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Autism Way Forward Meeting**9th May 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 Carers In Autism |
|  | Louise Herniman  | Commissioning Project Manager, Oldham CCG |
|  | Lauren Smith  | Commissioning Manager CCG |
|  | Camilla GuerecaDebbie BurtonMaria Barber Derek Rhoden Julie Pilling Gavin Owen  | OPALEducational PsychologistQuest Team, ASD CoordinatorSPO National Probation Service Business SupportDWP – LD and Neurodiversity  |
| **Apologies:** | Emma Williams  | MioCare  |
|  | Alison Bearn | Educational Psychologist  |
|  | Cllr J Harrison Angela Lees  | Lead Member for Social and SafeguardingLANC |
|  | Susannah Meakin | Head of Service, LD and MH, OMBC |
|  | Donna Lewis Janette Olsen Victoria Valerie  | Business Development Manager Bridgewater Trust ND Manager Libraries  |
|  | Richard Tomlinson  |  |
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| 1. **Welcome, Introductions and apologies**

Cllr Ginny Alexander welcomed all to the meeting, introductions were made from the attendees and apologies given. |
| 1. **Minutes from the last meeting**

Cllr Ginny Alexander recapped the previous Minutes to ensure they were a True and Accurate record. Looking at changing the day for the meeting and the time as there are other meetings on same day and need to get the right people in the meetings. When the meetings were set up and these times were more convenient. To get feedback from people to see what time suits and to take everyone’s needs into the review.CH to go on Mat leave in a few weeks and someone else will be taking over the meetings and they will need to look at this. LH has a new role and Lauren Smith has taken over LH’s old role and even if LH does not lead on it she will still be involved. DG feels the memento of the group is at risk of being lost and with the key people who have been leading this no longer being involved we could lose the focus. It was advised that the decisions made would be what is best for the group. 1. **Autism Briefing to Health and Wellbeing Board – an Update**

CH went through the briefing and to see where the Autism strategy is after a year. Advised for people to ensure they have read through it and there are 14 recommendations which have been agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board. Some of the recommendations where, support needed on releasing staff members from other departments to attend meetings. One of the points of the briefing for the Health and Wellbeing Board was to get support in areas such as struggling with the attendance from key partners (i.e. Housing and Education). Susannah Meakin is going to take over the meetings, as CH is leaving for Maternity Leave. There are some interviews taking place next week to replace Claire’s previous role (Autism Commissioner) and it is envisaged that they will support SM with the AWF meetings going forward. 1. **Measuring the impact of the Autism Strategy.**

During the recent Ofsted inspection for SEND inspectors asked how the Autism strategy is being measured in terms of the impact it is having. CH asked the group how do we measure this? The Autism awareness week last year had a market day event and it was suggested that we could do something similar but ask questions of people to find out about their knowledge of autism and Oldham’s Autism Strategy. It is important to look at ways how we can reach out to people to make them aware of the Autism Strategy and the areas which we need to focus on. To look at what difference the strategy has made. Some of the suggestions were: * Through POINT they could send a survey to parents to get there feedback.
* To look at ways to approach the wider adults audience. This could be done through LANC.
* How to get an Autism diagnosis. This is difficult as once they have been diagnosed and do they want to go through the post diagnosis.
* Employers would avoid people with Autism.
* Are we reminding people about the Autism strategy and some questions to ask people.
* To put some questions together to discuss in the next meeting.
* **Action: LH and CH to put something together and email it to everyone to discuss in the next meeting.**
* On the 23rd May 2018 there is a mini market event at POINT and they have both morning and evening slots for people to attend. We could have a table to promote the Autism strategy and to put some practice questions together to ask people about whether they are aware of the Autism Strategy.
1. **GMAC services**

CH briefly went through the GM Autism Strategy Stocktake document. GMAC are reviewing what services are available for young people future work and the areas we need to focus on. There might be common themes and additional support to be provided. It is a long document but it is very useful. 1. **Diagnosis Pathway**

LH has met with the sub group and needs to have it approved by the services pathway for professionals. To include pre-school age, school age and the transitions process. To have an easy read version for the patients to understand. Once they have been approved will be available on the internet. **Action: for this to be a standard agenda item** 1. **Autism Awareness training**

Autism training sessions have been very successful and people wanted further training. Maria Barber is looking into this and to have training to suit people’s needs. The new training is available through development academy, on the training portal. The next awareness training is on 7th June 2018. The funding to be looked at after the training is put together.**Action: to work with the development academy ensuring that partners via the Autism Strategy meetings (AWF) are able to access the training.**1. **Greater Manchester Autism Consortium**

CH went through the information briefly which was sent by Marie Saki on Greater Manchester Autism Consortium as she is not able to attend the meetings. Developing GM Autism strategy and there are a variety of events which can be attended. Some online surveys are available and any questions can be emailed to them. There is also a family group and something maybe to be shared with POINT. To continue to have it in the agenda for future meetings.1. **Update from OPAL**

Funds have been received from Action Oldham and called it Bridge that Gap. People have said there are interest they would like to pursue and they cannot go ahead with it, due to the lack of funding. To look at facilities which are available and to see what places people with learning disability would like to attend and to see how they can support them with it. To work with people and see what support they need. The feedback which has been received from service users has been how they would get to an activity and once they are there who they would need to speak to. Suggestions around staff wearing a badge with a symbol which shows that they can help. LH and CH went to Liverpool and they provide awareness training to organisations and then have a champion who makes sure the Autism standards are being met. From this a badge was introduced for the champions to wear so they can be identified. To have a sign in the shop window which shows that they have an Autism Awareness and then people know they can get help if they require. To have a badge with a logo so people with Autism are aware of it. **Action**: **Louise H will send the information over to Camilla G. If there are any groups which we are aware of to let Camilla know.** 1. **Any other Business**

Gavin has joined the DWP.  His role is a community partner in greater Manchester for Learning Disability and Neurodiversity. He has previously worked for the National Autistic Society.  He will be supporting job centres across Gtr Mcr who are working with people with a LD and/or with a neurological condition.  He will also offering Autism Awareness sessions for every Job Centre with more detailed and targeted sessions planned.  DWP has no easy read version about Universal credit which is being looked at.  He is also looking at the day to day provision as well as employment and to give feedback to the job centre so that they know what support is available.  The scheme for supporting employment is being looked at and this will increase the people with a Learning disability into employment.  Gavin will be attending further meetings. |
| **Next meeting:****Wednesday 4th July 2018 10am – 12pm** **Lees Suite , Civic Centre**  |