



Meeting held on 18 July 2024 on Teams

Introduction	Actions
<p>Tom welcomed people to the meeting, and everyone introduced themselves.</p> <p>Notes of the last meeting / matters arising: Actions from the previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz to speak to Amanda to arrange a slot to present the Down Syndrome Act, and the updated Statutory Guidance for the Autism Act when these become available Liz to provide update when plans for Health Inequalities Board comes together. The plan is for the Board to start in October. <p>Completed Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom advised that Howard is unable to share the workbook. Shelley confirmed that Liz Patroe is leading at Surrey Heartlands on reasonable adjustments flag for the NHS Spine. Liz Williams added that Rachel Oostra is also leading on project planning. 	<p></p> <p>LW</p> <p>LW</p>
<p><u>Housing Workstream Update- Anna Attah</u></p> <p>Anna gave an update on the housing and independent living workstream of the All-Age Autism Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is ongoing work with district and boroughs to improve their understanding of autism and the accessibility of housing processes. The workstream has been working with Waverley Housing Department to develop accessible guides for people who are completing housing application forms. So far, they have completed 1 booklet, and are planning 4 in total. The Council's accommodation with care and support programme has been renamed as "Right Home, Right Support". They are working on a joint protocol between District and Borough Housing Departments and Surrey County Council Adult Social Care so that we can work together better and understand issues that autistic and disabled people might face. On the 20 June, Autism by Experience delivered training to approximately 50 housing staff at Runnymede Council. Anna to share a summary of the feedback from Runnymede Council about this session 	<p>Anna A</p>

and what improvements they are looking to make, once this is available.

- Surrey County Council has a new Supported Living Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) that started in April 2024. This will help ensure good quality accessible support is available for people eligible for this service through Adult Social Care.
- As part of this, there is new housing being built across the County for supported living for people who are autistic and/or have a learning disability. There are three sites in West Byfleet, Cobham and Horley. Between them they will provide Supported Independent Living for 44 people, and should be open by summer 2025. They have been designed to be accessible to people with sensory sensitivities as well as being wheelchair accessible. To have access to this housing, people would need to contact their Adult Social Care Team (*More information on this is available in the slide pack*).

Discussion

Sara fed back that Surrey Branch NAS regularly get parents asking for help with finding accommodation for their children. Some parents have been told it is down to the parents or carers to find this themselves – is that right? She asked how the new housing would help people who were still living with their parents, who want to move to supported housing. She also asked about the level of support people would receive in the new supported living accommodation.

Anna said they understood that there is a need for more supported living options. Current work includes:

- The new DPS system, which will help shape the market and let providers know about what is needed
- Communicating this through provider forums
- Prioritising and committing to the 44 units
- Planning on contacting individuals in residential care who are more independent to consider independent living.

Tom said that in addition to the new builds, there is ongoing work with providers to develop new services. We are working to get more supported living through existing providers while the construction of new developments take place. The newbuilds will just add some extra capacity to this.

In terms of the level of support, the social care practitioners will assess the level of support each person will need. If someone does need 24hr support, then they will be able to get that in supported living, whether in the newly built accommodation or elsewhere. If they needed a lower level of support, then they will be able to get that as well.

Anna said she is happy to speak to Sara privately about the housing support queries she has received. It's not right that parents have to source the support for their family member (unless they want to through a direct payment)

<p>Bex said that eligibility can be a problem. He was only eligible for housing through the mental health team. He said he would not have been considered for housing as an autistic person. There needs to be more understanding on eligibility and what could be provided. There should be support available to parents and carers who are helping their adult children to move out or who want to live more independently. He said his parents really struggled with this when he was living at home, and that whether it is respite care or suitable housing for their children, there should be more options to support families with an autistic person living at home.</p> <p>Tom asked the group whether it would be useful to have a discussion at a future meeting about short breaks.</p> <p>Action: To arrange a discussion about short breaks, support for families and the work Surrey Commissioning are doing on this at a future meeting.</p>	<p>TM/ Amanda A</p>
<p><u>Better Care Fund Update- Kim Collen</u></p> <p>Kim gave us an update on projects linked to the All-Age Autism Strategy and funded by the Better Care Fund, for the financial year April 2023 to 2024 (<i>please see slide pack</i>).</p> <p>Last year they had a great group of partners and really good collaborative working to make a difference to the lives of autistic people.</p> <p>Kim highlighted Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum’s <i>Spectrum SMEF</i> project which was created to reach families of autistic people from minority ethnic backgrounds. People were invited to sessions to discuss topics relating to autism that were selected by the group members. This started in Woking and is now expanding into other areas. For some communities, talking about neurodiversity and mental health issues can be difficult. This project has raised the profile of autism, signposting families to support and helping breaking down the barriers and stigmas to accessing services and support.</p> <p>Their initiatives have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events: Hosting events with guest speakers to foster trust with services. • Peer Support Group: Establishing a group for shared experiences and mutual support. • Listening Service: Providing a listening ear both in person and online. • Family Support: Offering individualised support to families and linking into professionals who can offer more support. <p>Most of the people that came were parents of autistic school age children.</p> <p>Other projects funded by the Better Care Fund include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Oxford Suicide Prevention Training- this has been recommissioned for parent carers and professionals working with autistic people. They are also hoping to work with Nanu on this as a 	

<p>long-term business as usual offer. The risk of suicide in autistic people is high and following several serious case reviews, making sure people get the right support at the right time is very important.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATLAS Autism Participation Officer- They are looking to recruit a participation officer who will help expand the coproduction work happening to deliver the autism strategy. • Autism by Experience's <i>Autism Champions</i> training • Eikon Charity, running LGBTQ+ support groups and 1-1 support for autistic people- They are trying to widen participation in their support groups for autistic LGBTQ+ people in Surrey. • Autism by Experience Prisons Work - There are 5 prisons in Surrey each with a neurodivergence manager – They are in touch with each other through this work. <p>Tom also wanted to add that the recognition of the number of autistic and neurodivergent people within the prison system has increased and the numbers are very high. There is work to make prisons better at recognising and supporting autistic people.</p> <p>Anna said there is a strong need for peer support and other forms of support in a prison environment. They are working on a pilot project in some of the prisons alongside Autism by Experience and Autism Advocate Viv Dawes. They are hoping to get started on this in August.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Bex said it was important to understand neurodivergence in the prison system, what vulnerabilities could lead to re-offending and what leads to people being in prison in the first place.</p> <p>Tom says he hopes that this prisons work will grow into something bigger across the criminal justice system. Prevention is important when looking at this work.</p>	
<p>Break</p>	
<p>Tom has asked if Danielle Wardle and Nigel Evason would speak about the new key working service for autistic children and young people aged 5-25 that are at risk of hospital admission.</p> <p>Discussion to be booked for a future meeting.</p>	<p>TM / Amanda A</p>

[Suicide Prevention Strategy- Nanu Chumber-Stanley](#)

Nanu came to speak to us about the Suicide Prevention Strategy Engagement and some key priorities they have recognised. Nanu put out a trigger warning about the discussion being sensitive and shared some resources (*available in slide pack*). They have drafted a suicide prevention strategy for Surrey and have had one for the last 18 years. This is updated every 3 years and was updated in May last year.

They were previously waiting for central government to bring out a National Suicide Prevention strategy, this was published in September 2023. They have since reviewed and rewritten their document based on the National Suicide Prevention strategy. They would like to receive feedback and have a conversation to co-develop a suicide prevention action plan for autistic people in Surrey. This will be informed by people with lived experience such as autistic people, their families and carers.

She briefly spoke about the [Suicide and Autism National Crisis report](#).

Nanu spoke about the 2 projects (See slide pack for details). Nanu said this work will not start until January 2025 because they are in engagement process now. This engagement process ends on the 31 August and the new strategy will be ready in October. They would like people to join the working group or provide feedback. This working group will co-develop the plans.

Discussions

Nigel asked how the funding would work so that the projects don't make promises they won't be able to deliver.

Nanu said there has been difficulty with finding the funds. They have written numerous bids with colleagues in the voluntary community sector and not been successful, but they are actively looking for funding and fighting for this. She shares Nigel's concerns.

Colette said she wanted to get involved with this project. She said there needs to be work with staff who are working with young people. As someone with lived experience, people find this hard to understand. Some of this is not going to need significant funding and is about co-designing, so that people are supported in a more sympathetic and compassionate way.

Tom said this was a good piece of work. The Autism Strategy could have access to some Better Care Fund money to support this work, but it is time limited and we would need to think about exit strategies and medium to long-term resources.

Haywood said he wanted to know more about how to join the working group. What time commitment would you need to get involved with this? Will these meetings be within working hours?

<p>Nanu said this project is not agreed and signed off yet. Traditionally, they would have meetings either every month or every 6 weeks. The meeting is usually an hour or hour and half. Members will also be given tasks outside the meeting. They would be required to complete and bring those to the next session. These meetings are within working hours, but Nanu can speak to Tom if this needs to be reviewed. Nanu to share the details for circulation once this is finalised.</p> <p>Within the presentation, there is a link to the draft strategy which members can read (<i>in slide pack</i>). You can also provide your thoughts and feedback on this.</p> <p>If anyone who want to get involved with this project, please email: SPstrategyOnly@surreycc.gov.uk</p>	<p>NC-S</p> <p>All</p>
<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Camilla leads on the Oliver McGowan training and is happy to give an update.</p> <p>Action: To arrange a time for Camilla to provide an update on the Oliver McGowan Mandatory training at a future meeting.</p> <p>Liz Williams would like to attend one or more future meetings to give updates on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Autism Act update to statutory guidance • The Down Syndrome Act • The Autism Health Inequalities Board • Attain’s review of Surrey and Borders’ services including the diagnostic pathway, mental health pathway, autism accessible complex need service. <p>Action: To arrange a slot for Liz to present at a future board meeting.</p>	<p>TM/ Amanda A</p> <p>TM/ Amanda A / LW</p>
<p><u>Summary of Actions:</u></p> <p>To arrange slots at future meetings for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle Wardle / Nigel Evason to speak about the new key working service for autistic children and young people age 5-25 that are at risk of hospital admission. • Camilla to provide an update on the Oliver McGowan Mandatory training at a future meeting. • Liz Williams to share her updates (Listed above in Any other business) • Discussion about commissioning of short breaks services. <p>Nanu to share finalised details of the project once signed off</p>	<p>TM/Amanda A</p> <p>NC-S</p>

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting is on Thursday 17 October 2024 at 10am to 12pm



Attendance:

Co-Chairs:

- Tom Moore – Senior Commissioning Manager Surrey County Council
- Bex Worgan

Board Members:

- Anna Attah- Surrey County Council
- Anna Waterman- Head of Commissioning, Surrey County Council
- Haywood Drake
- Chris Lane- Avenues Group
- Narmadha Kothandapani- Surrey County Council Engagement and Partnership Senior Business Support Assistant, Minute Taker
- Christina Malik- National Autism Society
- Christina Earl- Surrey Choices
- Martin Woodward – Surrey Choices Employability and Autism Strategy Employment workstream co-chair
- Sabrina Peters – Surrey County Council Senior Communications Officer
- Colette Lane- Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust
- Kim Collen- Surrey County Council, All Age Autism Implementation
- Danielle Wardle- Strategic Key Working, Surrey County Council
- Nigel Evason- Interim Head of Integrated Commissioning LDA and SEND, Surrey Heartlands, NHS
- Camilla Ford- NHS Surrey Heartlands
- Jackie Vass- Surrey County Council, Occupational Therapist
- Jane Gupta- All Age Autism Service Manager from Children's services, Surrey County Council.
- Emma Langdon- DWP
- Sara Truman- National Autistic Society

- Liz Williams- Joint Strategic Commissioning Convener- Learning Disability and Autism and all age Mental Health
- Nanu Chumber-Stanley- Surrey County Council
- Joanna Grudzinska-Dmowska- The Grange
- Natalia Konieczna- Richmond Fellowship
- Shelley Cummings- Royal Surrey County Hospital
- Stephanie Masters
- Titus Tagoe- Student Nurse LD, Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust
- Joy Bagshaw- Farnham Road Hospital
- Parvin Ahmed- Mary Frances Trust