

Autism Partnership Board Meeting
11am-12:30pm 13th of April 2021
Venue: Zoom

Attendees	Organisation/ Role
Valerie Fitch	Chair/ Person on the Autistic Spectrum
Debbie Hobbs	NAS Herefordshire
Mary Simpson	Healthwatch Herefordshire
John Gorman	Herefordshire Council
Paul Choppen	Herefordshire Council
Laura Ferguson	Herefordshire Council
Jas Kakkar	Herefordshire Council
Helen George	Herefordshire Council
Anna Wainwright	HVOSS
Michelle Baillon	Parent Carer / Crossroads
Jenny Dalloway	Herefordshire and Worcester CCG
Rachel Johnson	The Family Psychologists
James Baker	Person on the Autistic Spectrum / Hereford Make
Rebecca Ashton	Person on the Autistic Spectrum
Rob Gorle	ACSYLE
Gill Gorle	ACSYLE
Sue Clark	Landau
Apologies	
Julie Walker	Herefordshire Council
Rachael Oakely	Walsingham Support
Alexa Heath	Herefordshire Council
Les Knight	Herefordshire Council

Introductions and Apologies

Valerie welcomed everyone and Paul listed the apologies.

Adult Diagnostic Pathway

Rachael Johnson discussed the current situation regarding the pathway before taking questions.

Key points raised included:

- Most referrals are for a diagnosis rather than for support from a prior diagnosis.
- The service is hitting the 13 week target of initial referral to being seen.
- The service is currently processing around 50 referrals with referrals quiet in January and during the other lockdowns.
- They are still looking for a local premise in Herefordshire which will enable them to give feedback on the day.
- They hope to move back to face to face ADOS (Autistic Diagnosis Observation Schedule) assessment as remote assessments have not been as productive.
- Diagnosis numbers will be made available in the future.

Jenny highlighted that they are working with Taurus to inform GP's about the service so issues around GPs being unaware of the service should become less common. However, people can report issues to herself or Jenny so they can keep track of knowledge gaps around certain GP surgeries.

Valerie volunteered, as the Chair, to write to GPs who were not making referrals to the service, if Jenny felt this would assist in them doing so in future.

Jenny also highlighted that extra funding can be sought for children and young adults to complete their diagnosis pathway. It was highlighted as an objective in the NHS Long Term Plan.

Police Report

Valerie said there had been three hate crime incidents reported within the last two months. All involved child to child abuse that has been dealt with by the police and the children's parents. Valerie highlighted that often the victim is often unaware they are being victimised.

Autism Diagnosis Strategy Priorities

Valerie said the Taskforce group had agreed to keep the same four priorities for the new financial year 21/22 and to add a fifth one:

- Adult Diagnostic Pathway – to continue to monitor the situation;
- Autism Awareness Training for all front-line staff – to ensure this happens;
- One Assessment – with all support packages pooled across different departments and with the CCG;
- Attendance – improvement attendance at the APB meetings; and,
- Work and Leisure – to look to see how these can be implemented.

Action 1 – Jenny will look into the One Assessment item to see how data could be shared.

Social Care Team Autism Week

Laura said that Social Workers held a seminar on National Autism Week with links to the Autism Partnership's webpage shared via SharePoint. Laura stated that the board could advertise future meetings through SharePoint.

Video Conferencing Platform

A discussion was held as to whether to keep using Zoom for meetings or to switch to Microsoft Teams which would allow Paul to book meetings directly. The general view was that Zoom was the accessible platform.

Action 2 - Nevertheless it was agreed that Paul would set up a trial meeting with Debbie and Valerie to assess whether to switch to Microsoft Teams.

Previous Minutes

John recapped the previous meeting.

Matters Arising

Action 3 - Social Convention – James and Valerie agreed to organise a meeting with Josh to discuss social convention now lockdown rules on social gatherings are being eased.

Diversity Awareness Training - James reiterated that ten places were available for the diversity awareness training run by the Access to Work Scheme and held at Hereford Make. The session will most likely take place between August and September.

Action 4 - James agreed to send Paul contact detail of his support worker who arranges the sessions.

Action 5 - Paul will collate the interested members and forward to the support worker.

A.O.B

Autism Awareness Week - Debbie informed the group that Hereford City Council embraced National Autism Week by lighting up the town hall purple. Debbie also reiterated that the local needs survey closes in three days. The survey sets out Herefordshire and Worcestershire on what is missing in terms of Local needs. This is to highlight where there are failings on services that should be provided and are not, and to identify where we can do better in the future.

Healthwatch - Planning Future Care Needs Survey - The survey is aimed to find out how much the public have considered their future care needs and what they expect the council to offer them.

Please see the link below if you would like to take part.

<https://healthwatchherefordshire.co.uk/information/get-involved/our-surveys>

Children's and Mental Health Pathway - Debbie has raised the issues that the policy team had identified with Mara Hardy and member of the SEND Strategy.

Debbie also mentioned she had been asked to mentor the Worcestershire NAS branch. Debbie mentioned they are currently developing their children's and young people's mental health pathway which will be reviewed by the NAS Policy Team in London.

The Policy team has also looked at Herefordshire's Children's Strategy and feel it needs improvement. Specifically regarding not meeting the NICE guidance of offering a first assessment within three months of referral.

Reasonable Adjustments infographics - Mary is waiting for public health to sign off the infographics. They will then be put on the Healthwatch website as part as MECC Plus training and modules. Introductory units will be made available on the Talk Community Direct (formally WISH) website.



RA Introduction
(3).pdf



1. RA Autism
Infographic.pdf

Autistic staff numbers - Laura said the diversity team will add the autism to the data they try and capture when new staff are employed. It will also be asked when the council staff surveys are issued.

Autism training for staff - Laura said Ruth is still currently putting together the business case.

Key themes from Herefordshire's Learning Disability and Autism Strategy to inform STP planning - Richard, Kemble

Key themes from Herefordshire's Learning Disability and Autism Strategy to inform STP planning

No	Lead	Activity and Planned Output	Current baseline metrics 2019-20	Planned targets 2021-22
1		Identify health inequalities - prioritise those areas and actions		
2		Autism diagnostic pathway - reduce wait times		
3		Diabetes prevention programme - deliver		
4		National screening programmes – increase take up		
5		Annual health checks - increased take up		
6		STOMP pilot- apply lessons learnt		
7		LeDeR – Reduce numbers and apply learning		
8		Reduce inpatient numbers (homes not hospital)- DSR group		
9		ICT systems- Community EMIS -to enable sharing of records between primary care and community health services- increased compliance		

As Richard was unable to make the meeting Laura talked the Board through the key themes. See attached.

Next Meeting - It was agreed the Board meet on the 8th of June from 11am-12:30pm

Actions

Paul	Action 2	Set up a trial meeting with Debbie and Valerie to assess whether to switch to Microsoft Teams from Zoom for board meetings.
	Action 5	Paul will collate the interest from members in Hereford Make's Diversity Awareness Training session and forward to James's social worker so she can arrange the session.
James and Valerie	Action 2	James and Valerie to organise a meeting with Josh and to discuss social convention.
Jenny	Action 1	To look at how data can be shared between the council and the CCG so that people only need One Assessment.
James	Action 4	Send Paul the contact detail of his social worker so he can gather interest in the Diversity Awareness Training session.