

## Introduction

In May 2015 a meeting about autism was held in Sheffield. More than 100 people attended, including autistic people, their families, and professionals from the council, health services and other organisations. They talked about the things that were important to people with autism and their family members. Afterwards groups were set up to suggest improvements around employment, autism awareness and training.

Now, as a further step, we have formed an "Autism Partnership Steering Group" to find ways to bring a lot more people together to improve opportunities and services for people with autism.

Government guidance says that each local authority must work with local NHS services to set up an "Autism Partnership". This partnership must include people with autism and their families, as well as the organisations, professional people and others who provide services to them. The guidance covers all adults with autism spectrum conditions and young people in transition to adulthood.

The Steering Group would like to suggest how an Autism Partnership for Sheffield could work but we would welcome your views. We have written this survey to find out what you think. **The survey closes on 13 February 2017.** We hope that the Partnership will start work as soon as possible after that date.

*Autism Partnership Steering Group, December 2016*

Please answer any of the following questions in the sections below and write comments where you wish to do so, on this form. Only write answers where you want to do so.

You can respond to the survey in different ways:

- On-line at Citizen Space please log onto <https://sheffield.citizenspace.com/communities-business-strategy/sheffield-autism-partnership>
- By completing and returning this form to: Josie Billings, Quality Team, Business Strategy, Sheffield City Council, Level 9, East Wing, Moorfoot Building, Sheffield, S1 4PL
- By speaking to Business Support at the Council on (0114) 273 4119. If there's no answer, please leave a message with your number and someone will call you back.
- By attending a drop-in session at **Sheffield Autistic Society** on Wednesday 18 January 2017, 12:30 – 2:30pm in Concept House, 5 Young St, Sheffield S1 4UP

## A. Aims of the Partnership

The Autism Partnership would:

- Bring together the right people, including people with autism, family members and carers, social services and local NHS professionals, various organisations and others with an interest in autism
- Develop plans to improve the lives of people with autism in Sheffield
- Make sure that anything planned actually happens
- Consider such areas as diagnosis, support, health, housing, employment (See section "*Areas of Work*" for a more complete list)
- Find out where things are not being done
- Find out which people are not getting the services that they need
- Find out the needs of seldom heard groups
- Make sure that autistic people are involved in making decisions that affect them
- Make sure there is information available and the chance for everyone to share ideas and opinions on what opportunities and services there should be for autistic people in Sheffield.

### Questions A

A1. Do you understand the aims of the partnership?

Yes      No

A2. Would you change any wording?

Yes      No

A3. If you answered yes, how do you think the wording should be changed?

A4. Is there anything missing regarding the aims of the partnership?

Yes

No

A5. If yes, what do you think needs to be included?

## **B. How the Partnership would work (see the diagram page)**

- There would be an Autism Partnership Board
- This would be the main committee which brings together the key people (see Membership below), makes plans and decisions about improvements, and makes sure that these things happen
- The board would meet regularly (See section "Organisation and Responsibility" below)
- It would have regular members who attend each meeting (See section "*Core Members*" below)
- There would be sub-groups to consider particular areas of work (See section "*Areas of Work*" below)
- People with special knowledge or experience could be invited to join the sub-groups, as well as interested members of the main Partnership Board
- Meetings of sub-groups could be held more often and at different times from the main Partnership Board
- Partnership Board and sub-group meetings would involve autistic people, family members and carers
- For those who do not wish to, or cannot go to these meetings, there would be a range of ways set up to make sure their views were heard.

### Communication and Information

Various means would be used to improve information and the wider involvement of people. We would work with and help the current groups and

organisations around autism in Sheffield and encourage the growth of new ones:

- We would use websites, social media, email and the internet
- We would also use printed materials, leaflets and posters in public places, and newsletters sent through the post
- We would hope to develop an advice centre in the city centre
- All the notes about meetings of the Autism Partnership Board and sub-groups, their members, work, recommendations and decisions would be published (e.g. SAPAG Sheffield Asperger's Parents Action Group, Sheffield City Council website?, Sheffield Autistic Society website).

### Organisation and Responsibility

The government says local councils and local NHS are responsible together for making autism partnerships work properly. They are required to lead the whole process.

Sheffield City Council believes that organising the Partnership in Sheffield could best be done by a group or body other than themselves, with the right skills and knowledge. This would require enough extra resources, the right support and the cooperation of everyone involved.

### **Questions B**

B1. Do you understand how the partnership will work?

Yes          No

If no, contact Josie Billings. Development Officer, Sheffield City Council on 2057156

B2. Have you any comments or suggestions about the way the Partnership would work?

B3. How often do you think the Autism Partnership Board should meet?  
Please circle your choice

Monthly

Every 2 months

Every 3 months

Other (Please say) .....

### C. Membership

The Autism Partnership would be open to anyone with a personal or professional interest in making Sheffield a more autism-friendly city. People with autism spectrum conditions would be central to the partnership.

"Core members" that is the people regularly involved in the partnership, would include:

- Autistic adults
- Family carers
- Sheffield City Council Social Care
- Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (local NHS)
- Local doctors
- Voluntary organisations (such as Sheffield Autistic Society, SAPAG, Disability Sheffield, learning disability and carers groups)
- SAANS\* professionals
- Mental health professionals
- Autism specialist social worker
- Learning Disabilities Service Community Team
- Employment representatives / JobCentrePlus
- Housing representatives
- Police / criminal justice representatives
- Education representatives - school, college, universities
- People responsible for "Transition" (14 plus to adulthood)
- Children's and Young People's services
- Service providers

*Note - \*SAANS is the NHS team which provides diagnosis and support after diagnosis for adults with autism and other related conditions in Sheffield.*

Wider membership of the Autism Partnership would be open so that it includes more people, enabling people to be involved when the issues being

discussed are related to them; for example Occupational Health, Equality & Diversity Officers, Environment.

## Questions C

**C1.** Do you agree with the list of who should be included in the "core membership"?

Yes

No

**C2.** Is there anyone else you think should be included in the "core membership"? Please list below.

**C3.** Is there anyone else you think should be included in the "wider membership"? Please list

## D. Areas of Work

The Partnership would consider all areas which affect the lives of people with autism. The detailed work on these areas would be done in the sub-groups. Their recommendations would then be considered by the main Autism Partnership Board.

These are the areas of work that the Autism Partnership would consider but this list could be added to:

- Identification, diagnosis, assessment, clinical support and care
- Social care assessment and support
- Preventative support and safeguarding
- Autism awareness, training, communication, involvement, advice
- Employment / supported employment
- Health (including mental health and complex needs)
- Educational opportunities and support
- Young persons and transitions
- Housing and accommodation
- Policing and criminal justice
- Carers
- Leisure and consumer issues
- Equality, access, hard-to-reach people and groups,
- Advocacy
- Transport

## Questions D

D1. Do you think anything is missing from the list of areas of work to be considered by the Partnership?

Yes

No

D2. If yes, which other areas do you think should be included?

## E. Additional comments or suggestions

The Partnerships main objective is to ensure that Autistic adults can access and be involved and influence decisions. They are the experts in what it means to be autistic.

Do you have any further ideas, feedback about how we can enable communication and the involvement of autistic adults?

Please include any other comments or suggestions you would like to make about the proposed Autism Partnership.

## F. Partnership Diagram

The Sheffield Autism Partnership diagram and colour key on the following pages explains how the partnership will work.

**Questions F**

F1. Was the diagram and key helpful in your understanding of how the partnership will work?

Yes

No

If no, please tell us what would have made it easier for you to understand.

Sheffield Autism Partnership

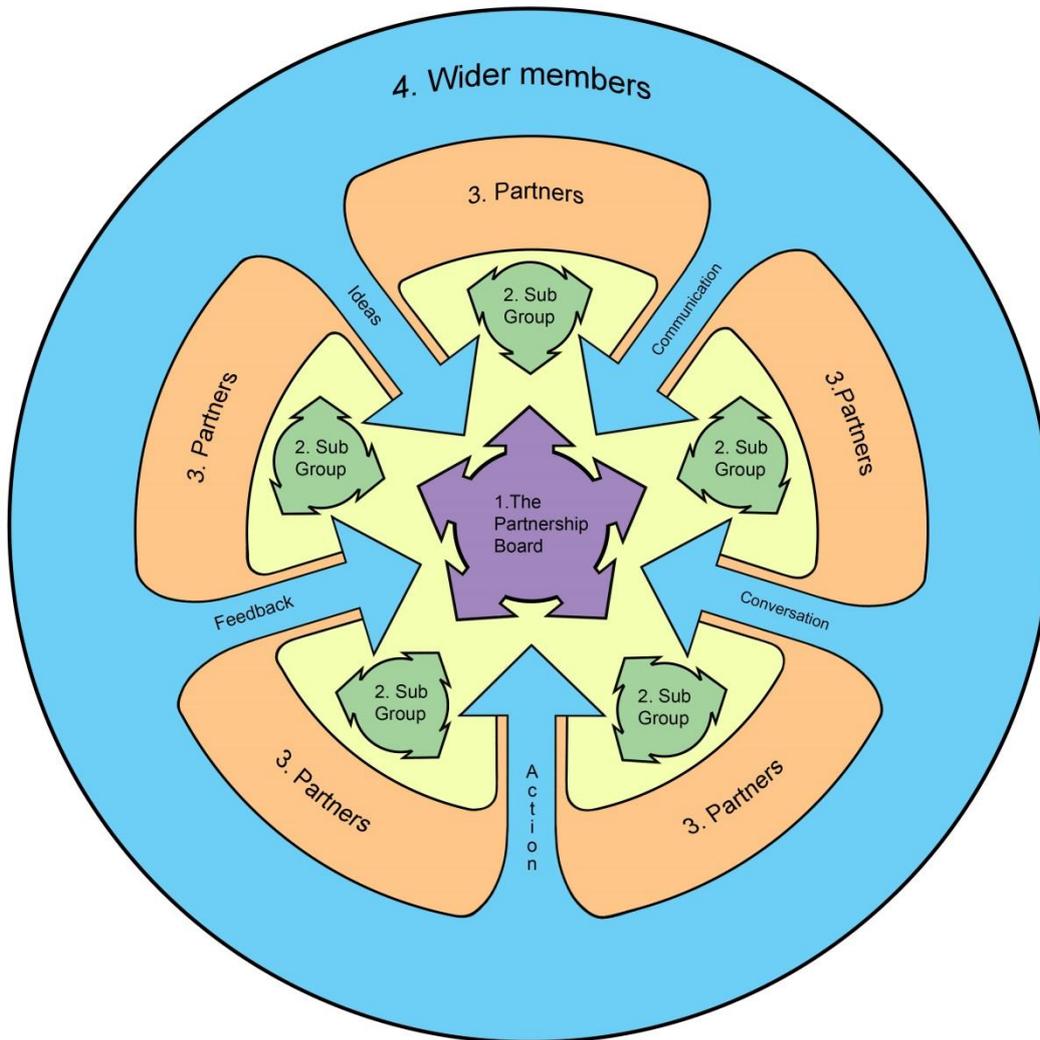


Diagram explanation of the Autism Partnership, please see the number and colour coded key which accompanies this diagram.

Diagram by LJW

## Sheffield Autism Partnership diagram number and colour key code explanation

1. **The Partnership Board** – This is the main committee of ‘core members’ who meet regularly. This committee brings together the key people, makes plans and decisions about improvements, and makes sure that these things happen. The board will have autistic adults and parent carers as well as local council, local NHS representatives and other interested organisations.

2. **Sub Groups** – These are groups which would meet when required and focus on a particular area like employment or autism training. People with special knowledge or experience would be invited to join the sub-groups such as employment support workers and autism insight trainers, as well as interested members of the main Partnership Board. Sub groups would put plans into action and report progress back to the board.

3. **Partners** – These can be people from businesses or organisations that provide services. These people can come to sub group meetings to offer expertise in various areas. Conversations could also take place with them about how they can train and develop their organisation to become more autism friendly and how they can best support autistic people in Sheffield.

4. **Wider members** – Membership would be open to anyone with an interest in autism, especially autistic adults, parents and carers. This would be an opportunity to hear from those who are not getting the services that they need and those from seldom heard groups. People could have the opportunity to raise issues that they feel have not been addressed via their preferred communication method.

This could be done, for example, through special focus groups, websites, social media, email, post, information in the doctors and libraries or through existing autism organisations and providers. It would also be possible to come to the Partnership Board meeting if you would prefer to. It is a chance to represent those who may not already be represented within the partnership.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you would like to be involved in the Sheffield Autism Partnership or to receive information on progress, please let us have:

Name:

Email Address (if you have one): .....

Postal Address (if you don't have an email):

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Telephone number:

If you wish to do, so please say what personal involvement (if any) you have with issues around adult autism:

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<b>Equality Monitoring</b>
<p>By collecting monitoring information, we can make sure that we are reaching the people that need our services and identify when we are not. It can help us identify barriers to services and areas for improvement.</p> <p><b>How do we use this information?</b></p> <p>The equality monitoring information that you give us helps us to make sure that everyone has a chance to have a say and to make sure no group of people is treated unfairly. Please complete the following information by placing by circling the answers that best describe you.</p> <p>If you do not want to answer any questions, please leave them blank. Some questions may feel personal, but the information we collect will be kept confidential and secure. The better the information we collect, the more effective our monitoring will be.</p>
<p><b>Gender</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male</li> <li>• Female</li> </ul>
<p><b>Age</b></p> <p>Which age bracket do you come under?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under 25 years</li> <li>• 26-35 years</li> <li>• 36-45 years</li> <li>• 46-55 years</li> <li>• 56-65 years</li> <li>• Over 65</li> </ul>
<p><b>Which of these best describes your ethnic or cultural background?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White: English/Welsh/Scottish/British/Northern Irish</li> <li>• White: Gypsy Irish traveller</li> <li>• White: Roma</li> <li>• White: Other European</li> <li>• White: Other White background</li> <li>• Mixed / Dual Heritage: White and Black Caribbean</li> <li>• Mixed / Dual Heritage: White and Black African</li> <li>• Mixed / Dual Heritage: White and Asian</li> <li>• Mixed / Dual Heritage: Other Mixed Background</li> <li>• Asian or Asian British: Indian</li> <li>• Asian or Asian British: Pakistani</li> </ul>

- Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British: Chinese
- Asian or Asian British: Other Asian background
- Black or Black British: Caribbean
- Black or Black British: Somali
- Black or Black British: Other African Background
- Other Ethnic Group: Yemeni
- Other Ethnic Group: Other Arab

**What is your employment status?**

- Employed / self-employed
- Not employed and currently looking for work
- Not employed and not currently looking for work
- Student
- On an apprenticeship scheme / training programme
- Retired
- Other, please specify .....

**Are you carer?**

(A carer is a person who is unpaid and looks after or supports a partner, relative or friend etc., who needs help with their day-to-day life, because of their disability, age or a long term illness)?

Please select one

Yes

No

**Postcode**

- Please tell us the first part of your postcode (e.g. S1) .....

Please return this form by post and send directly to:

Josie Billings, Quality Team, Business Strategy, Sheffield City Council, Level 9, East Wing, Moorfoot Building, Sheffield, S1 4PL

Please return by 13 February 2016