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### Autism Way Forward Meeting

**Wednesday 05 September 2018**

**10am – 12pm**

**Lees Suite, Civic Centre**

**Chair – Susannah Meakin**

**Minutes – Sean Coffey – Business Support**

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| **Present:** | Susannah Meakin | Head of Service MH & LD OMBC (Chair) |
|  | Cllr Z Chauchan | Health Social Care Cabinet Lead |
|  | Emma Williams | Mio Care |
|  | John King | NHS – Pennine Care |
|  | Louise Herniman | NHS – CCG |
|  | Maria Barber | Quest |
|  | Lauren Smith | NHS - CCG |
|  | Elliot Sparks | Pennine Mencap |
|  | Kate Smyth  Debbie Gainsborough  Angela Lees  Claire Jepson  Sharon Roscoe  Alison Bradbury  Judith McGarty | OMBC  Parent / Point  LANC  Pennine Mencap  One World Cafe  DWP  DWP |
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| **Apologies:** | Chantal Basson | NHS – Pennine Care |
|  | Charlotte Platt | NHS – Pennine Care |
|  | Debbie Burton | OMBC |
|  | Janet Wray | NHS PCFT |
|  | Lindsay Wood | NHS – Pennine Care |
|  | Marian Milling | Truecolourscic |
|  | Victoria Varley  Paula Green | OMBC  OMBC |

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| 1 | **Welcome From Chair** |
|  | Susannah Meakin welcomed all to the meeting. Introductions were made from the attendees and apologies were given. |
| 2 | **Minutes From the Last Meeting** |
|  | Susannah recapped the minutes from the last meeting. She explained that she has not received any update yet from the actions from the last meeting. Susannah recapped about the GMAC update and that the Strategy document was circulated. |
|  | **Actions from Previous Meeting:**  Refreshing membership of the group  Raising awareness subgroup  Measuring the impact of the autism strategy - survey  **Questions/Comments/Actions**  Louise commented that she has had a look at the GM Autism Strategy plan with Lauren and is looking at how Oldham’s plan can be integrated as well. |
| 3 | **Autism Strategy and Action Plan - Update**  Delivered by Susannah Meakin  Louise suggested that perhaps we should first look at how we can adapt the GM Autism Strategy Action plan to Oldham’s strategy plan and see if there is anything we can pull across from it.  Elliott asked where Oldham’s action plan is up to and how it relates to the GM Plan.  A discussion was had about how we start to cross reference the two plans, and who would contribute to this, and that perhaps the discussion shouldn’t take place at this meeting until everyone has had chance to examine the GM plan and to examine what provisions are already in place in Oldham how that compares to the GM plan.  It was suggested that a smaller group be arranged to go through the GM plan and to analyze it.  ACTIONS Susannah will arrange a small group meeting and send out the invites before the next AWF meeting on November 7th. |
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| 4 | **Update from Theme Group – Getting the right information sub group**  A meeting was booked at short notice to discuss the need to map what training is available in Oldham. A questionnaire was drafted and circulated to the group for people to comment.  Examples of questions asked were, What organisation do you work for? Is training provided? What Level is this if Autism Training is provided? How long does it last? Is the training accredited?  The questionnaire is open to all organisations who would have contact with people with autism.  **QUESTONS/ACTIONS:**  Elliott asked if the questionnaire is to be recirculated, Lauren said that this was taken by a smaller sub group but agreed that she will send a copy of the questionnaire to Sean to circulate with the minutes.  A discussion was had that we need to get a fuller understanding of the training available in Oldham so that the right training is provided to the right people.  It was commented that Miocare provides some very good training but as there is a lack of information about all of the training available this has only just come to light. It was suggested that a training pool be organized so that the training resources can be shared and to reduce duplication.  Susannah mentioned that perhaps online training may also be an option in certain circumstances. A discussion was had that we would need to examine the quality of this training.  Elliot advised that in his organization (Mencap), they prefer face to face training as this is better at engaging those attending the training. It was discussed that this would then allow people to ask questions and also able to gage the effectiveness.  Susannah discussed that the parts of the online autism training she was interested in were the videos showing people who are living with autism as this would add a deeper understanding to learners. It was suggested that these videos could be used more as a resource to compliment face to face training and not as a replacement.  It was suggested that the mapping exercise take place to get a fuller understanding of the types of training that would be most effective.  A discussion was had that it has been noticed that newly diagnosed individuals tend to deeply research autism online and then at times present with text book symptoms as they believe this is part of their condition and this is due to the fact that they have not had a filter via training or follow up appointments to explain that this is a spectrum condition and means that not all of the symptoms mentioned may necessarily apply to them.  Susannah asked for Lauren to include details of what people think of online training in the questionnaire and asked how this will be distributed to get a wide range of feedback. A discussion was had about who really should be asked to complete the questionnaire and if there should be different levels. Also to ask in the questionnaire if they only provide in house training or if they provide external training as well.  Susannah will invite Camilla from Opal back to give an update of the scheme to make Oldham an Autism Friendly town. A discussion was had about how the scheme may work in terms of cost and participation from local business and how accreditation would work in the scheme. It was discussed that the libraries have a good awareness of autism and staff are trained and that this scheme could be adapted within the civic center at the one stop shop. |
| 6 | A discussion was had around how we monitor the response rate to the questionnaire and then to determine how we could chase this information up.  ACTION - Susannah asked for Lauren to share the draft questionnaire with Sean who will then share it with the group for amendments, changes or suggestions and to respond within 3 weeks. Also to send suggested organisations as well.  It was mentioned that Jo Charlan will lead on the Autism Way Forward meeting and will be able to support on this (plus the strategy review).  **Measuring the impact of the Autism strategy - Survey**  Susannah opened the discussion by asking if Debbie has had any responses yet with suggestions. Debbie has said she hasn’t yet had any feedback or responses but said it would be good if this could be provided so that we can get the questionnaire sent out.  Susannah asked if anyone now would be willing to make any suggestions in the meeting.  **QUESTIONS/ACTION:**  Sharon suggested that it may be better to get someone to go out and meet with service users and others to discuss what type of questions to include in a survey.  Judith mentioned that in another LA they are holding a listening event where parents and carer’s etc can come and engage directly.  Deborah asked that we should look at what questions should be included – the group made some suggestions as follows :  Do you know that Oldham has a Strategy?  Do you know what the strategy is about?  Do you know where to find information on the strategy?  Do you know what areas the plan covers?  What reasonable adjustments have been made to support you?  Have you seen any positive changes since the strategy was launched?  How easy was it to access information about your locality in regards to autism?  How do you feel you are supported by services?  It was suggested that we make the questions anonymous, by using standard responses instead of asking people to write answers.  Deborah has mentioned that for her she has trouble thinking about how the plan has affected her son and herself personally.  It was suggested that it can be asked if people have noticed any changes in their experiences since the strategy has come in to place. And that the survey could include a link to the strategy.  It was discussed that the survey should be kept as simple as possible using a variety of scales and measures for people to use as a response to questions posed.  It was also suggested that we gather information from other organizations who have implemented autism strategies and to get feedback on their findings and experiences to help us. |
| 7 | **Any Other Business**  Susannah raised the issue of a green paper titled “the lives we want to live”. Susannah asked for those present to respond directly to the consultation if they wished. The closing date is the 26th September. Susannah will share the link with Sean who will then share this with the group.  Lauren mentioned that she and Louise will be relaunching the diagnosis and post diagnosis sub group from next week, and to use this to map out what is available in Oldham and what gaps may be present and what can be done to address these.  Louise will send through details of the sub groups when they are available and Sean will then circulate this with the group. |
|  | Next Meeting is Wednesday 07 November 2018  10am – 12pm  Lees Suite, Civic Centre |