**Autism Partnership Board Minutes**

**24/01/17**

**Attendees**

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| Valerie Fitch (Chair) | Parent |
| Colin Boughen | Parent |
| Debbie Hobbs | NAS Herefordshire |
| Abi North | NAS Herefordshire |
| Alan Harrison | Person on the Autistic Spectrum |
| Ruth Nolan | Senad Group |
| Amanda Mellings | Winslow Court |
| Sarah Davey | Autism representative |
| Rob Gorle | ACSYL |
| Gill Gorle | ACSYL |
| Sylvia Nicholls | Hereford Disability United |
| Sara Siloco | Hereford Disability United |
| Tim Shelley | Ross-on-Wye Community Garden |
| Wendy Dyer | Home Group |
| Kay Whitefoot | Home Group |
| Greg Atherton | West Mercia Police |
| Christine Price | Health Watch |
| Nathan Williams | Rural Media |
| Rich Matthews | Rural Media |
| Amy Davies | 2G LD Health Team |
| John Gorman | Herefordshire Council |
| Paul Choppen | Herefordshire Council |

**Apologies**

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| Paula Daniels-Symonds | Parent |
| David Davies | Ategi Herefordshire |
| Aubrey Baillie | Aubrey Baillie Consultancy |
| Neville Meredith | Herefordshire Council |
| Michelle Baillon | Parent |
| Cllr Elissa Swinglehurst | Herefordshire Council |
| Carla Preston | Herefordshire Council Engagement |
| Dean Fletcher | Salters Hill |
| Simon Lennane | GP |
| Helen Boughen | Person on the Autistic spectrum |
| Helen Young | Parent |
| Lynne Renton | CCG |
| Nikki Pitt | Parent |
| Sean Slater | 2G |
| Alexia Heath | Herefordshire Council Transitions |
| Les Knight | Herefordshire Council Additional Needs |
| Ewen Archibald | Herefordshire Council Commissioning |

**Introduction**

Valerie asked everyone to introduce themselves and John recapped the previous minutes.

Previous Minutes

**Matters Arising**

**Transforming Care** - John Burgess is now co-ordinating work on this programme in the short term. Aubrey Baillie has put his name forward as an expert by experience.

**GP Awareness** - Valerie has spoken to Simon Lennane regarding the collation of autism statistics from GP surgeries on how many of their patients are on the Autistic Spectrum. This work is still outstanding due to pressures of work on GP surgeries.

**The Autism Self-Assessment** has been sent to the Statistical Observatory who are yet to comment on it.

The minutes were proposed by Silvia Nicholls and seconded by Debbie Hobbs.

**The presentation on Prevent by Neville Meredith had to be postponed. This will be rescheduled to a future meeting**

**Christine Price- HealthWatch**

Christine explained that local NHS trusts and councils in 44 areas across England are collaborating with each other along with local providers and the voluntary sector to develop health and care plans. This includes plans to share resources more efficiently. They are calling these plans Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP).

Healthwatch are currently running a series of consultations to see what improvements people would like to see in their local health services. The consultation on GP access will end in February.

Christine gave us a sample of the questions that would be asked during the consultation process. Everyone was split into groups of 2 or 3 and asked 8 questions about what changes we would like to see in our local health services.

The questions are attached for information. Also, Christine has provided a breakdown of the responses from those at our meeting and an earlier Making it Real meeting. These documents are also attached.

For more information Christine’s e-mail is; [christine@healthwatchherefordshire.co.uk](mailto:christine@healthwatchherefordshire.co.uk)

After the presentation there was a general discussion in which Ruth from Senad said that one of the biggest issues for those with LD and autism is the complexity of the process in getting treatment. This needs to be addressed and made easier for those with disabilities to navigate the system.

If anyone has any comments on the STP plan please forward them on to Silvia Nicholls to collate. Sylvia’s e-mail is; [sylvia.nicholls@btinternet.com](mailto:sylvia.nicholls@btinternet.com)

**PC Greg Atherton - West Mercia Police**

Greg introduced himself and said he was a Response Officer who investigates complaints made to the police. Greg said he wanted to get involve involved with community groups. Greg stated that there had been 27 Hate Crimes reported across Herefordshire between November last year and January 2017. He is happy to hear from people with questions about the work of the Police. His e-mail is; [greg.atherton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:greg.atherton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

Valerie said that, as vice chair the Local Independent Advisory Group (LIAG), she has been working with the Police on developing training programmes to help them deal with people with autism and asked that if anyone has any examples of how issues had been dealt with they can forward them to her.

Valerie also spoke about the said she was hoping to attend a 10 week Citizens Academy course. The Citizens’ Academy is open to all. It is run by the police, in the hope that after people have attended it they will have a better understanding of the work of the police and how the Criminal Justice System works. The course is also intended for those who might wish to join up to be a police officer or a Police Community Support Officer (PSCO).   The course takes in the procedures from first contact to end of a court case.

**Tim Shelly- Ross Community Garden**

Tim introduced himself and explained that he is employed by Hay Grove who grow organic fruit and vegetables in farms across the UK and South Africa. The community garden at Ryefields is run by volunteers and it helps people with a range of conditions such as dementia, bipolar, parkinsons and learning disabilities. The farm offers a safe environment with volunteers working 1:1 with their carers. Tim has also worked with pupils from John Kerle School and residents from Ross Court care home.

Tim also said that Haygrove are looking for other suitable sites where community gardens could be set up around the county.

For more information please contact Tim at [tim.shelley@haygrove.co.uk](mailto:tim.shelley@haygrove.co.uk)

**Rural Media**

Nathan Williams and Richard Matthews from Rural Media showed the “Action on Autism” film they had been working on with the help of 15 volunteers over the past few months. The film depicts a young autistic woman struggle to find work because of discrimination. Once the final visual effects have been added the film will be available on social media services such as YouTube and Vimeo. They aim to get the film out for World Autism Awareness week which starts on the 27th of March.

**A.O.B**

**Herefordshire NAS update**

This is attached

**Autism Awareness Seminar – at Hereford Disability United**

Silvia is organising an Autism Seminar on February 8th at the Saxon Hall from 10am-1pm. Martin Samuels will be introducing the seminar. Please contact Silvia if you wish to attend.

Silvia’s email address is [sylvia.nicholls@btinternet.com](mailto:sylvia.nicholls@btinternet.com)

**Ross Dementia Group**

Dr Simon Lennane is setting this up and Alan Harrison will lead it. It will start on 1st March, and run from 11-00 to 15-00.   Its aim is to:  improve local dementia day care provision by offering a better option than conventional day care centres where carers leave their cared for in the morning and collect them later – it is to be based on a person-centred, carer and cared for basis, not a one-size-fits-all attitude, with the carer staying with the cared for.

Contact details are:  [prof@afharrison.myzen.co.uk](mailto:prof@afharrison.myzen.co.uk) or <http://carerworld.yolasite.com/>

**Revising and updating the Autism Strategy**

John led this discussion and began by saying that as the current strategy runs out this year the process of updating the strategy and action plans needs to start now in order to ensure that all partners have a chance to agree the actions and priorities.

We also need to take this opportunity to fully examine all of the current priorities and question whether they need to be changed or replaced by other ones. There is also a need to update the plan so that it reflects current needs.

It was proposed that a small task and finish group would be set up to take forward the revision of the strategy and for this group to report back to the next autism partnership board on April 4.

**Action – John to organise task and finish meetings**.

The meeting closed at 12.45

**Future meeting of the group**;

Tuesday 4th of April, Plough Lane 10-1pm

Tuesday the 11th of July, Plough Lane 10-1pm

Tuesday the 17th of October, Plough Lane 10-1pm

**Attachments;**

Healthwatch STP questions and responses

NAS Hereford update