

	Meeting: Autism Partnership Steering Group		
	Date: 30 January 2017	Time: 13:30	
	Venue: Quaker Meeting House		
Present:	Jo Ball (JB), Carolyn Bealby (CB), Robert Carter (RC), Mary Fearon (MF), Liz Friend (LF), Roger Guymer (RG), Phil Holmes (PH), Sylvia Johnson (SJ), Becky Lennox (BL) Emily Morton (EM), Graham Nield (GN), Martin Nolan (MN), Ed Sexton (ES), Laura Walker (LW)		
Also Present:			
Apologies:	Anna Armentano (AA), Heather Burns (HB), Donna Turner (DT), Sue Kirkman (SK)		
Chair:	PH	Minutes:	Steve Morgan (SM)

Item	Key Issues & Actions	Action
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PH introduced himself. PH will chair the meeting on a temporary basis, whilst Joe Fowler is seconded. Other introductions were made. 	
Minutes from last Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work undertaken by Janet Southworth, from Public Health, has been circulated. ES will send the group the link to the Accessible Information standards <p>A Communication and Engagement Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group would like to know the status of the document RG produced - can it be adopted as a blueprint for this partnership? People felt it was unclear what status the Steering Group had and felt it needed more statutory support. ES will send the document round to the group and it will be discussed at next meeting. We will also be looking at the results of survey so it will all link in. <p>Autism Partnership survey update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted, the copy brought to the last meeting had not printed in full which was why it looked like part of the Equality Monitoring form was missing – the survey did have the complete form. The survey has been sent to both Universities and a number of other groups. RG sent a poster to the CCG to be put up in to doctor's surgeries and at dentists. Two drop in sessions have been held to help people to complete. It was noted the paper copy needs to be printed in colour as there is a colour coded diagram on one of the pages. Group members to raise awareness as much as possible. ES will look into sending to Libraries. The survey is open until 13 February. <p>Blue Badge discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was reported that this was a National scheme and that 	<p>ES</p> <p>ES</p> <p>ES</p>

	<p>Sheffield does not set its own criteria, however, it was noted that it could if it wanted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB, SCC Adult Services, has also discussed with her managers and raised concerns. <p>Communications Work Stream - passport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SK has sent her apologies so was unable to provide an update. • EM will ask if it is possible for John to attend when Sue cannot. <p>NHS England Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted this is still early days and PH was unable to provide an update. • RC will try and get an update and circulate before the next meeting. 	<p>EM</p> <p>RC</p>
<p>Work Stream Updates</p>	<p>Employment Group Work Stream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group is about 8 strong and meets in alternate months to the Partnership Steering Group. <p>General Jobshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks at referrals to specialist autism services. • If a person is a long way from employability, they can go to the First Step Trust Café on London road to get work experience. • Work placements are also offered. • As people become more work ready, they can be moved on to Big Ambitions who can support them into work. • Once employed, people also need ongoing support to enable them to remain employed. <p>Outcomes of disability employment campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a good response from individuals and employers, although it felt more like a publicity event. • The DWP now have work coaches to work with people with disabilities. • The group questioned how much experience they have working with people with LD and Autism. • Spectrum E will work for free with people but then expect to be paid once a person gets a personal budget. • It was noted there are pockets of things out there but nothing “joined up”. <p>Employment Champions The Employment group has invited employment Champions to the next meeting.</p> <p>Self-employed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some adults are self-employed – it was suggested the group look at what support may be needed for self-employed autistic people • SJ will send information to PH who will link with the employment leads in SCC. <p>Training Group Work Stream</p> <p>Access to information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike McEnery and Heather Baxendale attended the last work stream meeting to talk about access to information for autistic people. • They spoke about the information review that revealed 	<p>SJ</p>

	<p>people want more face to face and telephone contact, not just online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted the Sheffield CCG has introduced a page on Autism and the Sheffield Autistic Society are also revamping their website so that it provides more information. • It was noted that “tag words” on the Sheffield Directory are not very useful and it can be difficult to find what you are looking for, although it does now have a separate button for Autism. • It was suggested that there could be a town centre advice centre open a couple of times a week to signpost people to the right service and perhaps a telephone advice line - the Autistic Society does have a helpline 9 to 5, and also email, but the Society is limited in capacity. <p>Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group is trying to identify places they feel may need autism training. • It was noted all staff at Museum Sheffield are trained and a couple of care homes have also asked for training. • Donna Turner (DT) looked at Sheffield City Council training and noted the modules on autism are optional. • DT would like to go through the current e-learning available with group members with a view to co-produce new training – those who expressed an interest have been sent guest log-ins so they can view the modules. • It was noted there are a lot of free resources available. 	
<p>Phil Holmes, Director of Social Care, SCC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PH feels that everyone should have the same opportunities. • PH accepted it is difficult to generalise as autism is on a spectrum - what suits one person may not suit another. • PH feels that the work streams are really useful and important. • Is Autism a specialism that only a couple of people are responsible for, or should more people be able to deal with it? • Autism is currently dealt with in a medicalised and controlling way but it was felt it needs to be bespoke to the individual – Professionals need to know the person. • JB/BL felt joined-up working was important – we should all work together rather than have to fire fight all the time. • It was noted there is a lack of resources. • It was felt that this Partnership Group needed more reps from other organisations – it was felt the group talked about things but no action was taken and nothing was moved forward. • One of the questions on the survey discusses possible partners – RG suggested that Phil reads the survey. • Once the survey results are in, the editorial group will feed back – we can then look at increasing the Group membership. • One recognised problem is that we do not know everyone with autism - not everyone will come forward. 	<p>PH</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Group is looking at ways we can reach more people. • It has been proposed that a number of smaller sub groups could take on these issues and feed back to the main meeting - they could look at what other groups are doing and feed in/join up. • It was noted there is not enough resource for one worker to undertake autism-specific work – experience and knowledge needs to be passed on to others so they will be able to pick up work. <p>National Autism Awareness Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted there are large gaps in the Autism Awareness Training – it does not talk about challenging behaviour and has no knowledge of Sheffield organisations. <p>Actions for the group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at quick win actions – what can be achieved quickly. • Find out what the big issues are for SAANS etc. • Prioritise what is important - we don't want to waste time if the work is not going anywhere. 	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>Diagnostic pathways and SAANS</p>	<p>SAANS Procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC reported that no credible applications had been received so the current service provider contract has been extended to September 2017 – also the deadline for new applications. • The CRG has met with the service provider to discuss waiting times and the complaints received about access time and will continue to meet with the Provider. • It was noted there is currently an improvement in the service provided. • SJ has spoken with the NHS Trust to help develop a partnership with this group. • The Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust will be convening a number of workshops over the next few weeks to look at every service they provide. <p>Expression of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of this group have a chance to be involved in the tender process. • People need to outline what they expect the key elements to a partnership should be. 	
<p>Blue Badge and Bus Pass</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting was held looking at mobility passes which also provided a chance to look at the blue badge. • There is some confusion around what the issues are and what the policy is. • Emily will ensure Laura is invited to the next meeting so she can raise and discuss her concerns. • It was noted it will make a stronger case if different groups raise the same issues. • The form states it cannot be signed by a GP which makes it difficult for someone to submit if they do not come under any services or have a consultant - this is now being challenged. • It was noted that Sheffield can create its own Policy - there are models out there we can use as a guide. 	
<p>Accommodation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Fowler was going to report back on a Sheltered 	

Update	<p>Housing project but it was thought the funding has now fallen through.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted there are other housing projects being built for supported living, but these are mostly for people with LD and mental health issues, and people transitioning from an institute or residential accommodation, not specifically for those with autism. 	
Any Other Business	<p>Forward Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PH felt that Forward Plan should be a Standard Item on the agenda. Agenda items for the next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Workstream Feed back from Survey Housing <p>Sheffield Parent Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RG has come across this group. RG wondered how the Adult Autism Partnership links with the Autism Strategy Group set up by Stuart Williams for parents of school aged children. <p>Autism Awareness Day – 2 April 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group to think what they might want to do on Autism Awareness Day. 	<p>EM</p> <p>RG</p> <p>ALL</p>
Date of next meeting	Monday 27 March 2017, 13:30 – 15:30 at The Circle	