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Autism Way Forward Meeting**14th March 2018**Lees Suite**10am – 12pm****Chair – Cllr G Alexander, Deputy Lead Member for Social Care and Safeguarding**

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| **Present:**  | Claire Hooley  | Service Manager – Commissioning, Quality and Safeguarding |
|  | Cathy Williams  | Parent, representative of POINT |
|  | Saira Khan | Business Support (minutes) |
|  | Debbie Gainsborough  | Parent and POINT, Oldham  |
|  | John King | CLDT Team Manager |
|  | Sonja Jones | Right Start Additional Needs Advisor and Yearly Years Professional  |
|  | Sharon Roscoe  | Oldham Support For Careers In Autism |
|  | David Lloyd  | Team Manager, LD and Autism Team |
|  | Debbie Messam | Resource Manager |
|  | Dr Kishore | Paediatrician Consultant |
| **Apologies:** | Debbie BurtonMaria Barber | Educational PsychologistQuest Team, ASD Coordinator |
|  | Shirley Murray | Parent |
|  | Louise Herniman  | Commissioning Project Manager, Oldham CCG |
|  | Cllr J Harrison  | Lead Member for Social and Safeguarding |
|  | Susannah Meakin | Head of Service, LD and MH, OMBC |
|  | Mark Warren | Director, ASC |
|  | Mari Saeki | GMAC |
|  | Anne Wood | Training consultant, OMBC |

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| 1. **Welcome From Chair**
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| Cllr Ginny Alexander welcomed all to the meeting. Introductions were made from the attendees and apologies were given. |
| Did not get to meet in January as there was a high number of apologies. Also a high number of apologies received for the meeting today, some that were received quite late. This will need to be looked at as these meetings need to be given a priority if Oldham is to meet its ambitions set out in the Autism Strategy. |
| 1. **Minutes From the Last Meeting**
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| Cllr Ginny Alexander recapped the previous Minutes to ensure they were a True and Accurate record.**Actions from Previous Meeting:** **Page 3** Action for SEND Action Plan a lot of it covered in the Health and Wellbeing Board briefing that will be discussed later on in the meeting. Autism training update is on the agenda but Maria Barber has advised Claire that she may not be able to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment, if Maria is not able to attend we will defer this item to the next meeting.1. **Autism Briefing**

A Health and Wellbeing board is a statutory function for each locality to have it. It is mandatory for the director of social care to be there as well as Councillors, police, representatives from health etc. It is for senior managers from the health and social care sector to attend and direct on issues raised within that locality. As we are over a year in from the Autism Strategy being published a briefing to HWB Board has been provided to outline what has been achieved and what is left to be achieved for the remaining 2 years of the strategy.* An overview of the Oldham Autism Strategy
* What we have achieved, there has been a lot achieved and still a lot left to do.
* CH went through it. Susannah Meakin is the ASC Autism lead for the borough – a statutory function for each LA to have in place.
* Reviewed terms and conditions of Health and Social care contracts
* Working towards being an integrated HSC commissioning team with the local authority commissioning team due to move across to Ellen House in April 2018.
* Diagnosis and Post Diagnosis- The subgroup met and broke down into sections. We have done this with the approach of different age groups (pre-school, school, and 16+) then this will be sectioned off further to have pathways for practitioners, individuals with autism and their family members.
* We have identified some gaps from education both from the local authority in attending the meetings as well as schools attending..
* Getting the Right Support at the Right time – We know the links with the schools with special needs but not the other schools as they have become academies. Supporting employment and looking to support people into employment is something that we are currently working on. We are also aware that the Job Centre Plus have recruited specialist advisors whose role is to support people with learning disabilities and autism into employment opportunities; we need to engage with them and ask them to attend the meetings to coordinate this work. Housing providers have asked if we can provide them with reasonable adjustment guidelines so they know how to support people.
* Better Information and Awareness – Developed training packages and initially focused on Autism awareness sessions. Six sessions delivered to 105 people from various health and social care professions/organisations. We know that this is a small percentage when looking at the population of Oldham and we would like to roll this out further. We are working on developing the (Oldham?) Autism friendly award but aware that the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium (GMAC) is also looking at how they can support this across Greater Manchester. Can look at business and organisations to recognise the work they do in supporting people with autism. We have visited Liverpool to see how they have done this. Working with Greater Manchester consortium as they are creating an Autism friendly and to see what strategy they put into place and then see how we can implement this.
* The main message for this work is to continue so that momentum is not lost. We need to get the commitments and to sustain. May need to consider the change of time of meeting as we have not been able to get education involved and one reason is that the meetings are held during school time.
* Transitions into the adulthood is also a priority area and links in to Autism, although Autism is not the only factor when considering transitions (i.e. CIN, Learning Disabilities etc.). There is a separate Transitions workstream that autism needs to be part of and we need to acknowledge there are a lot of things going on at the same time.
* Tuesdays and Wednesdays seem like a bit of struggle as there are a lot of meetings. **CH to check with others to see which day is better for meetings.**
* One thing to consider is the amalgamation of the Learning Disability Partnership Board and the Autism Way Forward meetings as there are a lot of cross overs between what is discussed and whether the consideration needs to be to join them up. For example, over a three hour meeting, the 1st hour could be the LDPB, the middle hour could be cross overs and the last hour could be focused on the autism strategy. This would be beneficial to the individuals and professionals that are attending both meetings. Have dedicated time to cover each of the topics and to make sure the different topics are differentiated. The sub groups have been looked at and some of them can be merged. LH has looked at Diagnosis and Post diagnosis and has spoken to the team members it has been agreed that this meeting will be suspended until they are required to meet again to discuss a particular issue.
* Better information is currently focused on training and getting the packages in place.
* Joined commissioning will need to focus on completing a Joint Strategic Needs Analysis and may not need to meet on a bi-monthly basis. The last meeting took place in January 2018.
* It was suggested that to enable education (schools) to attend the meetings they would need to start at 3pm but this would then be a struggle for parents. It was also suggested that an evening meeting could take place which the professionals would struggle with. From the education side it would be the head or deputy who would need to attend and they should be able to attend during the day.
* It was asked that how should we go about engaging adults with Autism? When we had the first workshop and lots of people attended and need to get people interested again. Getting better of engaging parents via POINT. If the schools are engaged and understanding the autism strategy they can invite parents and carers. Lots of schools have the school council and could get them involved in this meeting.
* Sharon Roscoe said she has three people who are autistic and attend and she could get them involved. We could get feedback from them. To follow up.
* Claire asked the group to check the recommendations on page 6 and 7 to see if there is anything else which needs to be included and/or comments to be made. As the Diagnosis group is suspended for the time being it was discussed some members of that group may want to attend another group. CH will speak to LH about this.
* MioCare attended an event in Blackburn and picked up a lot of information on how to become autism friendly.
* It was mentioned that we need to consider whether additional investment is required to ensure Oldham is Autism Friendly.
* A question was asked as to what support is available to a parent-carer of a child with autism? At POINT they deliver training for parents and there is no workshop for children. At Healthy Young Minds they can have a discussion with the child if they feel this is necessary. Difficult to get support from Healthy Young Minds, would the support be available through POINT.
* The DR said that once a child has received an autism diagnosis she struggles what to tell the child or parent what support is available. As an adult there is not a lot of support available. Healthy Young Minds work with them until they are 16 and no one else to pick it up until 19. It is know that sometimes parents are asking doctors to say there child has LD so they can get more support.
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| 4**) Diagnosis Pathway** LH sent an update for the meeting: The Diagnosis and Post Diagnosis subgroup met and broke the pathway down into sections. We have done this with the approach of different age groups (pre-school, school, and 16+) then this will be sectioned off further to have pathways for service users/carers and pathways for professionals to use. The easy read concept will try to be maintained on the service user pathway as there is no point publishing a pathway that can’t be followed. Once completed it will be sent to the professionals from the various organisations to approve accuracy before being published to the public.  |
| 1. **Autism Awareness Training:**

The training session which Maria B held were very well attended. There were people from the library services, Positive Steps, Business Support, Health Visitors and from the community Hubs. There was mixed feedback from people as some people had knowledge whilst others didn’t.  |
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| **ACTION:** . To discuss and go through the feedback and see what other training could be offered in the next sub group meeting.  |
| **6.)Greater Manchester Autism Consortium updates** |
| * Mari not been able to attend and has sent an update.
* CH went through the following 2 documents.

* Report about making Greater Manchester Autism Friendly.
* CH asked everyone to have a read at it and if they have anything to feedback to let her know or to contact Mari.
* Greater Manchester Consortium are undertaking an Adult Services stocktake which is prior to the DOH self-assessment framework that will be coming out later this year. There will be some work which needs to be done and CH will contact different teams for their input. The overall aim of the stocktake work is for each locality to work at people having the same access to services regardless of where they live.

Parent meeting talking about Opal Action together grant. Could get them to come and talk about it at a future meeting. |
| **Next meeting:****Wednesday 9th May 2018 10am – 12pm** **Lees Suite , Civic Centre**  |