

## Sheffield Autism Partnership

March 2017

### Proposal to establish an Autism Reference Group

We propose establishing a group of Autistic Adults across the City who can act as a reference group for the Autism Partnership.

Representation from the Autism Reference Group would attend Autism Partnership meetings and working group meetings but separately this would be an opportunity to regularly seek the views of the wider adult autistic community on a range of matters.

*Examples might be:*

- Reading and commenting on papers or proposals
- Receiving notes from working groups and commenting on these or making suggestions to the working groups
- Providing issues for discussion at the Autism Partnership or at working groups around particular issues affecting the community or parts of it.
- Providing examples from their own experience of 'good practice' in any walk of life across the city
- Creating and conducting on-line surveys for the adult autistic community.

We anticipate that this group would be organised and run by a small subgroup (6? people to be identified) with support, if necessary from the Autism Partnership itself.

The group would meet every 2 months in the first instance and would also establish an on-line forum (perhaps through a closed Facebook page) so that those unable to attend meetings could still contribute.

Membership of the reference group would be invited through

- a) Respondents to the questionnaire
- b) Voluntary groups in the adult autism and disability sector in Sheffield (SAS, SAPAG, SAANs, ACCT)
- c) Universities and Colleges
- d) Autism Support providers (eg Autism Plus, Dimensions, Citizenship First, IBK etc)
- e) Individual mailing via GP surgeries

We would anticipate sending out an invitation after Easter and holding a first meeting in early June.

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