

Autism Partnership

22 October 2019 10-am-1pm,

Venue: Bromyard and Sutton Room, Herefordshire Council Offices

Attendees

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Aubrey Baillie | Autism Advocate (Chair) |
| Debbie Hobbs | Hereford NAS |
| Laura Westwood | Worcestershire Council |
| Silvia Nichols | Hereford Disability United |
| Alexia Heath | Herefordshire Council |
| Gill Gorle | ACSYL |
| Rob Gorle | ACSYL |
| James Baker | Person on the Autistic Spectrum / Hereford Make |
| Laura Ferguson | Herefordshire Council |
| John Gorman | Herefordshire Council |
| Paul Choppen | Herefordshire Council |

Apologies

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Michelle Baillon | Carer Trust |
| Les Knight | Herefordshire Council |
| Jade Brooks | Herefordshire CCG |
| Mel Davies | Herefordshire Council |
| Simon Lennane | GP |
| Rebecca Howell Jones | Herefordshire Council |
| Valerie Fitch | Parent / someone on Autistic Spectrum |
| Julia Walker | Herefordshire Council |

Introductions, Apologies Matters Arising

Aubrey welcomed everyone and asked members to introduce themselves.

Aubrey asked Partnership Board members if people were happy to consent to the minute taker using a Dictaphone today to record the meeting as an aid to taking minutes. Following the minutes being typed and approved the recording would be deleted. All present consented to this.

John then went through the previous minutes which were accepted as an accurate record.

Worcestershire Pathway-Laura Wood, Autism Lead, Worcestershire Council

Laura explained that Worcestershire's current Adult Diagnostic Pathway has been operational since 2011. Assessments are provided by The Family Psychologist Service; assessments take place at their base in Kidderminster. The service is for anyone aged 18+ who is referred by their GP for an autism assessment. See attached for more information.



H-ASC Pathway.pdf

Laura explained that the waiting time is around 16 weeks initial assessment/triage and then support is offered pre and post diagnosis. In total, the time to get an assessment can be up to 1 year, but the service is actively working with people after a four month wait. The pathway had originally been commissioned for 200 diagnoses a year but around 300 people had been seen. This was due partly to greater demand and partly because a number of young people in transition were transferred to the adult pathway without any ability to be fast tracked; their waiting time therefore increased. This is an issue that clearly needs to be resolved.

Herefordshire Care Pathway-CCG

Unfortunately no one from the CCG was able to attend; however, they had sent a letter in which they acknowledge the current problems with getting a diagnosis from Bristol, including the long waiting times, the travelling and the need for a local pathway that is more accessible. The current solution is that GP referrals for diagnostic assessment are now being passed to the Family Psychology Service in Kidderminster. The letter posed three questions they would like the Autism Partnership to answer on the type of diagnostic pathway they would like.

John read out the questions, they were as follows:

1. Does the Autism Partnership have a view on online assessments?
2. Does the Autism Partnership have a view on a Herefordshire and Worcestershire model?
3. The gap in information, advice and guidance is stated in the Autism Strategy. How could the diagnosis/ assessment service address some of this gap?

See attached for more information:



Briefing CCG
Autism Oct 2019 (00)

A group of Board members decided to meet on Friday 1st of November from 11:30-2:30pm in the Bromyard Room at Plough Lane to discuss and answer the questions posed.

Action 1-John agreed to organise the meeting.

Action 2-Paul agreed to add Alexia Health to the Autism Partnership mailing list.

See attached for their response sent to Jade Brookes on 01.11.19



Autism Partnership
response to Jade Br

GP coding

Aubrey raised the issue about the lack of a single Autism Spectrum Condition/Disorder code GP's can use to record on EMIS those patients who are on the autism spectrum. A number of different codes have been used as a result of different labels being applied: Higher Functioning Autism, Asperger's Syndrome etc., together with some specific codes for children.

Two or three years ago Dr Simon Lennane, mental health lead for the HCCG, undertook to try and get all GP surgeries in Herefordshire to systematise their coding. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the meeting to update us on that work due to it being one of his clinic days. However, he has indicated he might be available on a Thursday.

The Board had a discussion with various opinions aired before agreeing to set up a meeting with him on a Thursday.

Action 3 – Aubrey to invite Simon to a Thursday meeting to progress this with representatives from the Board

Autism Awareness Day – Tuesday November 5th-Debbie has organised an Autism Reality Experience Bus in the Old Market and one in High Town from 9:30-4:30pm. Debbie has detailed other updates in the document attached.



NAS brief (19).docx

Debbie encouraged Board members to sign up to the NAS newsletter here:

<https://mailchi.mp/eda386b2b547/nas-herefordshire>

A.O.B

Aubrey informed the Board that the Council now has an aspiration for all its Boards to be more self-reliant in the way they fulfil their function, especially outside of formal Board meetings. We should give some thought to what the implications might be for how we operate to fulfil our aims.

NAS- Herefordshire Branch news

Debbie informed the Board she had invited Jesse Norman and Lady Darnley to a 3 hour Autism Awareness Session. She had also been in Manchester training the directors of the Co-operative on Autism Awareness.

Debbie has also been working with Hereford BID to make shops in Hereford Autism friendly and said Hereford had the most Autism Community-friendly shops in the UK. She was invited to Shropshire to receive an award for her efforts.

The Adult Aspie Group is up and running at Hereford City Sports on Grandstand rd. The group currently have 10 attendees from Hay, Chepstow and Kidderminster. Their next meeting is on the 18th of November.

Aubrey wanted it minuted that Hereford NAS had done a great job in delivering a range of activities and initiatives for autistic children and adults in Herefordshire over the past four years since the Branch was set up.

Healthwatch Herefordshire

Mental Health Strategy- Mary said that Worcestershire CCG on behalf of Hereford and Worcester STP (Sustainability and Transformation Plan) want people's views on mental health and what local services you think are needed. See attached for info.



HW-Mental Health
Strategy.docx

Reasonable Adjustments- Healthwch wants to produce a list of reasonable adjustments for service and employment providers to use as a resource when making their own adjustments. For more information click on the links below:



HW-Reasonable
Adjustments.docx



RAdjustmentsflyer.
pdf



RAsurveyseviceuser
sandemployees.pdf



Orgsurveyra.pdf

Action 4- Laura, Debbie and Mary all agreed to share the work they had done regarding reasonable adjustments that MECC, NAS and Healthwatch respectively have made, and a meeting will take place in November to progress this.

NHS Long Term Plan- Mary has received feedback on the NHS long-term plan. There is a specific section on autism and learning disability. See attachment below for more info.



Healthwatch
Engagement Report



Exec summary
p4-5.pdf

James Baker and Silvia both mentioned there is Herefordshire Board Gamers group. Click the link for more info: <https://herefordshireBoardgamers.co.uk/when/>

There was a discussion about the focus of the work of the Board in 2020-21. The following topics were discussed and the Board decided it would like to focus on these at the next meeting to agree what it wants to see in the action plan for 2020-21:

1. Autism Diagnostic Pathway
2. Post Diagnostic Support
3. Mental Health
4. Connecting with the Community
5. Autism ACT
6. Implementation Plan

Action 5- Please can all members read the Autism Act.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/15/contents>

Agenda Items for next meeting

John said Jack Wainwright from Redditch NHS Trust wanted to come to the January meeting to talk about the Sustainability and Transformation Plan's Mental Health Strategy.

Action 6- John to invite Jack Wainwright to the January Board meeting.

1. Autism Diagnostic Pathway – Jade Brooks Response
2. STP Mental Health Strategy- Jack Wainwright (Redditch NHS Trust)
3. Implementation Plan-John Gorman

| Name | Actions |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| John | 1. John agreed to organise a meeting to respond to the CCG questions around a local Autism Diagnostic Pathway. |
| | 6. Invite Jack Wainwright to the January Board meeting |
| Paul | 2. Add Alexia Health to the Autism Partnership mailing list. |
| Debbie, Laura , Mary | 4. Share reasonable Adjustments information with each other |
| Aubrey | 3. Arrange a Thursday meeting with Simon and reps from the Board |
| Board | 5. Read Autism Act 2009 |

Next Meeting:

28th January 2020 10am-1pm, Bromyard and Sutton Room, Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford