

Draft Proposals for Sheffield APB 'Next Steps' May 2017

1. That the current Sheffield Autism Partnership Steering Group / Planning Committee be designated the Sheffield Autism Partnership Board with immediate effect.
2. That the Terms of Reference of the Sheffield Autism Partnership Board should be: (see appendix below).
3. That the membership of the Sheffield Autism Partnership Board should consist of the current members (representing Sheffield City Council, Sheffield NHS CCG, autistic adults, parents and carers of autistic persons, members of relevant local voluntary bodies, professionals and others including representatives of organisations providing services to autistic persons and their families).
4. That this membership should gradually be extended to include representatives of relevant organisations, groups and interests which are currently not specifically represented (for example in Education, Employment, Housing, Learning Disabilities, Police and Criminal Justice, and Children's Services.)
5. That the Sheffield Autism Partnership Board should normally meet every two months, unless there is a need for a special additional meeting.
6. That an Adult Autism Reference Group be established with the aim of engaging a range of autistic adults and facilitating their communication with, and involvement in, the work of the Sheffield Autism Partnership Board.
7. That a wider Sheffield Autism Partnership be established consisting of the Sheffield Autism Partnership Board, its various sub-groups, the Sheffield Adult Autism Reference Group, the Sheffield Autism Network (see 8 below), Sheffield Autistic Society, SAPAG and other groups and interested individuals as may be appropriate.
8. That membership of and participation in the Sheffield Autism Partnership be actively extended and fostered, with, as a first step, efforts to contact and engage those who have responded to the recent partnership consultation exercise and survey. We note also that work is currently being undertaken to re-establish the former Sheffield Autism Network in the hope of engaging more groups and individuals in active discussion of and involvement in issues around autism and autism spectrum conditions in Sheffield.
9. That the currently active working groups on Training, Awareness and Information and on Employment should continue as official sub-groups of the Sheffield Autism Partnership Board, facilitated and supported by Sheffield City Council and reporting back regularly to the main board.
10. That additional sub-groups (for example on Diagnosis, Assessment and Post-diagnostic Support, Housing and so on) be gradually established when active membership of the

Sheffield Autism Partnership Board and of the wider Sheffield Autism Partnership is sufficient to enable participation in any such new sub-groups.

11. That an initial agenda of urgent issues be drawn up for the Sheffield Autism Partnership Board to consider over the coming months, taking account of the responses to the recent consultation exercise.

Appendix: Draft Terms of Reference

The Sheffield Autism Partnership Board would work to implement in Sheffield the Department of Health's national adult autism strategy.

Specifically it would:

- bring together representation from local authority, NHS, community and voluntary sector organisations and services; autistic adults, their parents and family members, and other relevant organisations and individuals;
- listen responsively to what all relevant parties, especially autistic people themselves, their advocates and families have to say;
- oversee the development of long-term plans in Sheffield to improve services and support for autistic adults and their families, including young autistic persons in transition to adulthood;
- monitor services and support for autistic adults and their families, in line with an evolving understanding of their particular needs;
- identify gaps in the provision of services so as to inform Sheffield's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the commissioning of future services;
- inform, involve and educate in relation to autism as many people as possible in the wider community;
- agree the Department of Health's Autism Self-Assessment Framework exercise (SAF) for Sheffield before it is submitted.