

	Meeting: Autism Partnership Steering Group		
	Date: 11 July 2016	Time: 10:30	
	Venue: The Circle		
Present:	Carolyn Bealby (CB), Roger Guymer (RG), Laura Walker (LW), Emily Morton (EM), Robert Carter (RC), Ruth McFall (RM), Richard Smith (RS), Mary Fearon (MF), Joe Fowler (JF) – Chair, Ed Sexton (ESe), Grace Parry (GP), Steve Morgan (SM) – Minutes		
Also Present:	Emma Smith (ESm)		
Apologies:	Graham Nield (GN), Heather Burns (HB), Sylvia Johnson(SJ), Sue Kirkman (SK), John Kirkman (JK), Jo Ball (JB), Martin Nolan (MN), Liz Friend (LF)		
Chair:	ESe	Minutes:	Steve Morgan (SM)

Item	Key Issues & Actions	Action
Welcomes and Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies given as above and around the table introductions made. It was noted that the agenda had been sent out quite late and people had not had an opportunity to offer up any items for discussion 	
Minutes from last Meeting (10 May 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People were given a few minutes to check through the minutes. <p>Amendments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees – Jo Ball is a Social Worker working for SCC and not SAANS 3. Why do we want a partnership and what do we want it to achieve? [Martin had sent through a clarification of what he said, which should read]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From his social work perspective, Martin said he was concerned that people with autism were being failed in Sheffield due to staffing levels and limited support resources. JB had been a lone worker until recently when, fortunately, he had been able to secure another full time worker. Some people have been waiting over a year to be assessed. We struggle to find appropriate resources to support people. There were no matters arising. 	SM
Draft Autism Partnership Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EM, ESe and LW had met to draft a proposal that aimed to take into account the views discussed by the Steering Group on 10 May. Copies of the draft proposal were passed around for discussion. There was support for the partnership to be a reference point for sharing information about plans and developments that are already in place and 	

	<p>relevant to people with autism spectrum conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a discussion about the statutory guidance and local authorities' remit in setting-up and overseeing Partnership Boards for Autism. • One concern was that the Council may be trying to pass on this responsibility of setting up the Board but the meeting was reassured about this – there are many models of how Partnership Boards can be run and SCC wants to make sure we get the right model. • It was suggested we should have a core membership and sub groups for people to work on issues and feed back to the main Board as people may only be interested in specific topics and not want to attend every meeting. • The group were asked who should be asked to make up the core membership - it was suggested there should be reps from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Police ○ Education ○ GP's/Clinicians ○ Housing ○ CCG ○ Older People's Services ○ Children's Services ○ Trans community ○ BME groups • Amendments were suggested to the draft proposal – • It was agreed there would be a further meeting to confirm consultation arrangements in September. 	<p>EM</p> <p>EM/ ESe</p>
<p>Supported Living Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JF reported that the Government has decided to cut supported living benefits. This has led to a period of uncertainty in the development of new supported living accommodation, which has delayed the building of SCC schemes that are tailored for the needs of people with autism. • The Government is now reconsidering its proposals but no decision has yet been made. 	
<p>NHS England Report on Autism diagnostic Pathways: Observational Findings and Recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADASS visited various cities/regions across the country, including Sheffield to find out more about the ways in which local diagnostic pathways are operating. • They have produced a report on their findings and made recommendations. • ESe gave some key findings from the report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National expectations and local experience differs across the country. Autism is one of several competing priorities. ▪ There is inadequate involvement/co-production with people with autism spectrum conditions and, 	

	<p>overall, Autism Partnership Boards have not been effective (although there are exceptions).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diagnostic pathways for people who also have learning disabilities may be more effective overall. ▪ Diagnoses seem to be taking place with inadequate pre- and post-diagnosis support, and there is an emerging question about the benefits for people of seeking a diagnosis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Autism Boards should adopt an assurance role and inclusive approach ▪ The need for improved data quality ▪ Re-assertion of the role of GPs and psychiatrists ▪ Co-production of models that focus on strengths (not deficits) and learn from people's experience ▪ Closer consideration of preventative, pre-diagnosis approach in-line with the Care Act ▪ Focus on needs of carers 	
Training Update	<p>Awareness Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura has met with outreach workers to discuss autism awareness training. • There will be a second session and it is hoped more people will attend. <p>Lottery Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Sheffield have applied for Lottery funding. • They hope to raise money to pilot a "Paella Restaurant" that will be run and staffed by people with autism and learning disabilities. • Local Businesses will be invited to the restaurant where they will be able to see how autistic and people with learning difficulties can be successfully employed. • This will hopefully encourage them to be more open to considering LD people in their own recruitment processes. 	
Employments Guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pack has been developed through Autism Centre of Supported Employment to help people with autism apply for jobs. • A pack is currently being worked on that can be given to potential employers. 	
Any Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	
Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting will be arranged for the first week in September 	EM/ ESe