**Sheffield Autism Partnership Board**

**28 January 2025**

**Agenda**

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| **Time** | **Item** | **Speaker** |
| 3.00pm | **Welcome and introductions**  Introductions made via Teams chat. | Anna Guest Kaarina Hollo |
| 3.05pm | **Autism Festival update**  Deborah Verney supporting with comms.  What to partners and members want to see at the event?  What would upset people if it was left out of the festival?  Any feedback would be appreciated.  Anna – Will there be a day for stalls? Would also be good to network with other groups.  NM – We have plans in place for this.  Mary V – Can we make sure Sheffield services reps are present rather than other areas e.g Rotherham.  Kaarina – Would be good to include any schools/hospital school involved in Autism support. Integrated presentation from the schools would be good or the Children’s Hospital Trust. | Christine Anderson |
| 3.25pm | **Autism Strategy – workstreams update**  CB – Our team should support the aims and ambitions of the partnership board. Looking to recruit an autism professional to work alongside Danielle Grant.  AC – 6 workstreams agreed that reflect national ambitions   1. Improving understanding of Autism  * Rollout Oliver McGowan training * Increase Autism awareness content * Supporting families and carers  1. Children’s services engagement – Director of Children’s to be invited to this board. 2. Helping people to find employment – New autism officer role will take the lead on this e.g. pathways to work and lifelong learning. 3. Making Health and Care Services Equal for Autistic People – David Newman leading on this work. Improving diagnostic pathway is the top priority. Improving support whilst awaiting assessment is second priority. Priority 3 is improving mental health support in the city. 4. Health and Social Care Support in Communities – Voyager Care will deliver Safe Place project. Commissioned a team of quality checkers to advise how community services could be more autism-friendly. We want to link with Compassionate Sheffield project. Developing an accommodation plan under ‘My Safe Home’ across South Yorkshire and have representation at the board. | Alexis Chappell  **ACTION: Laura Hayfield to be invited to future meeting for dedicated discussion.** |
| 3.45pm | Comfort break |  |
| 3.50pm | **Autism Strategy – refresh**  We didn’t have an Autism Strategy when AC joined us, but co-produced a strategy that reflected the national strategy. We recognised that as time went on we would need to refresh it and implement continuous learning, remaining current.  I’m often asked if we should we also consider wider neurodiversity as part of the strategy.  The Autism Festival s a good opportunity to get people’s views to ensure we’re prioritising the right things, and would welcome your views.  What do the board feel about widening the scope to include neurodiversity?  Broadly agreed by attended to support a co-produced strategy and will build this into the schedule.  AC welcomed people going away to think about including neurodiversity in this board and discuss as an item at next meeting.  Housing – we’re now doing a lot of joined up working with housing services and would like to link our accommodation strategy.  LC - Health and Housing Reference Group would be a good place to potentially discuss this.  AC – Update to policy committee in March around refresh of the strategy and all are welcome to attend – March 26th. | Alexis Chappell  All |
| 4.00pm | **Justice Workstream Update**  Alexis thanked colleagues who have worked on this.  Priorities following our last meeting:   1. Engaging with statutory board to discuss how we raise awareness of autistic people in the justice system 2. Training to support wider understanding of justice processes 3. How do we influence more self-identification and diagnosis?   JB – There will be a focus on training. Will be emailing members of the meeting to invite them to a follow-up call. | Alexis Chappell |
| 4.10pm | **ADHD Discussion**  Paul Roper interested in wider neurodiversity conversation.  David and Paul shared their presentation on screen with attendees – to be shared in minutes. | David Newman  Action: Nicola M to link with David Newman around presentation. |