

## Autism Partnership

28 January 2020 10-am-1pm,

Venue: Bromyard and Sutton Room, Herefordshire Council Offices

### Attendees

Valerie Fitch	Parent / someone on Autistic Spectrum <u>(Chair)</u>
Mary Simpson	Healthwatch
Debbie Hobbs	Hereford NAS
Michelle Baillon	Carer Trust
Sara Siloko	Hereford Disability United
Alexia Heath	Herefordshire Council
Jack Wainwright	NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG
Jenny Dalloway	NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG
Julia Walker	Autism Lead, Operations ,Herefordshire Council
Laura Ferguson	Herefordshire Council
John Gorman	Herefordshire Council
Paul Choppen	Herefordshire Council

### Apologies

Ruth Nolan	SENAD Group
Aubrey Baillie	Autism Advocate <del>(Chair)</del>
Lisa Masters	Occupational Therapist
Jade Brooks	Herefordshire CCG
Gill Gorle	ACSYL
Rob Gorle	ACSYL
James Baker	Person on the Autistic Spectrum / Hereford Make
Silvia Nichols	Hereford Disability United

### Introductions, Apologies

Valerie welcomed everyone and ask everyone to introduce themselves.

John listed the apologies and went through the actions from the previous meeting.

### Matters Arising

**Attachments-** John mentioned that Aubrey had experienced issues opening documents that had been embedded within the minutes. It was agreed that in future documents will be attached to the email within which the minutes are sent out.

**GP coding** - Valerie has been in contact with GP Simon Lennane about organising a meeting/conference call about the codes GP's use to categorise people on the autistic spectrum. However due to the merger of Herefordshire and Worcester CCG's the meeting has been put on hold as Simon doesn't know if he will be the GP lead going forward.

### Sustainability and Transformation Plan Mental Health Strategy- Jack Wainwright

Jack discussed the Herefordshire and Worcestershire draft Mental Health Strategy.

Jack said it was an all age strategy and sets out the actions for the next 5 years. Jack said dementia has its own strategy.

Key issues the strategy will address are:

- Access to services-gaps in service provision
- Prevention-early intervention
- Joint Working linking services together
- Staff Shortages
- Drop in/ drop out Service

A discussion ensued. Points were made about

- The difficulty people with Autism have accessing mental health services-i.e there should be training for autism services around access to mental health services.
- Reasonable Adjustments
- People with Mental Health services often dropping out of services due their mental health.
- Staff Training- autism awareness training for staff so they fully understand the needs of the patient and the appropriate way to approach them.

The next engagement event in Hereford is on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> at Hereford Town Hall from 12pm-3pm.

Book your place by Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/89761008593>

The strategy will be signed off in May by both Hereford and Worcester CCGs and the Joint Commissioning Board.

### **Autism Diagnostic Pathway-Jenny Dalloway, NHS Redditch CCG**

Jenny explained she would be the lead for Herefordshire within the Hereford and Worcester CCG going forward.

The current contract with the Family Psychologists who provide Autism Diagnosis in Worcester is coming to an end in March.

The new contract with a provider should be agreed by April.

Jenny understood the issues people in Herefordshire were experiencing when trying to get a Autism Diagnosis via Bristol. She said she understood that this was a point of frustration for the public.

Jenny held a discussion with the group about what they felt should be the key principals when developing an Autism Diagnostic Pathway for Herefordshire.

Point raised included:

- Clear pathway for Adults
- Local diagnosis -People must be able to get a diagnosis in Herefordshire centre.
- After care package-including helping patients understand what it means to be autistic.
- Money must be ring fenced for Herefordshire.
- Patients must have their Autistic Diagnostic done face to face.
- Diagnosis must be prioritised on need- could include talking therapy if appropriate

- The Autism Diagnostic Pathway must be monitored.
- Future Planning- the pathway must evolve

Jenny will keep Valerie up to date on future developments.

**NAS update-Debbie Hobbs:**

Debbie said the Old Market had gained accreditation from the Autism Access Award.

Debbie mentioned that Autism Awareness week was from Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> of March to Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>. Debbie is currently looking for funding to have pay for Training 2 Care to run Autism Reality Experience Buses in Hereford High Town and Old Market.

You can find out more info about Autism Awareness week at <https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/world-autism-awareness-week.aspx>

**Implementation Plan 2020.**

John expressed that he thought last year’s implementation plan was too complicated and too detailed. Valerie had read through the Valuing People 2009 act and had come up with 4 priority areas:

1. Autism Diagnostic Pathway-with a most an initial 18 week waiting time and 13 weeks after 2 years.
2. Autism Awareness Training for Staff-
3. Support package- Pool Budgets
4. People attending meetings -Autism Partnership

It was agreed that everyone should take some time to consider what priority areas they would like to include in the implementation plan.

Action 1 – all – to send ideas and suggestions to John about ideas for the next implementation plan.

Action 2: Sara Siloko said she would link in with Foster Care Team about Autism awareness training.

**Items for next agenda:**

1. GP Coding-Valerie Fitch
2. Education-feedback from head teachers ( school training report)
3. SCN Strategy ( what education training people should have ) -Alexia
4. Mental Health Pathway-Jenny Dalloway
5. Autism Diagnostic Pathway
6. Reasonable Adjustments – Mary Simpson

**A.O.B**

Reasonable Adjustments- Mary would like any suggestions for reasonable adjustments organisations could make:

Survey for Individuals: <https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/5209870/My-favourite-experiences-of-Reasonable-Adjustments>

Survey for Organisations:

<https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/5217243/My-favourite-experiences-of-making-Reasonable-Adjustments>

Board Networking: Valerie would like the consent of board members to have their email address for networking purposes.

Action. 3: Board Meeting dates- Paul agreed to add the dates of the Autism Partnership meetings to the webpage. The web address is:

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200147/social\\_care\\_and\\_support/729/herefordshire\\_autism\\_partnership](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200147/social_care_and_support/729/herefordshire_autism_partnership)

### **Actions**

Name	Actions	Due Date
All	1 Ideas for the next implementation plan to be sent to John Gorman	Before 5 <sup>th</sup> May
Sara Siloko	2 Will link in with Foster Care Team about getting them Autism awareness training.	5 <sup>th</sup> of May
Paul Choppen	3 Will add the dates of the Autism Partnership meetings to the webpage. Paul will also sent calendar invites out for future meetings.	5 <sup>th</sup> of May

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May from 10am-1pm in the Hereford and Leominster Room at Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE