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| Autism Partnership BoardTuesday 24th October 2023Time: 1:00 – 2:30pmVia 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)
* 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 – Co-Chair for Autism Partnership Board, Autistic Adult
* Raheel Baig - Commissioning Manager, Sheffield NHS ICB
* Cora Bree - Commissioning Officer for Early Years and Early Help SCC
* Dave Swindlehurst - CEO at Sheffield Mencap and Gateway
* Elle – New Member of the Autism Partnership Board
* Anita Z Goldschmied - Registered Learning Disability Nurse and Social Worker, Senior Lecturer and Early Career Research Fellow at Sheffield Hallam University
* Jessica Beech – Autism Partnership Board Member
* Kaarina Hollo – Co-Chair for Autism Partnership Board, Autistic Adult
* Katie Drinkwater (She/They) - Autism Network Development Lead at VAS, Chair of Sheffield Autism Partnership Network and Autistic individual
* Katie Monette - Director of Strategy, Sheffield Parent Carer Forum
* 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 – Autism Partnership Board Member
* Siobhan Salter – Personal Assistant to Alexis Chappell
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| **Apologies** | Johanne Coates, Rachel Hardy |
| **Chair** | **Alexis Chappell** | **Minutes** | **Siobhan Salter** |
| **Item 1** | **Welcome, Apologies and Updates** | **Action** |
|  | Alexis Chappell, Chair, welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.**Key updates from Alexis:**1. The Adult Care and Wellbeing new structure is in now place following implementation in April 2023. This has created Adult Future Options service and a dedicated post will be recruited to support delivery upon the All Age Autism Strategy and the Autism Partnership Board. Noted Christine Anderson will take this forward as a key next step.
2. Alexis is focusing on implementing key developments into Sheffield City Council:
* To become an autism friendly employer. Alexis presented her plans to make this happen at the Senior Leadership Board yesterday (23rd October 2023) and was fully supported.
* Implement a plan where Sheffield City Council employ people with learning disabilities and people who are not verbal.
* Value the social care workforce and delivering a social care academy, so that our workforce can deliver the best care and support. Alexis is going to ask the team to come along to a future board to talk about this in more detail.
1. Kaarina and Anna are going to be Alexis’ co-chairs for the APB meetings, and Alexis is looking forward to working with and learning from them.
2. Kaarina and Anna introduced herself as she’s new to the board.
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| **Item 2** | **Autism Partnership Board Structure - Christine Anderson** | **Action** |
|  | 1. Christine started off by apologising for the length of time that it’s been since the previous board meeting in May. There was a huge amount of interest in the co-chair position for the Autism Partnership Board. Alexis and Christine met some brilliant people over the summer and generated a lot of interest in the wider autistic community.
2. There have also been thoughts around using some of the principles and approaches that have been used to change governance in other areas for making some changes to the Autism Partnership Board as well. It was identified from feedback from applicants for the co-chair post that the recruitment processes weren’t autism friendly, so this will be reviewed as part of the governance change.
3. Christine presented the below slide show to the attendees.
4. Part of the proposal is to reduce the membership from the 100+ members it currently is to a set number of members, however there would still be opportunity for the wider community to feedback to the smaller groups.
5. Proposed allocations are listed on slide 3 in the presentation below, and each group would send a representative to the board meetings.
6. Meetings are proposed to be every other month instead of every month, however due to the gap since the last meeting this is something that will be brought in further down the line. For now the meetings will continue to be monthly.
7. Some open discussion took place around distributing minutes. John Kay raised some issues with minute distribution in the past and highlighted that these need to be distributed with more transparency going forward.
8. Chelsea Renehan suggested it may be useful to meet with committee managers to use their social media feeds. This could be used to spotlight a particular piece of work to help enable the neurodiverse community who may have different learning styles and may not benefit from reading minutes. Susan Kirkham also highlighted that we must be careful as a board that everything isn’t just on social media as not everybody uses it.
9. Kaarina Hollo asked if there can be flexibility around numbers for the groups mentioned in the slides. Christine confirmed these are the proposed numbers at the moment and nothing is confirmed as of yet. She also suggested it may be worth doing a google form so everyone can share their thoughts and views, including the people who were unable to make the meeting today.
10. Chrstine then went on to talk about how the role of the co-chair is to help set the agenda, co-lead meetings with Alexis to help ensure the meetings run smoothly, and to make sure the board and its sub-groups are working together effectively. They are the link to the community. Christine originally stated that payment for the co-chair would be £10 per hour. John Kay raised concerns that this is below the minimum living wage, and asked if this should be reviewed to at least meet the nationwide minimum for this post. Alexis confirmed that she has already spoken to Kate Joseph’s about this, and it has been agreed that she will be able to raise the pay to meet the national minimum for this post across other local authorities. Christine clarified that the proposals of £10 per hour was for an involvement pay. An involvement pay is different to a paid salary.
11. Kaarina Hollo stated that she is comfortable with the pay that has been agreed for her. From her perspective the co-chair is not an employee of the council, and in her mind, she sees it as a voluntary role with honorarium.
12. Katie Monette asked how we can make 6 groups all age for an autism group, and suggested there needs to be some thought on what those groups will look like going forward. Jessica Beech followed this stating that it is important that we have that separation, but also that the groups are going to provide a flow between children’s and adults for when children transition into Adult Social Care. Jessica also asked what the timeline is for when these groups will be formed. Alexis advised she would like the groups formed by the beginning of 2024, so that they can focus on delivery throughout 2024. Before the new year, Alexis would like to agree on a direction together, create governance on how we work together and then deliver.
13. Chelsea Renehan stated that We have an opportunity as a city council to have conversations around late diagnosis and what the working environment is like for adults working with a late diagnosis of autism.
14. John Kay asked if Alexis’ proposals could be carried out for the beginning of 2024 and not the end as has been the case in previous years. Alexis confirmed that this is her commitment for the Autism Partnership Board so that in 2024 the focus can be on delivery. At this time next year, Alexis would like us to be able to celebrate all the things we have achieved as part of the delivery. Alexis plans to take it to public committees as well so they can see the progress being made for the autistic community throughout 2024.
15. John also highlighted issues with not knowing how many people in Sheffield have Autism, and how this might hinder the work that is going to be carried out over the next year. Susan Kirkham advised that this is an issue nationwide as not everyone wants to identify as autistic, but still have all the problems that come with being neurodiverse. Alexis confirmed that this is why we need to focus on delivery to move Sheffield into being an autism friendly city going forward.
16. Chelsea Renehan advised that advocacy is going to be a big part of this from the beginning. With late diagnosis it’s a big step to share your identity as autistic. Advocacy will be a key part in helping with inter-generational networking for the autistic community. Chelsea suggested holding an event to help with this. Alexis thinks this could be a good way to commence the All Age Strategy.

**Actions from Open Discussion** **Action** – Christine to send out a questionnaire to gather the early thoughts of the board members.**Action** – Christine to consolidate the co-chair role for transparency.**Action** - Christine to look into hosting an event and bring back to the next meeting.**Meeting Closed** | **CA****CA****CA** |
| **Item 3** | **Any other business** | **Action** |
|  | Nothing raised or discussed. |  |
| **Item 4** | **Next Meeting** | **Action** |
|  | Next meeting to be confirmed. | **SS** |