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| Autism Partnership BoardTuesday 19th December 2023Time: 11:00am – 12:30pmVia Teams |
| **Present** | * Alexis Chappell (AC) – Director of Adult Services – Sheffield City Council (SCC)
* Christine Anderson (CA) - Strategic Commissioning Manager, (LD, Autism, Transitions), Sheffield City Council (SCC)
* Helena Lath (HL) – Team Manager, Sheffield City Council (SCC)
* Charlotte Worthington (CW) – Sheffield Advocacy Service
* Mary Vere (MV) - Parent Carer, LD Board Member, Healthwatch, Sheffield Carers Voice, Flash
* John Kay (JK) - Parent carer / Autistic Adult
* Chelsea Renehan - Head of Community Youth Services - on behalf of Lorraine Wood - Director of Communities
* Chloe Wilks - Sheffield Safe Places
* Anna Guest – Co-Chair for Autism Partnership Board, Autistic Adult
* Cora Bree - Commissioning Officer for Early Years and Early Help SCC
* Anita Z Goldschmied - Registered Learning Disability Nurse and Social Worker, Senior Lecturer and Early Career Research Fellow at Sheffield Hallam University
* Kaarina Hollo – APB Co-Chair, autistic individual (late-diagnosed) and parent of autistic young adult. With particular interest in and experience of autistic experience of health and education services
* Katie Drinkwater (She/They) - Autism Network Development Lead at VAS, Chair of Sheffield Autism Partnership Network and Autistic individual
* Rebecca Powell-Wood - Learning Disability and Autism Professional Lead at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals
* Laura Costa - Commissioning and Partnership Service Manager in SCC Housing
* Siobhan Salter – Personal Assistant to Alexis Chappell
* Jemma Babiker - Consultant Nurse from Sheffield Health and Social Care
* Rachel Hardy – Late Diagnosed Autistic Adult
* Sandra Capewell – Commissioning Officer working under Christine Anderson
* IM (Initials Only – Late Diagnosed Autistic Adult
* Kelly Scargill – Autistic Adult and Project Co-Ordinator for Sheffield Voices at Disability Sheffield
* Raheel Baig – Commissioning Manager at ICB
* Jessica Beech – Autistic Adult
* Sylvia Johnson – Team Social Group Co-Ordinator at SAPAG
* Ellie Cook – Education Support Worker at Sheaf Training High Needs College
* Becks Batley – Participation Project Worker at Chilypep and Autistic Adult
* Samantha Bailey – Parent Carer of Young Person with Autism
* Lily Hoyland – Commissioning Officer in Sheffield City Council and Expert by Experience
* Katie Monette – Director of Strategy at Sheffield Parent Carer Forum
* Tim Wroe – Representing the Autistic Community as a Recently Diagnosed Man on the Autistic Spectrum
* Carolyn Bealby – SAPAG and Parent Carer
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| **Apologies** | Una Cunningham, David Newman, Suzanne Allen, Danny Antrobus |
| **Chair** | **Alexis Chappell** | **Minutes** | **Siobhan Salter** |
| **Item 1** | **Welcome, Apologies and Updates – Alexis Chappell** | **Action** |
|  | * Alexis provided some updates from the previous board meeting.
* We now have an all-age strategy after discussing at the board at the beginning of January.
* Colleagues in Children’s are now looking at the waits for children and young people getting a diagnosis. This will be presented at a future board.
* Within Adult Services in the past year, the service has focused on reducing wait times. Wait times have been reduced significantly and people are now having annual reviews. Christine and her team are now building a range of services across Sheffield and Alexis expressed special thanks to them for this.
* It has been another busy year, but we are starting to see some key deliverables.
* Kaarina brought up how she found it quite difficult to concentrate on the meeting when people were also putting their introductions in the chat. Going forward Alexis instructed that we will give 10 minutes for people to add their introductions into the chat before going into the agenda.
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| **Item 2** | **Introductions from the New Board Members** | **Action** |
|  | * Christine thanked everybody for coming to the meeting today and thanked Sandra Capewell for coordinating the new board members over the past month.
* Christine shared her screen to show the members of the new board, and where there are still some gaps in the board that need filling.
* Alexis also wanted to pass on her thanks and welcome the new board members, and she is looking forward to working with them and learning with everyone in 2024.
* In terms of the new community members, Christine and Sandra are going to look at setting up a group induction, and they are also considering setting up 1:1’s with individuals.
* Christine stated she does recognise that for some people this is a new experience, so they want to support people as much as possible and has an open door policy for all involved.
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| **Item 3** | **All Autism Strategy – Christine Anderson** | **Action** |
|  | * The strategy has been launched with 6 themes in mind. There will be 6 groups to represent these themes, and the team will be looking for a lead for each of these groups. This doesn’t necessarily have to be people on the Autism Partnership Board.
* Christine and her team will be looking at starting to form these groups in the new year.
* Christine advised her team will be using the Learning Disability Strategy as a template for the delivery groups when setting them up.
* Alexis reminded everyone that she is committed to investing into the board, starting with recruiting to Christine’s team for somebody to be dedicated to supporting the board and the delivery groups. This recruitment will be led by the board. This recruitment will take place in the new year.
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| **Item 4** | **Any Other Business** | **Action** |
|  | * Alexis confirmed that she would look at an agenda point for the board next year looking into primary care based on the information John Kay shared with the group around Right to Choose.
* Katie Monette advised that we need to be careful on with this as we could put something out there that isn’t beneficial in the long run.
* Alexis suggested we speak to health colleagues and coordinate a discussion on the pros and cons of this, then we can bring a presentation to the health board on this subject.
* Several members of the board highlighted issues around post-diagnostic support and how that has affected them negatively on a personal level.
* Alexis acknowledged there is a common theme around this issue, and this is something that needs to be addressed with the health board. Alexis is going to ask the board for a dedicated session on the issues around post-diagnostic support.
* Sylvia also pointed out there are issues around pre-diagnostic support as well. Alexis suggested this be brought into the same conversation as post-diagnostic support.
* Anna Guest raised another issue around counsellors in mental health services. She advised that there aren’t enough counsellors available that understand autism.
* Kaarina raised that it isn’t just about getting access to support quickly, but access to the correct support. There is a danger of being referred for the incorrect support.
* Rachel highlighted issues around care homes not being autistic friendly. Alexis confirmed there is work underway to rectify this happening now.

**Discussion Points for the Board Going Forward*** Dedicated discussion with the board around Right to Choose and what this means.
* Pre and post-diagnostic support, and making sure it’s the right kind of support.
* Look into having autistic ambassadors in both the workplace and health services, and exploring ways on how we can implement this.
* Accessing mental health services, and how we can make sure these are positive experiences for people.
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| **Item 5** | **Thanks to Outgoing Members – Alexis Chappell** | **Action** |
|  | * Alexis expressed her thanks to everybody who has been part of the board over the past couple of years who have been part of the journey, and thanks to everybody who will be continuing with the board in 2024.
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| **Item 6** | **Next Meeting** | **Action** |
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