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| | Meeting: Autism Partnership Steering Group | | |
| | Date: 05 December 2016 | Time: 13:00 | |
| | Venue: The Circle | | |
| Present: | Carolyn Bealby (CB), Robert Carter (RC), Mary Fearon (MF), Joe Fowler (JF), Liz friend (LF), Roger Guymer (RG), Mark Holmes (MH), Sue Kirkman (SK), Emily Morton (EM), Graham Morris (GM), Graham Nield (GN), Grace Parry (GP), Lindsay Scott (LS), Ed Sexton (ES), Laura Walker (LW), Rye Yap (RY) | | |
| Also Present: | | | |
| Apologies: | Jo Ball (JB), Heather Burns (HB), Sylvia Johnson (SJ), Anna Armentano (AA), Richard Smith (RS), Ruth McFell (RM) | | |
| Chair: | JF | Minutes: | Steve Morgan (SM) |

| Item | Key Issues & Actions | Action |
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| Welcome and Apologies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JF welcomed everyone and introductions were made. | |
| Minutes from last Meeting | <p>Autism Self Assessment</p> <p>Question 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB has not yet forwarded the work undertaken by Janet Southworth from Public Health – MH will forward. JF noted the latest JSNA draft is on the website and will send out today. <p>Question 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ES has not sent the link to the Accessible Information standards - JF will send today <p>Blue Badge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The item was not totally accurate but LW felt it did not need correcting. | <p>MH</p> <p>JF</p> |
| A Communication and Engagement Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The document was developed from the Training and Awareness sub group and, after being circulated and amended, has now come to this meeting for final discussion and approval. The document looks at the vision, in an ideal world, of how we can involve more people and communicate and interact better, in the future. It was accepted that one solution will not fit all – there is a large number of people in the community so a variety of communication channels will be needed in order to reach as many people as possible. <p>Progress/Developments already made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EM's work group has made progress in developing Autism Training and Awareness. SCC is planning to allocate resources to conduct an Autism Awareness Campaign. Progress has been made in developing employment policies and opportunities. It was felt we are well on the way to develop an Autism Partnership Board. | |

- SJ is hoping to revive a network for autistic people that had existed in the past.
- A new autistic specific web site has been launched. LW asked MF where was the best place to put information online, and it was felt this site would be.
- It was noted, some people cannot, or will not, access websites, but may access social media sites. There was a concern that a cohort of people may miss out on receiving information but it was noted the social media sites are linked to the website.
- JF had underlined items that will require an input of resources such as time/money to staff resource centres, produce information etc.
- When the first draft was written, it was seen as a check list as to what we would ideally like to see. There is an understanding that we will not be able to achieve everything now, but hope it can all be achieved in the future.
- It was queried what status the document has and whether this group agreed it, also where do we start?
- It was felt when we get the results in from the questionnaire we will have a clearer understanding of where to start.
- It was noted, bus drivers have received dementia awareness training.
- It was noted there are many alternative ways to communicate without relying on the internet.

Sheffield Autistic Website

- The website is still under development but was considered the ideal central place for information.
- The Sheffield Directory is already linked to it and other sites can be.
- It will be useful as a “landing spot” for people to find information, views and comments and will also be able to signpost people to other sites.
- The site needs to be inclusive - people will be able to add their own stories and will have different views.
- There will need to be a disclaimer that the site does not advocate or recommend one site or view over another, it is purely a resource – the website will have to be neutral.
- GP noted that some attitudes on social media consider autistic people to be a bit of a burden.
- It was noted the National Autistic Website has a page for the general public and/or parent carers to add comments – comments could be good or bad and would be something we would not be able to control.
- It was suggested the web site could provide a review or recommendation system for services but was felt this may be better left to social media sites.
- It was noted the National Autistic Society has tried awareness training with professionals, such as hairdressers, and will encourage people to take accreditation.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RG asked if we can publish the minutes of these meetings on the website – that would be up to the group to decide. <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new subgroups to look at each area and make recommendations – will then look at any resources required. • It was felt a subgroup to look at communication was a priority. <p>Items and discussion for next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to Sheffield Autistic Website • Look at what we do for people who do not access internet. | |
| <p>Autism Partnership survey update</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed provided an update. • The editorial group has looked at the survey and it was sent out to everyone last week to look at – are there any final tweaks? • Under “Areas of work”, to add transport. • It was agreed to leave this as a list and not to rank them. • Although this is a difficult document, it was felt that if we tried to provide an Easy Read version it may lose its meaning. • There are concerns that any major changes now will delay the questionnaire being sent out and there is a number people can ring for help. • A return dates needs adding. • It was noted there is nothing on ethnicity in the equality monitoring section – ES will ask Josie Billings if this needs adding. • It was agreed to send to all group members who can then send to the groups and people they know. • SCC will send to providers. • Emily offered to facilitate drop in sessions to assist people to complete – LW and SK offered to help. • Once the tweaks have been made it was agreed the survey can go out later this week. • The survey will remain open until the end of February but we will be able to look at any early responses. | <p>ES ALL SCC EM / LW / SK ES</p> |
| <p>Blue Badge Discussion</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH, Service Delivery Manager, arrived to talk about the process to apply for a blue badge. • MH noted it is important to process applications speedily. • This is a National scheme – Sheffield does not set its own criteria set. • A Blue Badge is classed as a benefit. • 2 routes to apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Automatic entitlement ○ Based on mobility that does not fit automatic criteria. • There is an internal scoring framework – if the applicant scores above the threshold, they will get a badge. • People can appeal if they do not get a badge and can | |

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| | <p>supply a consultants declaration (although not from a GP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no limit on the number of Blue Badges SCC can issue. <p>Guidance on Autism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditions such as autism are not one of the criterion for getting a badge, people can only get one if they have mobility issues. • LW discussed the issues she had had trying to get a Blue Badge for her daughter • When assessed under DLA she received a badge but now she is assessed under the new PIPs, using different criteria, she is no longer eligible and people are not aware of the changes until they reapply. • LW noted assessments are undertaken by physiotherapists who will not identify if a person is autistic. • There has been no assessment made on the impact of this change. • Most Local Authorities have taken the printed guidance and gone with it, but it completely excludes the autistic and people psychological issues – it was noted the Department for Transport states that Local Authorities are responsible for setting their own criteria. • MH agreed to look at and respond in a few days – they are about to review the criteria and can use the comments made by this group. • SK’s son has enhanced rate PIPS and is entitled to some allowance for a car – this has not been taken up, though, as he cannot get a blue badge. • SK is on the PIP review panel and will take back issues raised. • CB added that she could not get a bus pass due to the changes on how can apply. • GP would be interested in being involved on any work around bus passes. • EM has discussed bus passes with Julie Toner. • There is a co-authored document – “the hidden impairment tool kit” – ES will look at and bring to next meeting. | <p>MH</p> <p>SK</p> <p>ES</p> |
| <p>Work stream and other work updates</p> | <p>Communications work stream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work stream has considered staff time needed to deliver a communication plan. • The group considered where to start, what we want to measure and where. • The group had a themed discussion looking at what key topics to concentrate on. • It was noted the Benefits system takes up a lot of time. • When you ring, the automated service asks you to press this key, then that one – people want to talk to a person and when you do get through to someone, they promise to ring you back, then don’t. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People want a dedicated line so they can talk to someone straight away. <p>Passport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a “passport” people can show to potential employers etc. to say you have autism etc. • It is issued by the Department for Works and Pensions – SK will look into. <p>Employment work stream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work stream met and discussed the disability conference as they felt autism had been excluded. • It was felt that employers are becoming more disability aware, though Supported Employment Scheme • The scheme is aimed at employers - it was felt it may not be easy to access and many not be autistic-inclusive. • SJ will find out how people can access the scheme and will send information out prior to next meeting. <p>CCG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC reported that the CCG have agreed to extend the contract with the provider until March 2017. • The new Specification is well developed. • There is a meeting planned with Leeds colleagues to see how they deliver services and will also look at what other Local Authorities do – it was suggested looking at Liverpool and Bristol. | <p>SK</p> <p>SJ</p> |
| Future meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EM will look at arranging every 6 – 8 weeks for 2017. | EM |
| Any Other Business | <p>NHS England Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JF reported that NHS England funding has been secured for Sheffield to develop work around acute levels of mental health. • This is still in its early days – JF is attending a familiarisation day tomorrow. • JF will be able to report more at the next meeting. | JF |
| Date of next meeting | Monday 30 January 2017, 13:30 – 15:30 at The Circle | |