surgeries across the county would help to get a better understanding of the demand for autism services in the county. He said that Healthwatch would be happy to coordinate this. It was noted that Herefordshire Carers has access to all GP surgeries through their work on Young Carers. Valerie Fitch suggested that this might be a useful starting point.

Action - Colin Jevons and Valerie Fitch to meet to discuss further

Update - a survey website has now been set up and can be accessed here

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2396337/Autism-Survey>

Sylvia Nicholls said that she had been in touch with the CCG about getting GPs to note on patient's records whether they were autistic.

Dr Goodfellow said that the electronic patient records system used by GPs was capable of making such notes.

Aubrey Baillie said that a county wide system needed to be agreed which would also record different types of autism on GP records

Action – Valerie Fitch to meet with Simon Lennane of the CCG and Dr Jill Goodfellow to discuss the practicalities of improving the recording system in GPs surgeries for those with ASD.

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

The Chair invited Cllr Morgan, Cabinet Lead for Adult Social Care and Martin Samuels, the new director of Adult Wellbeing, to introduce themselves and to briefly describe their aspirations for the work of the Board.

Valerie Fitch asked both Cllr Morgan and Martin Samuels whether there would be a new 'Disability Champion' appointed (A role previously held by Cllr Chapple). Cllr Morgan said that this was a good idea and if such a role was needed she would look into the practicalities of appointing someone to it.

Aubrey Baillie said that the presence of both Cllr Morgan and Martin Samuels was a clear signal of a growing commitment to Autism within the county.

Sylvia Nicholls invited both Morgan and Martin Samuels to the next HDU event (on Autism) which will be on November 18.

Action for Autism - Richard Elms - Rural Media

Richard introduced himself and explained that he had been approached by Aubrey Baillie and some service users to do work on raising awareness of people with autism through video profiling. Richard said that a bid for Comic Relief funding had been made. If successful the intention is to make regular 'Magazine' style programmes that will include interviews and reviews by parents, carers and people on the Autistic Spectrum. The project's principle aim is to promote the employability of people on the Autistic Spectrum whilst also being a training tool for employers. The resource could also be used to connect with Police, GPs and Health services.

Actions - There were three key actions that Rural Media need help with;

1 - The project needs volunteers to act as an editorial board – names to John Gorman in the first instance

2 - The project needs volunteers (Service users, carers, families and so on) to take part in the magazine programming (this would include behind the camera activities) – names to Richard Elms or John Gorman

3 - The project needs to be signposted to the people within the Council who would be able to promote it as a resource – John Gorman to work with Richard on this

Sylvia Nicholls said further funding could be found through Herefordshire Housing community grant if participant in the project are residents in Herefordshire housing properties.

CLLr Morgan said that the idea of working with employers was a good one. To really make a difference the project will need to show examples of actual success stories

Richard Elms said that he hoped that the videos would change minds and create and inspire Champions for autism.

WISH - Wellbeing Information Signposting in Herefordshire

Paulette White and Darren Birch introduced the new WISH signposting service which people can access through a Hub based in Hereford Town Centre as well as by telephone, e-mail or through a website. The service will go live sometime between November and January.

Paulette went through a slide show to show how the process would work and to illustrate how simple it is to sign up to. All companies and organisations who provide adult social care services could be registered. (Her presentation will be circulated with these minutes)

Action – Paulette asked for comments and feedback on the website – please respond to Paulette at paulette.white@s4il.co.uk

Rob McAfee noted that was important that when the WISH website goes live it is at the top of the search results on Google, as this is the main way people will search for the website. Paulette said that she would check this.

News and Updates

Sylvia Nicholls -Hereford Disability United (HDU)

The next HDU seminar will be highlighting Autism. Sylvia said she had around 80 people due to attend the seminar. These people included Tom Purser from the National Autistic Society who would be there from around midday. Tom will be highlighting the statutory requirements being placed on CCGs and Councils regarding implementing the Autism Act. Both Martin Samuels and CLLr Morgan plan on attending the meeting. John Gorman suggested that parts of the event (especially Tom's keynote talk) could be filmed so that those who cannot attend the meeting can view it.

Action – Sylvia to speak to Richard Elms about this.

The seminar is taking place at Hinton Community hall on the 18 November between 11 - 2:30pm.

Nikki Pitt – Herefordshire NAS

Nicky said the Herefordshire NAS branch had been running since 15 August. They now have a committee and are in the process of setting up a Parent / Carer Support group as well as a Children Support Group which will be hopefully running by Christmas. If you would like to get involved please email the Branch at NAS.Herefordshire@nas.org.uk or access their Facebook page at 'NAS Herefordshire'. A website is planned and details will be circulated in due course.

Valerie Fitch - LIAG

Valerie Fitch informed the meeting that she has recently joined the Board of the Local Independent Advisory Group (LIAG) which has been set up to act as a link between the Police and the Community.

She said that the Police want to more aware of the needs of people with autism. She will be attending a LIAG conference in Worcester and will feedback to the next autism group meeting.

Action – Board members to feedback any examples of autism related contact (good and bad) with the Police

Diagnosis Pathway – John Gorman informed the meeting that the CCG have now included the commissioning of an adult diagnostic pathway in its commissioning intentions plans for 2015/16. The CCG and the council are now looking at how this intention might be taken forward and an update on progress will be made at the next Board meeting.

Update on Autism Action Plan

The meeting looked at the action plan and discussed where it needs to be updated.

Priority 1 - Increasing awareness and understanding for those who provide services to people on the autism spectrum

Carol Soble said that she was in the process of bidding for funding to be able to run awareness training days. Although there is no guarantee that the funding will be given but Carol would like to know which groups this training could be targeted at **Action – ideas of who might benefit from this training to be sent to John Gorman**

Sean Slater said that the Community Learning Disability Team run days of free training which can be accessed through the Hoople website. (note – access to this site is not available externally)

Priority 2 - Improved identification and diagnosis of autism, leading to assessment of needs for relevant services and improved co-ordination of care

John Gorman repeated the news that the CCG have now included the commissioning of an adult diagnostic pathway in its commissioning intentions plans for 2015/16. Carol Soble noted that the children's pathway is in the process of being updated.

Priority 3 - Improved planning in relation to the provision of services to people on the autism spectrum as they move from being children to adults

It was agreed that Ed Edwards from Childrens would be invited to a future meeting to update the Board on progress **Action – John Gorman to invite Ed to a future meeting**

Priority 4 - Local planning and leadership in relation to the provision of services for adults and children with autism

A key element here is the collection of data and the meeting agreed that the work of the new NAS Branch will be able to start the collection process. It was also felt that David Malins proposed project might also help here

Priority 5 - Support for parents, families and carers

The meeting agreed that the formulation of the new NAS Branch group will be of great help here

Priority 6 - Appropriate support for people with autism in criminal justice system

The meeting agreed that it was helpful that Valerie Fitch was now on the LIAG

Priority 7 - Getting the right housing and housing related support for those with ASD

John Gorman noted that he sits on the LD Accommodation Group. A new housing strategy is being written and autism will be featured in this.

Priority 8 - Helping people with autism into employment and training including Further Education

The meeting agreed that the work Rural Media are doing with employers will help here. It was agreed that Alexia Heath from Childrens would be asked to a future meeting to update the Board on current work

Action – John Gorman to invite Alexia to a future meeting

Priority 8A - Developing Educational Provision for children and young people with autism

Carol noted that the work of the Childrens Development Centre was currently being reviewed and updated. For older age groups there are specialised units attached to two schools and these are being expanded as demand is growing. **It was agreed that Les Knight would be asked to update a future meeting of the Board on current work.**

Priority 9 – Community Safety and dealing with Hate Crime

It was noted that hate crime had been covered at a previous meeting.

AOB

Terms of reference

John Gorman received only a few comments on the updated Terms of Reference. The main changes made were having 4 meetings a year instead on 3 and that the Autism Partnership will report and recommendations to Herefordshire's Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Aubrey Baillie wished to have his thanks noted to Valerie Fitch, John Gorman and Paul Choppen for their work in running and organising the board meetings

The meeting ended at 12.30

The next meetings of this group will take place;

19th January 2016,

19th April 2106,

12th July 2016 &

18th October 2016.

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

Venue; Kindle Centre Hereford