### 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**  Colin Elliott, Assistant Director for Adult Services, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.  In attendance:  Colin Elliott (Chair)  Maria Barber  Hayley Broxup  Debbie Burton  Gary Flanagan  Debbie Gainsborough  Cllr Jenny Harrison  Louise Herniman  John King  Angela Lees  Shirley Murray  Adrian Murray  Fiona Southall  Gareth Welford  Emma Williams  Cathy Williams  Janet Wray  Apologies for absence were received from Dr Keith Jeffery and Anne Wood. |
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| 2 | **Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 29th July 2015**  Item 3: LANC  Michelle had sent details to LANC but Colin requested that if there were any other please could members forward to the Group?  Action: Colin to invite a representative from Get Oldham Working to the next meeting.  **Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th July be approved as a correct record.** |
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| 5 | **Next Steps with the Strategy and Theme Groups**  Colin explained that Gary had to leave the meeting early so requested that Item 5 be moved up the Agenda.  Gary explained that, as a result of Michelle’s departure, he would be working with Colin to take forward the work of the Sub Groups. The membership and meeting dates for all sub groups have been set and published by Michelle.  **Action: That Gary to recirculate the ‘Membership and Meeting Review’ document.**  Gary stated that all sub groups had been derived from the Autism Self Assessment Framework . He explained the purpose of these groups and the need for them to be productive and feedback regularly to the main group.  **Action: That this be an agenda item for each meeting of the main group.**  Colin explained that the focus of the main group was to look at the strategy. He felt that there were more people/carers/groups in Oldham that could be contacted for their input and possible attendance at the meetings.  Ideas put forward were: The Ambassador’s Group in Chadderton, POINT, OSCA, Sarah Lockwood, Hollinwood Academy, School SENCOs.  Colin stated that he was happy to attend individual group meetings and talk to members as were Gary and Louise from the CCG. He explained that this would be to gain views and wider involvement from the community.  It was acknowledged that an area that is hard to reach is the BME Community not just for this group but in general.  Debbie Burton suggested contacting school SENCOs as many schools have parent groups.  It was noted that POINT are a good point of contact and have good links to parents, communities and groups in Oldham. Colin was happy to attend a Sunday drop in session at Mahdlo to speak to parents.  **Actions: That Colin contact groups to move forward with consultation and feedback.**  **That Debbie Burton follow up with School SENCOs.**  **That Debbie Gainsborough feedback to POINT.**  **That Dr Jeffrey take forward with Primary Care.**  Colin explained that the Autism Strategy is still in draft format and still requires sign off and approval. He suggested setting an end date and working backwards from this.  **Action: That Colin and Gary put together a draft plan and circulate prior to the next meeting.**  This plan will run alongside the consultation work and will be a new plan as the existing plan was devised over a year ago.  The aim is for the plan to be finalised by the end of March. Gary stated that he hoped there would not be much difference because a lot of the work has already been completed but this will allow time to revisit and consult.  **Action: That the old dates be amended and work start in the next few weeks.**  **That the end of March be the finish date for the plan to be signed off.**  Gary acknowledged that members may be frustrated and feel that there is duplication of work but this was largely due to changes in Group Leads and personnel involved. He stressed that the aim moving forward was to raise the profile of the Group and that there was a commitment from management for more consistency. |
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| 3 | **Update on Capital Grant**  Members discussed the Capital Grant document produced by Michelle before her departure.  The content of the document was deemed to be fine but members felt that the visuals, language and symbols needed to be looked at and amended.  **Action: That Colin revisit the document and make changes to language and symbols as recommended by the Group.**  **That members are happy for the document to be distributed once the amendments have been made.**  **That completed forms need to be returned six weeks from the date they are sent out.**  **That a small group be set up to look at completed applications once returned. Adrian Murray, Gareth Welford and Hayley Broxup volunteered to be on this group.**  **This group will make recommendations to the full group and report back on the impact and benefits of the proposals.** |
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| 4 | **Break** |
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| 6 | **Any other business**  Colin informed the Group that Michelle had now left the Authority. He stated that she had made a huge difference in driving the group forward and would be a big loss. He explained that interviews had taken place and a very good candidate had been offered the position. He informed members that she would be introduced at the next meeting.  He added that Michelle had asked him to pass on her thanks and best wishes to the group.  **Action: Colin Elliot to send a letter of thanks to Michelle on behalf of the Group thanking her and wishing her well in her new role.**  Car parking  The issue of car parking was raised in relation to difficulty finding somewhere to park and the cost of doing so. Cllr Harrison acknowledged that this was a problem for many groups meeting at the Civic Centre and was something that was being looked at. Colin said that he would look at options as he did not feel that people should be out of pocket when they are helping the Council and giving their time for free,  **Action: Colin to look at whether there are any options for alleviating this problem at future meetings.** |
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| 7 | **Next Meeting**  Wednesday 04 November 2015  10am-12pm  Lees Suite, Civic Centre |