


Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives in Bedfordshire and Luton

Fulfilling Lives Partnership

(Developing services for people with autism)

Minutes of Meeting from 25th March 2014

10am The Rufus Centre, Flitwick

	ACTIONS	
<p>1. Welcome, introductions and actions/minutes from last meeting: Steve Minchington (co chair) opened the meeting and gave apologies for:</p> <p>Elizabeth Saunders Daniel Cherry</p> <p>Steve went through the minutes of the last meeting held in December and reminded everyone that we allstill need to get more people on the autistic spectrum involved in meetings. Better publicity and word of mouth was discussed to encouraging more people known to people in the group to attend.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Bedfordshire and PoHwer to advertise the meeting through their websites and groups • All to encourage more customers on the spectrum to attend <p>E Safety guidelines were discussed and Autism Bedfordshire agreed that they would be included on their website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Bedfordshire to include the e-safety guidelines on their website 	<p>Emma Reade and Sandra Pearce</p> <p>Autism Beds</p>	

Unfortunately Bedford College were unable to present at the meeting due to illness but they will attend and present at the next meeting in June.

As requested by members of this meeting the times of the Fulfilling Lives meetings were changed to alternate between mornings, afternoons, and evenings.

It was discussed that the attendance at the afternoon and evening meetings so far has been poor but very good attendance at the morning meetings.

Commissioners will monitor the attendance levels at future meetings and make a decision about continuing with the changing times of the meetings or to have them all in the morning.

All morning meetings will now start at the later agreed time of 10.30am. Today's meeting was an exception as there was such a big agenda.

ACTIONS:

- Commissioners to monitor future meeting attendance

It was noted that in Samuel Whitbread College it has a unit for people on the autistic Spectrum and they might want to attend this meeting


ACTIONS:

- Commissioners to contact the college to see if they would like to attend the next meeting

The dates of Partnership Board meetings for the rest of the year have now been decided. The dates of future meetings are:

- 24th June 2014 2pm
- 23rd October 2014 10:30am
- 27th January 2015 2pm

All
Commissioners

	Suzanne Keen	
<p>2. Hot Topics</p> <p>People found it confusing today that there was no one to meet and greet attendee's coming to the meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that Commissioners and the co-chair should look to see if any individuals on the spectrum were interested in assisting with 'meet and greet'.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with the 'meet and greet' should contact one of the commissioners or the co-chairs <p>Some individuals on the spectrum have been having difficulties with passport applications because of a lack of reasonable adjustment around interviews.</p> <p>Kent passport office apparently has a good training programme in place which could be looked into locally.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners advised that people should report this to the National Autistic Society. • Commissioners also agreed to write a letter to the passport office on behalf of the Fulfilling Lives Partnership. 	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>Michelle Bradley</p>	

3. A Team Presentation

Neil Tunnicliffe and Sam gave a presentation about the A Team. The A Team is a cooperative for people on the Autistic Spectrum to raise awareness. It aims to promote people on the spectrum as having valuable skills “Authentic Autistic Minds”. The A Team has a twitter account which is updated weekly. The enterprise is recycling printer cartridges and old computer equipment as a way of fund raising and would like to attract additional funds.

Neil spoke of the A Teams achievements since it was established six months ago. These include:

- A report on engaging with the criminal justice service.
- Engagement with an offender health group.
- Autism awareness with Bedford prison.
- A presentation about housing needs made at national level.
- Representing people on the Autistic spectrum at Bristol Disability forum.
- Obtaining a licence to use an in-depth information guide for people on the spectrum.
- Involvement in the Eastern Region Autism Self Assessment validation process.
- Working with the police.


Information was also provided about the A Team special projects. Sam is designing a robot called ‘Dave’ who will assist with Autism training.


The A Team are not affiliated or working for the Fulfilling Lives Partnership or for the Local Authorities or Clinical Commissioning Group however they welcome working in partnership with other organisations if they require the A Teams services.


There were a number of questions about the A Team’s training. Neil confirmed that they would prioritise training for people who have contact with the public.



Leaflets and information were available for people to take away






<p>4. Central Bedfordshire Local Account</p> <p>Liz Cray gave an overview of the Central Bedfordshire Local Account. This gives information about the council's spending in adult social care. The document provides a market position statement and intends to help providers plan ahead. In the future there will be an Easy Read version.</p> <p>Liz asked if people had any feedback about Adult Social Care Services or feedback about the Autism section of the Central Bedfordshire Council website.</p> <p>Comments were made that the autism section needs to be made more accessible. It was suggested that a shortcut / hyperlink would be a good idea.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any feedback to be emailed to Liz at: liz.cray@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk mailto:Liz to look at making the website easier to use 	<p>All</p> <p>Liz Cray</p>	
<p>5. Bedfordshire Police</p> <p>Inspector Jeff Carter, Detective Inspector John Murphy, Super Intendant Dave Boyle and Staff Officer Nic Khajavedidze introduced themselves to the Partnership Board.</p> <p>They spoke about what the Police are doing about autism awareness training across the Bedfordshire police force.</p> <p>Some training has been delivered but this has not been expanded sufficiently well. Autism awareness is now high priority and the Police will be engaging with partners over the next few months. When they know what is needed in terms of training they hope to “go live” with training from around June onwards. Delivering training to frontline officers is likely to be a high priority. The general plan is to give officers the skills they need.</p>		

<p>The quality of the training was discussed in the meeting as very important and the Police might like to consider getting feedback from people on the autistic spectrum about the proposed training for their officers. The importance of using real life examples was also discussed.</p> <p>Bedfordshire Police are aiming to be included in the Department of Health's Best Practice example for training.</p> <p>Dave Boyle will be the main Bedfordshire Police contact for autism.</p> <p>.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedfordshire Police to liaise with Autism Bedfordshire and other providers about the delivery of their training. • Bedfordshire Police to continue working closely with Commissioners around the criminal justice pathways work 	<p>Bedfordshire Police</p> <p>Bedfordshire Police</p>	
<p>6. Diagnostic Pathway Update</p> <p>Terri Dorman and the team for the Adult Autism Service attended the meeting to give an update. There are now two consultants in place called Dr Iqbal and Dr Rajamani who are focussing on mental health.</p> <p>The service is trying to make sessions as flexible as possible with home visits made as required. The clinics are held at Twinwoods, Beech Close and Biggleswade Hospital.</p> <p>So far the service has received over 154 referrals, 39 assessments have been completed, and 25 confirmed diagnoses made. The service</p>		

<p>is looking to reduce waiting times.</p> <p>Follow up work happens on an individual basis as required. If people have longer term psychiatric needs they can still access the most appropriate mainstream service. The team does regularly liaise with the Community Mental Health Teams and provides support if required.</p> <p>If an individual does not meet the mental health team criteria the team would still work with the individual until they are sign posted to the most appropriate service.</p> <p>The service is now looking to recruit a full time psychologist.</p>		
<p>7. POhWER Update</p> <p>Susan Kesterton feedback that the Voice Conference took place last month and was well attended.</p> <p>The Autism Voice Group continues to meet at the Tokko centre in Luton and the A Team have given a talk on welfare reform. A Disability Employment Advisor will attend the meeting in May.</p> <p>Several members of the group stated that they are still having problems with the job centre. Susan stated that POhWER can provide support at interviews.</p> <p>POhWER have also done some work with service users from Bramingham around relaxation techniques, recognising facial expressions and hospital appointments.</p> <p>The coffee morning held at Bramingham may move to the evening time if this is a better time for people to attend.</p> <p>Susan announced that she would be leaving POhWER and that Asimah would be taking over the Autism Voice Group.</p> <p>The group thanked Susan Kesterton for all her work.</p>		

<p>8. Priorities for 2014</p> <p>Commissioners discussed how the fulfilling lives partnership will work over the next year and what priorities people would like the meetings to cover. The proposals are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Criminal Justice Service pathways with critical awareness points for front line staff working with people on the spectrum 2. Employment, education and training. 3. Support, diagnosis and assessment for women and girls. 4. Transitions – Linking with children’s services. 5. Diagnostic and Assessment service. <p>All people in attendance at the meeting had the opportunity to vote on their top three priorities.</p> <p>People were also given the opportunity to discuss any questions with commissioners by email or telephone</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners to let the partnership know what the top 3 priorities chosen are for future meetings 	<p>Marek Zamborsky</p>	
<p>9. Co Chair</p> <p>The co-chair positions have been in post for a year. Commissioners have now invited any new candidates for these posts to let them know.</p> <p>There is no role description as Commissioners do not want to be prescriptive and encourage the co-chairs to shape their role and be as involved as possible.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners to email out the nominations form to all members of this meeting • Any person wanting to put forward themselves as co-chair please complete the nomination form and email to commissioners at the email address below: 	<p>Marek Zamborsky All</p>	

<p>suzanne.keen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p>		
<p>10. How was the meeting?</p> <p>Due to technical difficulties the vote was done via a show of hands.</p> <p>Emma Reade stated that it may be helpful to look at venues near a transport links. A vote was taken around the venue and the majority of people voted to stay with the Rufus Centre.</p> <p>Steve Minchington would further discuss the venue at the Voice Group and feedback</p> <p>Commissioners confirmed that morning meetings would start at 10.30am in the future</p>	<p>Commissioners to look at role</p> <p>All</p>	
<p>11. Any Other Business</p> <p>Autism Awareness Day is on the 2nd of April.</p> <p>Central Bedfordshire Council are inviting all staff to wear something blue and make a £1 donation. All donations will then be given to the National Autistic Society.</p> <p>Luton Borough Council will be lighting Luton Town Hall blue in the evenings, thanks to a company called Optikinetics.</p> <p>Autism Bedfordshire will be holding a barn dance on Saturday 5th April.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If anyone would like to attend the Autism Bedfordshire barn dance please contact Autism Bedfordshire directly or complete the forms handed out <p>Steve Minchington invited people on the spectrum to get more involved with the</p>	<p>All</p>	

<p>Partnership meeting activities. This could include helping out with setting up meetings, paperwork, meet and greet etc.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <p>Anyone interested in getting more involved with the meeting to contact Steve Minchington.</p> <p>Emma Reade mentioned that there is currently a slow uptake of training. This will be monitored.</p> <p>The police were also invited back to attend future meetings so that they can report back on progress.</p>		
<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>24th June 2pm</p>		 A small inset image in the bottom right corner of the table shows a hand holding a black pen, writing on a document with a grid or table structure.