



## MINUTES

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Autism Forum	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	13:00 – 15:00	Bristol Autism Support Service Drop-in, Create Centre B Bond, Smeaton Rd, Bristol BS1 6XN
<b><i>Attendees</i></b>			
Helen Pitches (HP) Zandrea Stewart (ZS) Terry Dafter (TD) Cllr Helen Holland (HH) JA Diane Elliot (DE) Kathryn Mason (KM) SD Ellena Ibal (EI) Ian Ensum (IE) Matthew Trerise (MT) JD			
<b><i>Apologies</i></b>		<b>CC</b>	

## AGENDA

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	<p>Welcomes and introduction – how the meeting will work</p> <p>Cllr Davies explained it is in the create centre so the BASS centre can encourage people to attend.</p> <p>The meeting is to discuss a national update and Bristol update on the long term plan for the NHS, update on our priorities from the last self assessment to inform a future Autism strategy.</p> <p>Discuss how the autism forum can change to include more families and autistic people in different ways without having to attend a meeting</p>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	<p>Introduction from Cllr Holland-</p> <p>Cllr Holland attended to talk about how Bristol City Council can work with people with autism and how it fits in with wider piece to transform adult social care.</p> <p>'We hear about the social care crisis all the time and I worry people think there aren't services out there, but there is help. 160million budget for social care. It's the biggest budget in the council. Thanks to cabinet colleagues for helping protect our budget. And I can take questions to Cllr Helen... about children.</p> <p>We try to make services more responsive, 3 tier model all about giving appropriate help at appropriate time whatever their needs are.</p> <p>Predominantly with 65+ and now we are focusing on adults of working age.</p> <p>It's about making sure we don't intervene on people's lives unless they want to and necessary.</p> <p>Isolation is an issue and directing people to support that is available in the community and have thriving communities is the first tier, so people may not need formal service we can social prescribe.</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> tier is help when you need it, so we give appropriate help in timely way.</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> tier is people who need our help and need services in order to be able to live their lives.</p> <p>EG. We know most do not see themselves living in residential or nursing homes, most see as last resort and want to live in community with support. We have stabilised, we have paid providers more for them to pass on, the homecare job is important, reduce what we pay to residential and nursing to encourage home care.</p> <p>Making sure we work with community services in the council so there are services in the community. In Hartcliffe and Withywood there are number of resources, walking groups, choirs, allotments etc. encouraging interactions with people who understand their needs.</p> <p>Another thing we are keen on is the responsibility of people with learning difficulties getting into employment now sits with HH in social care. Cllr Hollands past has been helping people with Learning difficulties getting into work so close to heart and we are doing more for that as we hope we will get money from European social fund and matched by WECA. Nationwide 8% employment rate we are on 6% of people in work. A lot of wasted talent.</p> <p>Adult social care has been terribly underfunded over the last few years and it is a nationwide issue, so transforming we could get better value for money and also provide more support.</p> <p>TD- pivotal time, we want to see about how we can hear from people with Autism more often, we want to make life in Bristol good for people with autism. Strong working relationship.</p>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
3.	<p>Q- Will autism be included in the LD work for getting people into work? Cllr HH- yes.</p> <p>Q- How do we explain benefits and UC making it autism friendly. Paul McGowan's work?</p> <p>Cllr HH- An ambition could be to get the partners Autism awareness training. In the city plan, perhaps autism awareness could feature. Healthier the CCG 5 year plan is LD and autism.</p> <hr/> <p>Information about what is going on nationally about Autism in the NHS and the national strategy.</p> <p>ZS -We want to hear from people locally to update an autism strategy. Intention of being an autism accessible city, how do we make sure we do that? What does it mean to autistic people living in Bristol? This isn't overnight, there is a lot of work to do. We need to hear from people around Bristol including young people, employment and raising public awareness and training for staff.</p> <p>Autism act 2009, 10th year anniversary. DfH reviewed the strategy 'think Autism' is aligned to the adult. The new strategy is being developed and should be available the end of this year, for children's and adults.</p> <p>Informed by 'National Call for Evidence' from spring this year requesting a call for evidence for people to input their experiences. 2700 people responded and those findings with other info EG. Evidence gathering from NAS, and cross parliamentary group.</p> <p>More conversations around awareness and skilling up the workforce so people making assessments can be more aware. Access and diagnosis. 'Autism Focus' is looking at how people can actively participate in their community, people with and without a learning difficulties are equally able to be a member of society like housing, jobs, transport.</p> <p>Access right support, 3-tier model every level considering reasonable adjustments and supporting people with autism throughout the process. And not a single org. perspective, not just the LA. Right health care and access all the services. Autism is everyone's business- Local authority, health, welfare, rights, job centre.</p> <p>DE- self-assessments from council also informed the data, examples of good practice were sought.</p>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	<p>Diagnosis is important, challenges around accessing services quick enough. Transition can be challenging and for family. SEND reforms play into this.</p> <p>KM- young people coming back to Bristol from out of county provisions that may present with self-neglect at GPs, Social care should be aware. Registered providers some are giving training to live independently. Education part in day and support in residential accommodation. Young person went from pre-16 where all talked to each other to post-16 where educational was great but personal care was not identified and not written into the EHCP. Education around self-advocacy and their rights need to be worked on.</p> <p>There is a cross party parliamentary group, each party signed up to autism act.</p> <p>Public understanding- no stereotyping, people felt on buses their autism diagnosis made people treat them differently.</p> <p>Working with clinicians to recognise overshadowing, i.e. thinking its autism related not other mental health issues.</p> <p>Support people accessing an interview and making an application, helping employees think about reasonable adjustments to retain work opportunities.</p> <p>Access to justice- support individuals in challenging situations with the police and justice system. Police may be called due to lack of understanding which escalates a situation. Police understanding of autism needs work.</p>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	<p>There was an understanding police officer who was involved in this group in the past. Concern about lack of early help and lack of preventative work, autistic people are at greater risk of being detained as risk to themselves. Police get called when schools and families do not know how the young person's social needs can be met.</p> <p>HH- The door is open with Sue Mount-Stevens, she is passionate about people with mental health needs generally not being help inappropriately detained. I think she would be up for that conversation around autism particularly and getting a police rep in this forum. <b>Cllr Holland to action.</b></p> <p>MT- Adam Loughlin is the force lead for Autism, we've done a bunch of stuff with the police over the years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Video training resources, e-learning.</li> <li>-Custody suites being changed.</li> <li>-This is being provided for free as the police do not have a budget for it, this is barely scratching the surface.</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
4.	<p>Information from Bristol - what were the key points from the self - assessment and what was put in the Action plan – update</p> <p>Police, CCG, CYPS contributed to the information: Using a traffic light system the areas of concern are ranked: red-bad 21%, Amber- do more 60%, Green- 19% acceptable standard.</p> <p>Green:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BAS</li> <li>- Diagnostic pathway</li> <li>- Data collection</li> <li>- Employment and employment related services</li> </ul> <p>Amber:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training frontline staff</li> <li>- Asking for opinions of families.</li> <li>- Access to health services.</li> <li>- Culture and leisure.</li> <li>- Access to post diagnostic assessments.</li> <li>- Information quality and access.</li> <li>- Housing needs.</li> </ul> <p>Red:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communication between BCC and CCG.</li> <li>- Access to LA services.</li> <li>- Waiting times around NICE guidelines</li> <li>- Post diagnosis access</li> <li>- Mental health support for people with autism.</li> <li>- Criminal justice agencies work with LA.</li> </ul> <p>We have used these and put into local action plan.</p> <p>Diagnosis pathway has improved, 40% are now triaged out, if you are clearly autistic it is fast tracked.</p>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
3.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Discussion - How can the views of autistic people be better represented</b></p> <p>ZS- forums are good, but we need to engage with people across the community in a range of different approaches. Peer support groups might be a good place to gain insight.</p> <p>HH-some people attend these meetings every time, how is this forum a network of other networks? Where is the wider network?</p> <p>IE- these forums don't always work, it can be preaching to the converted. I would argue for a updated version of this network. Without being tokenistic, we need to reform this meeting.</p> <p>DE- It must evolve around the national strategy with points that each meeting focuses on. Are there meetings before with people with Autism can feed into? The core is the council, CCG, Parents, BAS and autistic people. then some things chucked in like housing and transport. It has been hard from the parents and carers perspective, they are busy in their own lives.</p> <p>JA- I've been coming for some years, it is difficult to come here and then process the information after and with other priorities as well as work and other steering groups. It can be overwhelming to process what you think. Having 1 topic of discussion and the likely questions in advance would be helpful.</p> <p>HH- A section of the strategy needs to be how we gather the voice of people.</p> <p>IE- how do we have autistic people run this meeting? Where does this meeting feed into? Good representation and where does the info go.</p> <p>MT- We need to ensure the right people here if we are having a topic.</p> <p>Q-Is this group all age or adults only with a little looking at transition? What do the autistic adults want education of young people discussed?</p> <p>HH - SEND inspection has been done will be published post-election. The strategy needs to be clear what the process is, it will be other services in the council.</p> <p>MD- How do we change this what do we need to do?</p> <p>MT- What can this forum do and BCC do? Focus on what we can control and a bit of resource attached it, stuff needs to happen in between forums. GPs not engaging, there has been an effort to engage with them.</p> <p>SD- we need some actions on what to do and take note on the legislation and the training being launched in the NHS. What should meetings here be about? Ask more people from the BAS group ask them</p>	

