

Autism Partnership Board Meeting
2pm-3:30pm 6th October 2020
Venue: Zoom

Attendees	Organisation/ Role
Valerie Fitch	Chair/ Person on the Autistic Spectrum
Debbie Hobbs	NAS Herefordshire
Mary Simpson	Healthwatch Herefordshire
Anne Wainright	HVOSS
John Gorman	Herefordshire Council
Paul Choppen	Herefordshire Council
Laura Ferguson	Herefordshire Council
Helen George	Herefordshire Council
James Baker	Person on the Autistic Spectrum / Hereford Make
Rob Gorle	ACSYL
Gill Gorle	ACSYL
Les Knight	Herefordshire Council

Apologies	
Jenny Dalloway	Herefordshire and Worcester CCG
Rachael Johnson	Clinical lead with Family Psychologist
Michelle Baillon	Parent Carer / Crossroads
Jan Hadfield	Landou
Alexa Heath	Herefordshire Council
Julie Walker	Herefordshire Council
Ruth Nolan	SENAD
Rebecca Hill	Herefordshire and Worcester CCG

Introductions, Apologies and Matters Arising

Valerie welcomed everyone and Paul listed off the apologies.

Reasonable Adjustments- Mary Simpson.

Mary went through her reasonable adjustment presentation. Please see here:

https://healthwatchherefordshirecou-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/person/christine_healthwatchherefordshire_co_uk/EWJQJQLne5pBj7J9jGqp00gB3W4X5M978sLbecYLNhp-8A?e=ULiSv

Takeaways from the presentation:

- Healthwatch have created a short report with just Herefordshire comments explaining that training and further resources will follow.

- Healthwatch are collaborating with disability groups in Herefordshire to create learning units that will be available to access for free via MECC(Making Every Contact Count) Plus units on WISH website.
- Healthwatch have also researched and gathered information from specialist websites about reasonable adjustments for different disabilities. There is also a section on reasonable adjustments section on carers.
- The Reasonable Adjustment training is currently being edited and commented on by 15 disability organisation representatives. Mary hopes the training will be online this autumn/ winter subject to the Public Health team's approval. Mary will update the board once it is approved.

Action 1 - Mary to update the board on when the MECC Plus training is live

Mary mentioned that Healthwatch wants to collaborate with other organisations to make accessible resources including easy read material, infographics and videos to channel people into the training. Once the training and infographics are complete Mary will notify the board and share with other organisations in Herefordshire. The completed work will be shared with disability groups to enable them to sign post services and employers to it and shops to get hold of the purple pound.

Mary would like help to read through a unit each year to keep it up to date. Let Healthwatch know if the reasonable adjustments resources and training help you make reasonable adjustments. Let her know if you use the tips and resources.

If you are interested in reading the short reasonable adjustments report, creating infographics or contribute to the reasonable adjustments toolkit in any way please contact Mary at: mary@healthwatchherefordshire.co.uk

Laura suggested that Mary share her reasonable adjustments work with the Making it Real group that Paul Smith the assistant director in commissioning.

James raised a point that he was currently in discussions with the DWP regarding reasonable adjustments they can make and offered to share his experiences with Mary as a case study. Mary was happy to add his case study to the others within the Autism reasonable adjustments training. Mary asked James if he was happy to collaborate with her colleagues from communications to produce a sort video vocalizing issues that as a result of being autistic that could be published on Facebook and draw people into the training.

Action 2 - Mary to link James with her colleague around producing a short video on how being autistic affects James.

James also raised concerns that the two people he had dealt with two from the DWP neither had had specialist autism training.

A conversation then ensued with Anna mentioning that she had previously done training on neurodiversity covering autism, dyslexia and people with reading problems who were 18-25 years old and claiming from the DWP who found it hard to engage with the DWP. She got three young people to write down their experience of claiming during a training session in Kidderminster. Anna said DWP have also said they are happy to make changes and have disability advisors but she has yet to meet anyone who has come across them.

Mary mentioned that she had heard of stories of people going into the Jobcentre that didn't describe them favourably. She said it was daunting on both sides but it may help if people with

disabilities could be seen in a quiet area of the jobcentre that was less busy and more focused on the support they might need. She will write to the job centre about her concerns and the reasonable adjustments they can make.

Action 3 – Mary to write to the Jobcentre.

Laura mentioned that the council is doing a regional pilot with Job Centre Plus and they realised early on it was hard for people to walk through the door and they are working with the council on meeting people in different environments. Laura said any case studies to back this up may be useful.

Reasonable Adjustments Charter

A discussion ensued and Laura, Valerie and Mary decided meet to discuss the next steps. Valerie said she would be happy to work with Mary to create a small charter that organisations and businesses to sign up and display in their premises. John suggested getting the Bishop and sharing the charter with the chamber of commerce to help get it promoted to employers. Alexia also said there is an opportunity to get it out via the job centre plus as they were taking on more job coaches and working closer to employers to combat youth unemployment.

Action 4 – Laura, Valerie and Mary to meet to discuss the next steps.

Previous minutes and Matters Arising:

Adult Diagnostic Pathway - Jenny Dalloway has still not sent across a brief on the diagnostic pathway to Debbie for circulation through the NAS newsletter. There are also question marks on where the service will be sighted from and how many GPs across the county have been informed of the service to date. Laura suggested writing to Taurus about the pathways so they can inform their GPs. Valerie volunteered to do this. Mary asked to be copied into the letter to Taurus so she can forward in onto The Healthwach directors so they can contact the CCG about the lack of GP awareness of the service.

Action 5 - Paul will add the press release Jenny shared in August to the Autism Partnership webpage.

Action 6 - Valerie will write a letter to the Hereford Times about the service attaching the press release previously provided by Jenny in the hope they circulate the information on the service.

Action 7 - Laura to share with Valerie the Taurus contact.

Action 8 - Valerie to write a letter to Taurus informing them about the Adult Diagnostic Pathway remembering to cc Mary in.

Action 9 - Mary will forward the email to the Healthwach directors so they can contact CCG to push for more information on the service and to inform doctors on the service.

Children's Diagnostic Pathway - Les Knight

Delivery on the Ground – Les informed the board that an attempt by the lead paediatrician to get the pathway going in the spring had failed Wye Valley NHS Trust risk easements partly due to the issue caused by the multi-disciplinary team having to work differently due to COVID while tackling the increasing waiting lists. However these risk assessments have now been resolved and rolled into action from the 1st of September.

The Description of the pathway has been sent to Becky Dwight (lead mental health in commissioning, CCG.) Les is waiting to hear from her whether the description of the pathway has been taken through governance.

Action 10 - Les to keep the board up to date on developments.

Action 11 - Paul to correct Becky Dwight's name in previous minutes.

Autism Training for the Foster Carer's Team - Sara Siloko has organised Autism Awareness Training for the Foster Care team. Valerie and Debbie hope to hold a remote training session in December.

Autism Task Force - Valerie Fitch

Valerie said the group had made recommendations for the Implementation Plan Items they wanted the board to continue to work towards including assessing the diagnostic pathway, autism training for staff and the reasonable adjustments etc. See attached for more information.

Regarding the next meeting Valerie would like to see the training that council staff get who have direct contact with people on the autistic spectrum.

Action 12 - Laura said she will invite Ruth Goldwater who runs the training to the next Autism Partnership Board on the 8th of December to explain how it is delivered.

Valerie also said she would like to use the first half (45 minutes) of the February board meeting to showcase stories of how it feels to be autistic and experiences of reasonable adjustments. James explained that he had been getting help from a therapist (Josh) with regards to social convention, praising, and emotional understanding and would be happy to invite him to the board to discuss his work with the board.

Action 13 - Valerie said she will meet with meet with James and Josh to discuss.

Any other Business

John would like it noted that Aubrey Bailey has left the Autism Partnership Board and would like it noted in the minutes his and the boards thanks to Aubrey for all the good work that he did over the years in getting the board set up and keeping it going. This was agreed by all.

NAS 5th Birthday - Debbie Hobbs - Debbie said Herefordshire NAS celebrated their 5th birthday on the week of 5th of October.

Healthwatch - Mary Simpson - Mary told the board that Healthwatch was planning a live event in November showcasing everything they have been working on. The event will be streamed via a social media platform such as Facebook or YouTube and will feature short films with a live comments section. Mary will update the board with a date and time in due course.

Action 14 - Mary to update board on Healthwath live event date.

Mary also wanted the board to know about the CQC Easy Read Report on the health care and adult social care in England for 2019/2020

https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20201016_stateofcare1920_easyread.pdf
<https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20200929-Right-support-easy-read-FINAL.pdf>

Autism Training for School Practitioners - Les Knight - Les explained that the Autism training for School Leaders that was parked on the 2nd April due to COVID 19 will now commence in November.

Next Meeting

December 8th - 11am-12:30pm via Zoom. Further details will be sent out later in due course.

Actions

Mary	Action 1	Update the board on when the Reasonable Adjustments MECC Plus training is live.
	Action 2	Link James with her colleague around producing a short video on being autistic.
	Action 3	To write to the Jobcentre.
	Action 9	Forward the Taurus email to the Healthwatch directors so they can contact CCG to push for more information on the service to be published and to GP awareness of the pathway.
	Action 14	Update board on Healthwatch's live event date.
Paul	Action 5	Add the Adult Diagnostic Pathway press release Jenny shared in August to the Autism Partnership webpage.
	Action 11	Correct Becky Dwight's name in previous minutes.
Laura	Action 7	Share with Taurus contact with Valerie so she can write to them about informing GPs of the Adult Diagnostic Pathway.
	Action 12	Will invite Ruth Goldwater to discuss the training at our next meeting.
Valerie	Action 6	Valerie will write a letter to the Hereford Times about the service attaching the press release previously provided by Jenny in the hope they circulate the information on the service.
	Action 8	To write a letter to Taurus informing them about the Adult Diagnostic Pathway remembering to cc Mary in.
	Action 13	Meet with James and Josh to discuss Josh coming to the next Autism Partnership meeting to talk about Social Conversation.
Les Knight	Action 10	Keep the Autism Partnership up to date on developments regarding the Children's Diagnostic Pathway.
Laura, Mary and Valerie	Action 4	Discuss the next steps regarding the reasonable adjustments charter.