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| Autism Partnership BoardTuesday 21st November 2023Time: 2:30pm – 4:00pmVia 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)
* Susan Kirkman (SK) - Family Carer / National Autistic Society
* David Newman (DN) - Consultant Clinical Psychologist - SHSC - Learning Disabilities Services & SAANS
* 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
* Dave Swindlehurst - CEO at Sheffield Mencap and Gateway
* 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
* Maya Rodriguez-Hunter – Late Diagnosed Autistic Adult
* Siobhan Salter – Personal Assistant to Alexis Chappell
* Amy Weston – Commissioning Manager from Sheffield Place ICB
* Jemma Babiker - Consultant Nurse from Sheffield Health and Social Care
* Rachel Hardy – Late Diagnosed Autistic Adult
* Rachel Dillon - CYP Neurodevelopment Programme Manager
* Barry Tickell - Operations and Development Manager (Housing - Rough Sleeper Initiative), Autistic Adult, Parent of Autstic Children
* Melissa Simmonds - Autism Strategic Lead, Voluntary Action Sheffield
* Caroline Stiff – Autism Partnership Board
* Emma Tomkinson – Adult Autism Support Hub
* Robert S – Autism Partnership Board
* Sandra Capewell – Commissioning Officer working under Christine Anderson
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| **Apologies** | Judith Birkett, Georgina Parkin, Holly Johnson, Kathryn Robertshaw, Katie Monette, Lilly Hoyland, Liz Tooke, Marie McGreavy, Mark Tuckett, Paul Reeves, Robert Carter, Suzanne Allen, Una Cunningham |
| **Chair** | **Alexis Chappell** | **Minutes** | **Siobhan Salter** |
| **Item 1** | **Welcome, Apologies and Updates – Alexis Chappell** | **Action** |
| **1.1****1.2****1.3****1.4** | **Neurodiversity Waiting List*** The children’s and young people’s wait lists has been raised with health colleagues to come up with solutions on how we can work to reduce these. Meredith Dixon-Teasdale (Strategic Director of Children’s Services) has agreed to take the lead on how we move forward with reducing these waitlists. Alexis is going to ask Meredith to come to one of the future board meetings to discuss this.
* Looking at adult wait lists; Alexis has agreed to take the lead on this and start having conversations with colleagues on how we can work together to reduce the wait times. Alexis wants to support and facilitate the conversations around this. A standing item with be built into the agenda to provide updates on this.

**Autism Friendly City, Conference Sprint 2024*** The idea for this conference is to have an online or in person event to raise the profile on this topic and promote understanding and awareness. People in attendance at the previous board meeting felt this would be a positive event to have. The majority of the board today also confirmed they would like an event like this to happen.
* Alexis is going to chair the planning meetings for this event going forward.
* **Action** - Siobhan to coordinate a group with those who want to be involved in the event organisation and planning. Volunteers are Susan Kirkham, Barry Tickell, Anite Z Goldschmied, Helena Lath, Melissa Simmonds, Maya Rodriguez-Hunter, Rebecca Powell-Wood, Chloe Wilks, and Anna Guest.

**Recruitment of Dedicated Autism Post*** For anybody who wants to be involved in the recruitment of this post Alexis advised to contact Christine Anderson. Recruitment will be based on who those involved feel will be a good person to fill this post.

**Mental Health & Early Intervention*** Alexis confirmed she has had approval to take forward a new model for mental health and early intervention. She is going to ask Tim Gollins to come to a future board meeting to talk about this.

Alexis shared a link to “Our Big Plan”.https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/documents/s64062/12.3%20Appendix%201%20-%20Our%20Plan.pdfAlexis shared a link to the Physical Health Strategy.https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/documents/s63099/13.2%20APPENDIX%201%20-%20Sheffield%20Physical%20Health%20Strategy%20SMI%20LD%20Autism%202023-28%20v9.pdf | **SS** |
| **Item 2** | **Board Structure and Survey Feedback - Christine Anderson** | **Action** |
|  | * Christine confirmed that she had a good response to the survey that was sent out following the previous board meeting.
* Christine screen shared a refresher of the proposed changes from the presentation shown at last month’s board meeting. The working groups proposed in the presentation will allow further people in the community to have their voice heard.
* Changes have been recorded in the second slide in the presentation attached below.
* There were a lot of comments around having younger representation on the board.
* Anita asked if the 12 people who will form part of the board will be 12 autistic people, or 12 people who are the voice for autistic people. Christine confirmed it will be 12 autistic people, or people who identify as neurodivergent.
* John Kay advised it will be important that the people who are delegated to be a part of the board turn up to ensure that there is the correct amount of representation on the board.
* Christine confirmed that in terms of next steps, volunteers have come forward to help improve communication.
* Melissa Simmonds advised that we must be more inclusive towards autistic people. Language is still being used that is offensive to the community. If we’re setting this space up, we need to do it right, otherwise autistic people aren’t going to want to come back.
* Alexis would like to build this into the governance to ensure we do build an inclusive board and commission the review. Alexis is happy for people of the board to volunteer to be involved with this.
* Maya asked how involved she would be able to be as part of the 12 autistic people that would make up the board, and if she would have any limits. Alexis is keen for autistic people’s voices to drive the change they want to see and she doesn’t want to curb enthusiasm.
* Chelsea advised that her team are aiming to building sensory integration into spaces as a standard.
* John could see from this meeting that there is a lot of interest in getting involved and suggested that the current length of time given for the board meetings isn’t enough. He also suggested that an annual full day event may be helpful for the board.
* Katie is really pleased to see that we’re increasing the representation of the charity sector but is concerned at the representation suggested for carers. Alexis agreed. Katie advised she thinks the board is looking good, but that there are just might be a few key things we’re missing. Alexis confirmed she’s not worried about the numbers. Her main concern is we have the correct representation. Christine is in agreement that we need to increase the number of board members.
* **Action** – Alexis to ask the Race Equality Commission to come and speak to the autism board about what they have been doing in the city, and to make sure we’re using the right terminology and the right language.
* **Action** – Christine and Sandra to send out details on how to submit Expressions of Interest to become a board member to the board.
 | **AC****CA/SC** |
| **Item 3** | **Adult Autism Support Hub Update – Emma Tomkinson** | **Action** |
|  | * The hub has been launched this week. First individual is accessing the support tomorrow.
* The service runs from Sunday – Wednesday, with Monday and Wednesday being a physical service, and Tuesday and Sunday is purely virtual support.
* The appointments will be 30-45 minutes.
* People can book in for an appointment by sending an email or calling the office. Emma’s team are also in the process of creating some widgets that allow people to use pictures to communicate. This it to help people who are non-verbal or prefer to communicate in this way.
* The first 3 months of service delivery will be reviewed every month to allow for tweaks, then there will be quarterly reviews from then on.
* Every staff member has a name, an icon and a colour, and people can address them with any of these.
* People will have access to a group timetable to they are able to see what is happening throughout the year.
* Emma shared with the board that there is still one paid vacancy for a team manager for 10 hours if anybody on the board is interested or knows anybody who is interested. The advsert will be going up in the next few days.
* There are also voluntary opportunities available.
* Alexis passed on her thanks to Emma and the team for the hard work they have put in to setting this up.

**Details for the Adult Autism Support Hub****Email:** adultautismsupporthub.mhm@nhs.net **Mobile Number:** 07811 589909**Website:** Adult Autism Support Hub (mhm.org.uk) **Service opening times:** Sunday: 17:00 – 20:30, Monday: 10:00 – 14:00, Tuesday 17:30 – 20:30 and Wednesday 10:00 – 14:00 |  |
| **Item 4** | **Any other business** | **Action** |
|  | Nothing raised or discussed. |  |
| **Item 5** | **Next Meeting** | **Action** |
|  | Tuesday 19th December: 11:00am – 12:30pm |  |