



Meeting held on 18 January 2024 on Teams

Introduction and Ground Rules:	Actions
<p>Tom reminded board members that Autistic members have requested a check in and check out for each meeting to. Non-autistic members are to join 10mins after the start and 10 minutes before the end of each meeting.</p> <p>Notes of the last meeting / matters arising: Actions from the previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justin Price to meet with Tom Moore, Jane Gupta and Matt Hardy to discuss transition data and plans – Date fixed for this meeting. Tom will feedback. • Autism Oxford report about mental health inpatient services to be shared- Awaiting an update from Laura. • Health and Inequalities Board for autistic people was due to start in November, but this has been delayed. Plans are now in place – Liz to provide a further update when the plans have come together. <p>Completed Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynne Ramnanansingh to attend reference group- Completed - in engagement plan for 2024 • Oliver McGowan training update - People are doing the E-learning across health. Liz is booked in to give a fuller update in March 2024 • Tom and Anna to contact Emma from Camberley Job Centre about how to get Autism Friendly Communities- Completed, Anna has contacted Emma. • Tom to connect Liz to Mental Health Training- Completed will discuss further outside of the meeting. • Sabrina and Shelley to discuss the access card system- Completed and has been actioned 	<p></p> <p>TM</p> <p>LS/LW</p> <p>LW</p>
<p><u>Employment Workstream- Martin Woodward and Christina Earl</u></p> <p><i>The presentation was circulated with the pre meeting materials.</i></p> <p>Martin and Christina gave an overview of the employment workstream which aims to increase opportunities for autistic and neurodivergent people across Surrey and to improve the experience of finding and sustaining employment. A neurodivergent speaker starts each meeting by talking about their experience in work.</p> <p>Surrey Chambers of Commerce have been funded through the All-Age Autism Strategy to hold a series of events called Accessing Untapped Talent, talking about employing autistic and neurodivergent people. The events are open to all employers and employees and are free of charge. The one in Guildford was held</p>	<p></p>

<p>in November and was attended by 13 employers. The next ones are taking place in Camberley at the end of January and Reigate in March.</p> <p><u>Feedback from the Reference Group</u></p> <p>Tom provided the feedback from the Reference Group discussion. Question: - How can we make employers make reasonable adjustments. Answer: Although employers have a responsibility to make reasonable adjustments, we can't tell them what to do. We can give them a better understanding about what sort of reasonable adjustments might help, and why it's an advantage to them to employ neurodivergent people. Question: Are any of the employment programmes suitable for graduates? Answer: Yes, the programmes cover a wide range of autistic people including graduates</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Beverley in the chat mentioned local supported employment as a great opportunity for autistic people without an EHCP that need support. Emma DWP- clarified that there is a disability employment advisor in each of the job centres and anyone is welcome to speak to them. They are happy to provide reasonable adjustments for autistic or neuro-divergent people who need this. Emma also talked about the Access to Work scheme. People can self-refer to this. Tom added if anyone is interested in these services, they can contact their nearest Job Centre plus.</p>	
<p>Break</p>	
<p><u>Communication Strategy – Sabrina Peters</u></p> <p><i>The presentation was circulated with the pre meeting materials.</i></p> <p>Sabrina showed board members the current web page and wanted to ensure the design of the webpage represented the autistic community. She asked for feedback on what people wanted to see from the design.</p> <p>Sabrina shared some visual ideas for a logo – using the rainbow infinity loop - and asked whether we wanted to use the same logo for the Reference Group, Autism Partnership Board, Autism Friendly Communities and Autism Strategy. People were broadly supportive of this. Sabrina has requested if any members of the board have suggestions for the logo or the web page, please email allageautismstratergy@surreycc.gov.uk</p>	

Feedback from Reference Group and the Board

Tom provided feedback from the reference group.

The Reference Group thought:

- There should be better information about people presenting to the reference group, this could also apply to the Autism Partnership Board as well.
Narmadha to send out draft template for a biography to board members for them to complete and send back.
- Sabrina supported this suggestion.
Tom and Sabrina to link up with Amanda to discuss using biographies for the meetings and the website.
- There was a suggestion that the website could provide links to positive information about autism and neurodiversity on social media. The discussion highlighted that we can't control what information social media sites lead people to. Algorithms are designed to get a reaction and can lead people to negative information very quickly. Sabrina said that the lived experience blog could be an option for people to share resources that were useful to them.
- People would like information about staying safe online.
- People at the reference group broadly liked the new infinity logo and were positive about using it. It is seen as a positive symbol in the wider autism community. The question was asked whether this logo should also be used for this Autism Partnership Board.

NK

TM/AA/SP

Tom said that there was a lot of information up online already on the Autism Partnership Board pages. This new website aims to include more autism led material, which is really positive and something that should be supported. We will also need to make sure we are not duplicating, and link between the pages. Sabrina said they are working to make sure that the content is clear and avoids this type of confusion.

Liz brought up hospital passports. How can autistic people share their views about the different hospital passport formats that are available?
Sabrina said she will try to add a feedback form on the website to support those discussions.

Bex wanted to find out more about how to get involved so that people can add their voices to improving services and get a more authentic influence on what happens.
Sabrina said they were only planning to have links to ATLAS and the Reference Group on the website.
We discussed how best to support self-advocacy. There should be more resources to empower people and to be able speak up. Self-advocacy needs to be more widespread in the autistic communities and it would be good if there was a selection of information and resources about self-advocacy.
Sabrina asked whether the new website should have a section about people's rights as an autistic person? What rights you have in certain settings and how to advocate for those rights. Autistic people can struggle to have a framework to be

<p>able to gather information to make an informed decision. Clear information could help.</p> <p>Sabrina said she will come up with some ideas on this to present to the reference group.</p> <p>Sabrina asked Bex whether she could write something for the website.</p> <p>Tom pointed out that the Reference Group has recently restructured their meetings to have fewer topics in each meeting, but more frequent meetings. This was so that they can include the extra topics they want to discuss, while keeping the meetings manageable and accessible. The group will need notice to book an item in for one of their meetings. Sabrina to arrange this with Amanda.</p> <p>We discussed whether a few key people from the Reference Group who enjoy writing might be able to put some information together, which the wider Reference Group could review.</p> <p>Christina Malik in the chat said it looks like a great website and design. There is already a private diagnostic organisation called Autism Surrey – Is there a risk of confusion between the two? Sabrina did not think this would conflict because the sites are very different looking and have different purposes.</p> <p>Bex wanted to check whether the infinity logo comes with the wording Surrey Autism underneath it. Sabrina said it did.</p> <p>Sabrina said she is now working in a new role and working on this task voluntarily. She said new people will be taking over this project very soon. But she is interested in any feedback or volunteers for the web content. She will let us know when the website goes live.</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>SP</p>
<p><u>Transition Data: Matt Hardy</u></p> <p><i>The presentation was circulated with the pre meeting materials.</i></p> <p>Matt shared information on forecasting and finding appropriate placements in the community for people who are eligible for Adult Social Care services. We do not have good data about children and young people who are likely to need adult social care. We need this to be able to forecast what services we will need for this group so that the right services are made available.</p> <p>Bex said they found it hard to understand the aims of this presentation in the Reference Group. They asked for a brief explanation of what specific goal this data is aiming for</p> <p>Matt said that this information is shared with providers, so they are able to have enough places and provisions based on the forecast. If the forecast says there</p>	

was not enough supported living, then the Council can talk to providers to encourage them to develop more.

Bex said the data seemed very narrow. It was only looking at specialist schools when many autistic people are in mainstream, but still may need Adult Social Care support. Bex asked is this a preliminary version of the data, or is this the only focus?

Matt said this is a preliminary look to give us broad-brush numbers. He is also working on another approach which aims to be much more detailed. This will look at people currently using Adult Social Care and where they were as children, to identify characteristics that make it likely that they would need Adult Social Care. This would then be used to project forwards from the existing Children's data. This should be much more accurate, but it will take a long time.

The current information Matt shared means that we can present some information to providers quickly, as we know that new services are needed now.

Bex said they would not have been considered for Adult Social Care support when they were younger. Previously people who were designated as "high functioning" were not considered as needing support. The discussion around "high functioning" terminology needs to change.

Matt said that this project was not trying to narrow down access to adult services. It was about working with the best information available now, and building something better.

There is a separate conversation about Adult Social Care eligibility criteria, which are set nationally.

Haywood asked whether the figures Matt presented represented the total services needed in a given area, or additional new services. ie Guildford was identified as needing 9 extra Supported Living places in 2024-2025. Was this the 9 extra places on top of what was already there?

Matt said that the numbers shown for each year were all on top of the existing services.

Christina asked whether the young people coming through were had more complex needs than previous cohorts?

Matt said that based on information from Children's services there are increasing numbers of people with complex needs who will be coming through to adult services.

Tom said that pressure on public service budgets is ongoing, and it is a challenge. The response is not changing eligibility criteria. We need to have good evidence that the money is used effectively to support people to live well and avoid crises. People going into crisis is obviously bad for people themselves, but is also bad for services' budgets

<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Autism Friendly East Surrey are having an event at The Light in Redhill on 27th February 2024. We will share the details as soon as they are available.</p> <p>The event is for autistic people, parents, and professionals. There will be a brief training session held by Autism by Experience and some stalls for organisations that support autistic people. If anyone wants a stall or wants to get involved, please reach out to Anna Attah.</p> <p>Liz asked whether the board would be interested to hear a short update about the Down Syndrome Act when the guidance is published. There are autistic people with Down Syndrome. There was broad agreement.</p> <p>Action- Liz to speak to Amanda to arrange a slot to present this</p>	<p>LW/AA</p>
<p><u>Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>Our next meeting is on Thursday 18 April 2024 at 10am to 12pm</p>	

Attendance:

Co-Chairs:

- Tom Moore – Senior Commissioner Surrey County Council
- Bex Worgan



Board Members:

- Anna Attah- Presenting- Commissioning Manager in the disabilities Team, SCC
- Narmadha Kothandapani- Minute Taker
- Beverley Westbrook- CPA Transitions Team, SCC
- Liz Williams - Joint Strategic Commissioning Convener- Learning Disability and Autism and all age Mental Health
- Christina Earl- Surrey Choices
- Martin Woodward – Surrey Choices Employability and Autism Strategy Employment workstream co-chair
- Sabrina Peters – Surrey County Council Senior Communications Officer
- Carla Withers- Community Learning Disability Nurse, East CTPLD, NHS
- Chris Knight- Strada Care
- Jane Gupta – All Age Autism Service Manager from Children’s services, SCC
- Haywood Drake

- Joy Bagshaw- Farnham Road Hospital
- Kathrine Everett- Education and Inclusion Service Manager, SCC
- Emma Langdon- Disability Employment Advisor from Camberley Jobcentre, representing the jobcentres.
- Christine Malik- NAS
- Nicole Fayter- SCC, Project Manager for All Age Autism
- Mariam Watling- Public Health Lead, Learning Disabilities and Autism, SCC
- Luke Simmons- NHS
- Rebecca Dalton- NHS Frimley ICB
- Melanie Randall- Carer Practice Advisor for the Learning Disabilities & Autism Team, SCC
- Sally Nicholson- JCP Guildford
- Parvin Ahmad- Mary Frances Trust and Work Stress Solutions
- Paulina Trynda- Assistant Manager, Activity Resource Centre for adults with disabilities
- Sara Truman
- Sue Johnson- Strada Care Limited