



Surrey Autism Partnership Board

Meeting held on 05 October 2021 via Zoom

Notes of the last meeting / matters arising:

Follow up actions:

- Mary Hendrick will discuss short breaks at a future Autism Partnership Board meeting.
- Kathryn Telford met with Sabrina from the User Voice and Participation Team and had a useful discussion about what to include on the checklist for Autism Friendly Communities.
- Justine McManus, Guildford Job Centre passed on Kathryn Telford's email address to their Partnership Manager. Guildford Job Centre / Kathryn will be linking up in the near future.
- Sara Truman gathered feedback from National Autistic Society Surrey Branch members about autistic people's experiences of having (or not having) the Covid vaccine. This was shared with Melanie Ridge to inform work to support hard-to-reach people.
- Sarah Foreman from the User Voice and Participation Team was to share feedback around the vaccine with Melanie Ridge, and Melanie was to raise issues raised with colleagues to identify possible solutions - We are awaiting confirmation about this.

Surrey All Age Autism Strategy and National Strategy Update – Thomas Moore

Tom's presentation on the Surrey All Age Autism Strategy and National Update will be sent around with the minutes.

- Surrey's Health & Wellbeing Board agreed the strategy on 9 September.
- The strategy aims to achieve an autism friendly approach across the County in education, health, social care, education, voluntary sector, work and community settings. It aims to reflect the whole life journey across the service system, which aligns with the National Strategy that was published in July.
- The strategy sets out our joint ambitions around autism. We have developed a series of workstreams with plans to deliver the changes that are needed.
- We have taken a **“Nothing about us without us”** approach, involving autistic people and family carers at every stage. Each workstream is co-led by a person with lived experience – either an autistic person or a family carer.
- You can read more about the [Surrey All Age Autism strategy](#) on our [Surrey County Council - Learning Disability and Autism Hub](#).



Surrey Autism Partnership Board

Housing and Independent Living – Helen Hunt

Helen Hunt's presentation on housing and independent living has been sent round with the minutes.

- Helen is the lead for the All-Age Autism Strategy housing and independent living workstream. She outlined the work underway in this workstream – see slides.
- Helen discussed the need to get a better understanding of demand for supported living, to develop schemes accessible for autistic people with different kinds of needs.
- Helen outlined work with Waverley Borough Council to look at housing processes and how autism accessibility could be improved.
- Tom explained that the British Standards Institute have put together a draft guideline about design of buildings to improve access for neurodivergent people. They are asking for input, and it would be good to get as many comments as possible, to make sure their guideline reflects what people really need from building design.
- Tom will circulate a request for comments, please respond if you can, and Tom will feed our input back to British Standards Institute.
- Rebekah, co-chair said that staff in supported living settings need to have a better approach to dealing with behavioural problems. There needs to be better training and supported living buildings should have a sensory room.
- Tom said that there is training for supported living staff to understand autism and also around positive ways to support people whose behaviour may cause concerns. We need to make sure supported living services take up the training. It is important that we minimise the need for physical intervention and support people to get their needs met in ways that do not create high risks. Sensory rooms will not be available in every supported living scheme but may be available in some. Sensory ways of supporting people should be available wherever they are needed.

Education and Preparing for Adulthood - Susan Harris

Susan's presentation on education and preparing for adulthood will be sent round with the minutes.

- Susan Harris is the Principle Educational Psychologist and autism strategy lead from Send services.
- Susan described then new Children's Autism Partnership Board which has had two meetings, and the Children and Young People Reference Group. It would be useful for the Children's and Adult's Partnership Boards to have good links and to hear about each other's work.
- Susan outlined the action underway in the workstream – see slides.



Surrey Autism Partnership Board

Questions and Answers

Question 1. Rebekah, Co-Chair said that there is often confusion over what the parent job is and what the school's job is?

Answer: Susan said that they will be clearly outlining the expectations for what schools should deliver.

Question 2. Carol Teunon, National Autistic Society said that with the focus on the preparation for adulthood, more academically able autistic people, particularly when they are diagnosed late can fall through the gaps. People may need support with developing independent living skills though they appear able. This may still be the case in people's twenty's after they have left formal education.

Answer: Liz Williams, Convenor agreed and said that for people who live with parents until adulthood, external support to learn independent living skills may still be needed later in the person's life, once parents become elderly. Skills training needs to be available throughout adulthood.

Autism Training – Mike Leat and Laura Williams

Mike and Laura's presentation on autism training will be sent around with the minutes.

- Mike introduced the Autism by Experience project – this is a team of thirteen people, twelve of whom are autistic adults. They received a grant from Surrey County Council to develop training materials. All the team members are paid for their work.
- The team is currently part of Clear Communications People, but the plan is for Autism by Experience to set up as a separate company.
- The team has been delivering online training workshops and has developed a series of handouts to help people in a range of roles to understand autism.
- If you have any questions, or would like to enquire about training please email: training@communicationpeople.co.uk

Questions and Answers

Question 1: Tom asked if Autism by Experience could deliver training that reflects the Skills for Care Core Capabilities Framework?

Answer: Mike said that they are very familiar with this framework and would be able to support with training.

Question 2: Christina Earl, Surrey Choices asked about the training materials – are people able to buy them? Or do they come with the training?

Answer: Mike advised that they are all free to download from their website.

About Other Business

- Liz Williams introduced herself as the new Strategic System Convenor for Surrey County Council. Welcome Liz!



Surrey Autism Partnership Board

Future meeting dates:

1. Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 1:30-3:30pm via Zoom
2. Tuesday 19 April 2022 at 1:30-3:30pm
3. Tuesday 19 July 2022 at 1:30-3:30pm
4. Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 1:30-3:30pm

