

Worcestershire Autism Partnership Board Meeting

Tuesday, 14th June 2022 10:00-11:30pm

People Present:

Name	Organisation/Job Title
Laura Westwood	Co-Chair, Lead Commissioner, Worcestershire County Council
Lesley Wood	Commissioning & Monitoring Officer, Worcestershire County Council
Emma Allen	Commissioning Officer, Worcestershire County Council
Francesca Darby	Upcoming Head of Learning Disability Services, Worcestershire County Council
Paul Kinsella	Public Health Prevent Lead, Chair of Channel Panel, Worcestershire County Council
Gerry Mcmorrow	Business Manager, The Family Psychologist
Caroline Mann	DoLs Team Manager, Worcestershire County Council
Melanie Barnett	Director All Age Disability Service, Worcestershire Children First
Stephen Fessey	Joint Team Lead, Autism CCN Team, Worcestershire Children First
Phil Ray	Exploitation Development Officer, West Mercia Police and Worcestershire County Council
Julia Micklewright	Aspie
Catherine Quekett	Ourway Self-Advocacy
Hilary McGlynn	Autism West Midlands
Steph Boyd	Sky Autism Support Malvern
Sue Onions	Carer
Richard Keble	Programme Lead for Learning Disability and Autism, Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG

Apologies:



Name	Organisation/Job Title
Linda Ebutt	NAS volunteer
Faith Robinson-Wain	Head of Mental Health Services, Worcestershire County Council
Bernadette Louise	Co-Chair. Expert by Experience
Jenny Hewitt	WAC
Morag Edmondson	Healthwatch Worcestershire
Laky Sahota	Resources for Autism
Jenny Dalloway	Commissioner, Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG

Tuesday, 14th June 2022 Notes and Actions

Item	Notes
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions: Laura welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made</p>
2	<p>Actions from the previous meeting:</p> <p>ACTION: Autism Strategy Planning - Appendix document to be updated with information from 14th April meeting- completed</p> <p>ACTION: Autism Strategy Planning - Laura will approach people (where appropriate) to be Workstream Leads – update on agenda</p> <p>ACTION: Autism Strategy Planning - Start setting up the meetings/groups – update on agenda</p>
3	<p>MCA/Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) code of practice – Caroline Mann, WCC DoLs Team Manager</p> <p>Caroline gave a presentation on the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) / Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) code of practice consultation.</p> <div data-bbox="389 837 448 901" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>LPS - code of practice easy read wit</p>
4	<p>Update from Herefordshire and Worcestershire CCG – Richard Keble, Programme Lead for Learning Disability and Autism, Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG</p> <p>Richard gave an update on the workstreams listed below:</p> <p>Autism Awareness Training</p> <p>Still waiting the outcomes from the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training pilot. The National Autistic Society run another pilot to train at Tier 2 for those people who work with autistic people and/or learning disabilities on a regular basis across Health and Social Care. 23 people attended in May 2022. This training is mandatory in the Health and Social Care Act 2022.</p> <p>There is due to be a seminar to give further updates later this month.</p>

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	<p>Procurement of Adult Autism Diagnostic Service Commissioning for the Adult Autism Diagnostic Service has stopped because the timescale during which the commissioning process took place, the CCG had additional information about the level of referrals and demand and realised that it was significantly exceeding the original tender, which meant everyone that took part in that process would not be able to meet current demand. Reassessment of likely annual referral rates will be made, and commissioning will recommence in the Autumn. Some additional funding has been identified to address the existing waiting list for the rest of this year and the current contract with the Family Psychologist has been extended until the end of March 2023.</p> <p>Gerry from The Family Psychologist explained they have increased capacity from 1st July and will be completing more assessments, which will hopefully make an impact in the current waiting list.</p> <p>Adult Autism Support Service Contract was awarded to Autism West Midlands and due to commence on the 1st July 2022 but there may be a slight delay due to mobilisation. The contract is for 2 years with the option to extend for a further 2 years. The indicative target across Herefordshire and Worcestershire is to have approximately 400 contacts in the first year and increase significantly over subsequent years. The Service will provide further details about the service over the next few weeks.</p> <p>Hilary, from Autism West Midlands explained that she is more than happy to attend the next Autism Partnership Board meeting or earlier if needed. Hilary explained part of bid contains a small partnership with an organisation called Bright Fire, which is a not for profit therapy practice in Herefordshire run by autistic people and they will be supporting in the service which Autism West Midlands offer.</p> <p>ACTION: Hilary to attend the next Autism Partnership Board Meeting to give more information on the above service and link into the social work teams to update the teams on the new service.</p> <p>Post Diagnostic Support Pilot for 14-18 year olds Contracts have been awarded to Brain in the Hand, self-service support app and Autism West Midlands. The contracts started in May and run for 9 months. Target for Worcestershire is 80 contacts for Autism West Midlands and 45 contacts for Brain in Hand. Evaluation has been commissioned from the University of Gloucester and should produce an evaluation report towards end of March 2023 which will inform future commissioning around this age group.</p>

Item	Notes
	<p>Hilary explained this is a pilot service and only accessible to a set number of people. Referrals are made by the Diagnostic Service and as young people are diagnosed, they are given a choice whether they would like support from Brain in Hand or Autism West Midlands.</p> <p>ACTION: Richard Keble to speak to a CCG colleague about providing a statement on where social care can direct people back to who are enquiring about these services</p> <p>GP Sensory Friendly Environments in primary care/GP practices</p> <p>Steady progress has been made, 10 out of 79 practices have signed up to this project. 10 assessments have been completed and practices have been sent recommendations to 8 of those, waiting to hear responses. A checklist assessment is completed (drawn from national best practice about what a sensory friendly environment should look like and adapted for GP practices) and is undertaken by lived experience partners, which brings a lot more insight and challenge to settings. Within the assessments, it is recommended that practices promote that they have a sensory friendly environment, welcome people with autism, assistance dogs etc.</p> <p>Target by end of March is to have 20 but the current challenge is engaging with GP practices. The CCG are working with practices more generally around health inequalities and annual health checks and encouraging more to engage with this project. The ambition is to have all GP practices signed up.</p> <p>The CCG have produced an educational video set – 4 videos available on the CCG website. They are short 5 min videos which introduce the experiences of autistic people going in GP practices, provide background into sensory needs and reasonable adjustments that can be put in place.</p> <p>The group watched: ‘The Sensory System’ video from the link below:</p> <p>https://herefordshireandworcestershireccg.nhs.uk/our-work/learning-disability-and-autism</p> <p>The CCG are exploring how to capture people experiences and evaluate routinely. They will also create some case studies from this work which could encourage other GP practices to engage.</p> <p>Sue asked how many surgeries promote that they have someone at the practice that has an interest in Learning Disabilities and/or autism? Is this being addressed?</p>

Item	Notes
	<p>Richard explained each practice should have a lead GP for learning disabilities and every PCN should have a lead GP for health inequalities which would include Autism. Not clear who the lead GPs are for each practice as the CCG haven't collected this over the last few years. By the end of this calendar year they aim to have identified the Lead GP for learning disabilities in each practice and encourage that this is promoted on their website.</p> <p>In communication to GP practices on annual health checks for people with learning disabilities, the CCG are also frequently mentioning autism, reminding them that in 2 years' time there will also be a requirement for annual health checks to be completed for autistic people and encouraging practices to get on board now.</p> <p>Low stimulus environment in a MH inpatient ward - Hill Crest Ward in Redditch Work had been delayed due to covid outbreaks. An autistic patient will be on the ward and will co-produce the assessment over the next few months. Mental Health Occupational Therapists have all been booked on and started Sensory Integration Training.</p>
5	<p>Overview of project using short term Covid-19 recovery funding</p> <p> Covid Recovery Grant Overview .ppt</p> <p>Sky Autism - Stephanie Boyd Steph experienced technical difficulties during the meeting and was unable to give the group a verbal update on how Sky Autism used the grant. Overview of Sky Autism's work sent electronically, see below:</p> <p> Overview of Sky Autism's Covid-19 R...</p> <p>Aspie - Julia Micklewright Julia explained the grant was used to expand on the services and support Aspie have always provided; extra autism specific counselling, mentoring, expanded the opening times and funding towards a Welfare Coach. All provided in a new larger premise. There is an Aspie Football team led by the Welfare Coach which has approximately 22 players, enabling people on the spectrum to play with teams who are not able to play with neuro-typical teams. The team won the Three County Ability Counts Award and Sandwell Inclusive League.</p>

Item	Notes
	<p>Aspie is open on: Wednesdays 1-9 Saturdays 1-5 Thursday – for ‘spill over’ counselling</p> <p>40 people attend weekly. 116 people are on the Facebook Member Support Group and many are in touch with each other daily</p> <p>Commissioning have put in another bid for covid recovery funding this financial year and are waiting to hear if it has been successful.</p> <p>A group member expressed frustration that there are accessibility issues in the services available to autistic people, buildings are often not accessible to autistic people who have mobility needs. Julia expressed if there was funding available, Aspie could explore the feasibility of installing in a stair lift. Steph expressed Sky are exploring other accommodation options.</p>
6	<p>Autism Strategy update – Laura Westwood</p> <p>Laura explained we have updated the appendix since the last meeting with the feedback from the group. We have been working on identifying what we would need the workstream lead role to do. We have had some meetings to explore workstream leads. Melanie Barnet, Director All Age Disability Service (here today) has agreed to lead on Priority 2. Adrian Symonds is being very proactive in identifying who needs to be involved with priority 6 and making links in preparation for a meeting to be set up. We are meeting with Herefordshire APB to ensure we continue to have a joined-up approach in developing the strategy across the Herefordshire and Worcestershire.</p> <p>The next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Send an email out to all other prospective workstream leads for the other priority areas - A Workstream Leads meeting to discuss and agree how we are going to go about collecting information we need for the strategy, best way to engage - Engagement questionnaire/focus groups - October. <p>Group will be invited into the relevant workstreams over the coming weeks/months</p> <p>Laura asked if the group have any ideas on how we can engage better with autistic people, please let us know because this is something we would like to improve on.</p>

Item	Notes
	ACTION: Group to feedback ideas on how best to engage with autistic people
7	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next meeting is 9th August 2022 – agreed we would send out the invite for this meeting and see acceptance numbers before deciding if the meeting should go ahead. If not, a September meeting will be arranged. - Feedback needed on people’s preference for the format of future meetings – continue with online, return to face-to-face or hybrid approach, in person and online. Laura expressed if preference is for a hybrid approach it will need some thought on how best to Chair these meetings and a system put in place to co-ordinate questions from people attending in person and online. - Laura updated the group on the short term Autism Awareness Training that has been commissioned from the National Autistic society. 3000 licenses available and the Autism Employment and Training Subgroup developed a communication plan, deciding the focus would be businesses in Worcestershire in the first instance. Another area prioritised that came up in the Autism Self-Assessment was to promote training to Onside Advocacy because they are contracted to provide the Appropriate Adult service. Another Covid-19 recovery grant bid has been submitted to increase the number of licenses, and we are awaiting feedback.
8	<p>Close</p> <p>Next APB meeting: Provisionally Tuesday, 9th August 2022 10:00-11:30</p>