




**Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives Partnership**  
**(Developing services for people with autism)**


**Minutes - 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 - 2pm**



**The Rufus Centre, Flitwick**

	<b>ACTIONS</b>	
<p><b>1. Welcome, introductions and actions/minutes from last meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Minchington and Elizabeth Saunders welcomed everyone to today's meeting and apologies were given from Michelle Bradley from Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.</li> <li>• Steve commented that it was great to see some new faces and a significant amount of people with ASD in attendance</li> <li>• There was an outstanding action from the last meeting</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Commissioners to follow up on the previous action about contacting the passport office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neil Tunnicliffe stated that it should be minuted that Sam also from the A-Team's full name is Samuel O'Neill and this should be reflected in future minutes. The A Team's email address is <a href="mailto:a-teambeds@outlook.com">a-teambeds@outlook.com</a>.</li> <li>• A letter has been sent out to the Job Centre Manager in relation to the problems that people have been experiencing.</li> <li>• Commissioners gave feedback from the discussions and voting at the last meeting. The priorities identified were decided for the next 3 years and in the voting at the last meeting the majority of people voted to keep meetings at the Rufus centre.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Michelle Bradley</b></p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of events happened on World Autism Awareness Day in April across the county. Locally a number of events took place, those were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Autism Bedfordshire organised a barn dance - over £500 was raised and Cricketer Alastair Cook came to the dance.</li> <li>○ Central Bedfordshire Council encouraged staff to wear blue and donate £1 – The Council managed to raise £167 and this was donated to the National Autistic Society.</li> <li>○ Luton Borough Council lit up the Town Hall blue</li> <li>○ Bramingham Day Centre had an event which raised £500 which was donated to the National Autistic Society.</li> <li>○ Bedford College held an autism awareness event and raised £135</li> <li>○ Samuel O’Neill from the A-Team also held a car boot sale and raised £70.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The partnership board showed their appreciation by giving everyone a round of applause.</p>		
<p><b>2. Hot Topics</b></p> <p><b>Bedfordshire Police Update:</b>  Bedfordshire Police provided an update about their training since the last Partnership Board. Autism Bedfordshire and the A-Team both commented on the training previously provided to Police Officers and one of the main comments was that it lacked reality. Bedfordshire Police have now reviewed their training and now offer a new training package. This training package will be delivered with the help of the A-Team.</p> <p>The first pilot session went well and there are plans to train a further 59 new officers in July and roll out the training to all frontline officers in August. By the beginning of September police officers will have been trained.</p>		 

<p>Autism Bedfordshire wanted to thank Bedfordshire Police for their commitment and partnership working</p> <p>There was a discussion about how the police will refer and signpost to other agencies, signposting people to appropriate agencies will be a key task and there are also plans for the force to use the AQ10 and refer people to the diagnostic service if appropriate.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Bedfordshire Police to keep the partnership board updated with training progress</p> <p>Elizabeth Saunders noted that there was a lot of good work going on across Bedfordshire and that the Partnership should look to showcase some of this good work.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Commissioners to explore how to show case the good work</p> <p><b>Diagnostic Service</b> SEPT gave an update on the diagnostic service. There are receiving an average of 10 referrals and they are carrying out between 4 – 6 assessments per week. Approximately 50% - 70% of all referrals are diagnosed and signposted. The diagnostic service also a small caseload of active patients.</p> <p>The service will be interviewing for 2 support workers with a view to have the posts filled by August 2014. They are also advertising for a Psychologist and this post is currently being covered by a locum Psychologist.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> SEPT to provide current statistics at the next partnership board.</p>	<p><b>Inspector Jeff Carter</b></p> <p><b>All commissioners</b></p> <p><b>Colin Parsons</b></p>	
<p><b>3. Bedford College opportunities for people on the spectrum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diane Lack introduced herself as the Autism Coordinator at the College. She explained that her job is to work with students with autistic spectrum conditions who wish to access mainstream courses. This presentation will be</li> </ul>		

<p>available for all partnership board members with the minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nick, a student at Bedford College, also presented and explained how Diane's work as an Autism Coordinator at the college helped him. He had support from Diane with his initial interview and enrolled in an engineering course.</li> </ul> <p>He found the support from Diane very helpful, in particular the support he had for his interview, and this encouraged Nick to get involved with mentoring and ambassador work. This work also helped him develop his people skills and now Nick is focussing on supporting and working with people on the spectrum in the future.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Bedford College to keep the partnership updated</p>	<p><b>Diane Lack</b></p>	
<p>4. Autism Bedfordshire update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autism Bedfordshire gave a presentation to the partnership board on the work that they have been doing. This presentation will be available for all partnership board members with the minutes.</li> <li>Autism Bedfordshire would like to encourage any people who have not yet completed the online survey to do so. Paper copies were also available at the meeting.</li> </ul> <p>So far the survey has highlighted the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People on the spectrum are mainly living at home with their parents</li> <li>Most people are not in paid work</li> <li>Barriers that people on the spectrum have identified include social and relationship skills, people needing a greater understanding of autism and a perceived lack of medical professionals knowledge of autism</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autism Bedfordshire were available for people to discuss any questions not covered in the presentation during the coffee break and also if anyone had any further questions to contact Autism Bedfordshire directly.</li> </ul>		

<p><b>Action:</b> If anyone has any questions for Autism Bedfordshire that were not covered in the partnership board meeting please contact Chris Stelling at Autism Bedfordshire (<a href="mailto:chris.stelling@autismbeds.org">chris.stelling@autismbeds.org</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autism Bedfordshire also mentioned the work they are doing with New Horizons in Luton.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Autism Bedfordshire to report back on this and other areas of good practice at future meetings.</p>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>Chris Stelling</b></p>	
<p><b>5. POhWER update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>POhWER gave an update on the Voice Groups that meet in the Tavistock in Bedford and the TOKKO centre in Luton. They have a new worker called Yvonne who will be running the group in Luton.</li> <li>The Voice Groups now have a slot called “So What?” which encourages people to debate the work being delivered now and in the future. These discussions will be fed back to the partnership board on a regular basis</li> <li>There has also been a Hate Crime Session and POhWER would like to invite the Police to attend one of the lunch groups.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> POhWER to contact Bedfordshire Police and invite them to attend a lunch group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Voice Groups seem to be having a positive effect and POhWER have received a number of individual advocacy session requests</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> All to encourage people on the spectrum to attend the Voice Groups. For further information about how to get involved please contact Sandra Pearce at POhWER (<a href="mailto:s.pearce@pohwer.net">s.pearce@pohwer.net</a>)</p>	<p><b>Sandra Pearce</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>	
<p><b>6. Priorities for 2014</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the March Partnership board all members in attendance voted on the priorities they would like</li> </ul>		

the partnership to concentrate on for the next 3 years. Those were:

- Education, training, Employment and Volunteering
  - Criminal Justice Service
  - Social Services Assessments
  - Sustainability
- All attendee's also voted on the name of the autism partnership board and it was agreed that the name should be changed to the 'Think Autism Partnership Board'.
  - Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council has a 3 year autism strategy and action plan which is ending on 31.03.15. They are currently working on their new autism strategies for the next 3 years and they would like to involve all partnership members in the consultation of the document.

Luton will also be updating its strategy action plan which is also ending on 31.03.15.

- Commissioners will be consulting with all partnership board members in the development of these local documents.

**Action:**

Commissioners to keep the partnership board members informed about the strategy developments and consultation opportunities

- It is important that partnership board members complete the Autism Bedfordshire survey as this information will also help shape the local documents.

**Action:**

To complete the survey please contact Chris Stelling at Autism Bedfordshire ([chris.stelling@autismbeds.org](mailto:chris.stelling@autismbeds.org)).

- There were some questions about the Care Act and the influence this could have locally.

**Action:**




Commissioners to organise a presentation on the Care Act for a future meeting.

All  
commissioners

All

All



	commissioners	
<p><b>Co-chair positions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All partnership members in attendance voted for Steve Minchington to continue as the partnership board co-chair for another year.</li> </ul> <p>Steve said he is very happy to continue in this role and he is looking forward to expanding his role with commissioners and providers and he hopes to encourage more people to get involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dan Cherry is now stepping down as second co-chair of the partnership meeting and the partnership thanked Dan for his help over the last year.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>How was this meeting – voting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All partnership board members in attendance had the opportunity to vote on today's meeting.</li> <li>Partnership members were also asked to vote on the name of the partnership board in the future. It was agreed by a majority vote that the meeting with now be renamed 'Think Autism Partnership Board'</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Any other business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>POhWER mentioned the Stop Hate Crime campaign across Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough. She handed out leaflets with information.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> If you would like any further information about the campaign please contact Sandra Pearce on <a href="mailto:s.pearce@pohwer.net">s.pearce@pohwer.net</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioners are looking locally at what people might want to see the Department of Health Innovation Fund money be used for across Bedfordshire.</li> </ul> <p>After the request that Commissioners emailed out to all partnership board members on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2014 we have had 7 people reply with</p>	<p><b>All</b></p>	

<p>idea's of how we could spend any of the funding we are awarded.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> If anyone has any further idea's of how to spend the money please email Marek Zamborsky on <a href="mailto:Marek.Zambrosky@bedford.gov.uk">Marek.Zambrosky@bedford.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>The commissioners are still waiting to hear what the criteria will be so we can apply for the Innovation Fund from the Department of Health.</p>	<p><b>All</b></p>	
<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> <b>28<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 6pm at The Rufus Centre</b></p>	<p><b>All</b></p>	