### Autism Way Forward

**Notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2015**

##### Shaw Room

10.00am to 12.00pm

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| 1 | **Welcome and Apologies**Peter Tomlin, Interim Head of Safeguarding, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.In attendance:Peter Tomlin (Chair)Maria BarberGill BarnardHayley BroxupJakki CrawleyDebbie GainsboroughLouise HernimanClaire HillDebbie HollandDavid LloydDebbie MessamAdrian MurrayCharlotte PlattKaren ShawFiona SouthallGareth WelfordCathy Williams Anne WoodJanet WrayKathryn Lyons - Business Support (Minutes)Wendy Whitehead - ObservingApologies for absence were received from Debbie Burton, Cllr Jenny Harrison, Gary Flanagan, John King, Colin Elliot, Emma Williams, Mari Saeki, Shirley Murray, Jacqueline Stewart and Angela Lees.Peter requested that all those present introduce themselves and outline their main roles, particularly in relation to Autism. |
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| 2 | **Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 16th September 2015**Item 3Capital Grant – This was an Agenda Item.Item 5There were resolutions that Colin would contact groups to move forward with consultation and feedbackAction: That Peter Tomlin speak to Colin and establish whether this was done.Action: That Debbie Burton and Maria Barber speak to schools regarding the Autism Champions.Action: That all people are identified from all areas to ensure that they are consulted. Item 6Claire confirmed that Colin had sent a letter of thanks to Michelle Hope.Peter explained that car parking was an issue that could not be resolve. He explained that the possibility of holding the meetings at different venues/setting could be investigated. |
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| 3 | **Early Help**Peter introduced Debbie Holland, Early Help Service Manager, and explained that he had invited her to update the Group on Early Help and what it entails.The Early Help Team was set up on 1st April 2015 and brought together * Family Support
* Drug and Alcohol
* School Support
* ESF

It works across all ages and supports families and individuals and deals with different issues such as housing, debt, work, smoking and weight.She explained that the team have been trained to deal with all complexities. There is an offer for the team to support and mentor people within the community support to do it themselves. The Team are also developing community GroupsReferrals can be made in several ways: self-refer, professionals, Council, Positive Steps, Threshold. Peter stated that he could clearly see where the work of the Team fits in with the strategy work being done by the AWF Group.Debbie explained that she is trying to raise awareness of the team and that there is scope to work with more people. The Group discussed ways that they felt could help raise awareness of the service.Peter asked the Group to identify where they felt there were gaps in their areas regarding children, young people and adults with Autism in Oldham.Debbie – Transition points – critical Post diagnosis work. Knowing where else to go – signposting Specialisms - link up – both ways  Karen – Complex young people – Top end Teenage boys – not in education E-safety – not socialising – online Resources / Expertise Vulnerable to being exploitedMaria – Articulate more able children Still vulnerable Not aware of consequences of actions Late diagnosis – in schools Young person themselves to better understand diagnosis, be positive  Girls with ASDAnne Wood - Training and coordination – levels available. Awareness of what being delivered across the Borough Need ASD training Strategy Include service users Need different level of training Link into more specialist, direct work Skills of practitioners No EY representation – all agesOPAL – Specialist training for support staffJakki - Transitions 16-25 Mainstream – anxiety about change Don’t want to disable users Early help for mainstream transition, help /what’s available? School refusers – fall out of system – into education training Early help for up to 6 months Supporting low level need – become reliant  Autism champion rather than new referral Difficult to navigate internet – something easy to use Simplifying routes to services Easily manipulated – low level vulnerableDave Accommodation issues No support in Oldham therefore other Borough placements neededDebbie G – Hidden needs more complex Don’t fit criteria – where do they go? Work with individuals and families to make life better Training for Early Help workers Diagnose co-existing conditions – differentiation if autism element. Understanding approach – Psych / Psychologist / GPs of diagnosis Education system – not geared to give holistic education to equip for life  - not just about qualifications - life skills  - dynamics – eg if bus late - sustain employment  Why can’t schools accommodate these children – good opportunity with  Strategy?Cathy – Front line staff - training First responseCharlotte – Late diagnosis – adulthood Specialist services – Out of Borough Can’t get right support in Oldham Impact on families and individualsGareth - Transition – Primary to Secondary Teachers trained to spot signsAdrian - Peoples’ attitude / understanding Everyone different Better awareness Not in a box diagnosisGill - Risks – vulnerabilities  Support to minimise riskLouise - Transition – all stages People’s knowledgePeter thanked everyone for their views and explained that this information was crucial to the development of the Strategy.**Action:** That Peter Tomlin look at the membership constitution of the AWF Group. |
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| 4 | **Capital Grant**The Group looked at the revised Capital Grant document and Claire explained that it would be sent out in the next couple of days. Members expressed their concern over the timescale but Peter explained that the money had to be allocated before the end of March.At this point Peter left the meeting and Claire took the Chair.**Action:** Claire will send out information on the Capital Grant, including the background and purpose of the grant, the forms community groups need to use in order to apply for the grant and the timescales. |
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| 5 | **Forward Plan**There was a discussion regarding the fact that members felt that clear actions agreed in the previous meeting had not been undertaken, particular concern was the consultation visits Colin agreed to do. They felt that this was a missed opportunity to raise awareness of a valuable piece of work.Claire gave an assurance that this would not be the case and that the Action Plan would be in place before the end of March and that consultation will be undertaken as part of the process.**Action:** That Louise and Claire will undertake the consultation visits as previously agreed by Colin**Action:** That Claire share the timeline that she and Louise are working to, once they have reviewed it.**Action:** That members of the Group forward any comments/feedback to Claire. |
| 6 | **Autism Friendly Town**Claire circulated a document about Autism Friendly Cities. She explained that this concept was in the early stages and that there were currently only two autism-friendly cities which were in Scotland. She felt that it would be a good idea for Oldham to commit to becoming one.Members felt that this was a good idea and a discussion ensued as to how this could be achieved. A lot of the principles of the document reinforced the work currently being undertaken by the Theme Groups.**Action:** That this be an Agenda Item at the next meeting.**Action:** That Claire and Louise discuss this item with NAS at their upcoming meeting. |
| 7 | **Update on Theme Groups**Claire and Louise verbally updated the Group on the work of the theme groups. They reported that the Groups have been meeting regularly, were well attended and were on track. Members were thanked for their continued input and commitment.**Action:** That Claire send the minutes of these meetings to Kathryn for circulation.  |
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| 8 | **Any other business**There were no further items of AOB. |
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| 9 | **Next Meeting**Due to the fact that this meeting had been rearranged from November, Claire questioned whether members felt the need to hold the meeting scheduled for 16th December. As all items had been covered on the agenda it was resolved that the next meeting would be held on 27th January 2016, 10am-12pm in the Lees Suite, Civic Centre**.** |