

# **Autism Partnership Board Meeting**



**12 December 2023**

**At New County Hall, Truro  
and on Microsoft Teams**

# Who was there

Name	About them
Councillor Sally Weedon (Chair)	Cornwall Council
Mike Hooper	Healthwatch Cornwall
Robert O'Leary	Healthwatch Cornwall
Alison Shaw	NHS Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board
Anna Clemens	Department of Work and Pensions
Anna Hudson	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Anna Ingleby-Oddy	United Response Cornwall
Christopher Burns	Service User and disability campaigner
David Allkins	Cornwall Council
David Burns	Citizen Checkers and Healthwatch Cornwall
Sgt Flo Linscott	Devon and Cornwall Police
Gemma Dyson	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Hazel Smith	Cornwall Council
Jeanette Ritson	Devon and Cornwall Police
Karen Hooper	Cornwall Council
Kay Henry	Parent Carers Cornwall
Michelle Lobb	Parent Carers Cornwall
Dr. Rebecca Jelbert	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Ross Allen	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Susan Joseph	Cornwall Council
Tazmin Hook	Independent Cornwall Autism Network

Name	About them
Teresa Berridge	Devon and Cornwall Police
Vicky Allan	Cornwall Council
Wayne Williams	Mid-Cornwall Hub Day Services

## Who couldn't make it

Name	About them
Alison Short	The Advocacy People
Ellie Williams	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Dina Holder	The Women's Centre Cornwall & Divas
Donna Darby	Calton House Ltd
Penni Charteress	The Women's Centre Cornwall & Divas
Rachel Mellor	Brandon Trust
Sam Mokorram	The Advocacy People

## What we talked about at the meeting



Everyone agreed that the minutes of the September meeting were correct.

# Update from the DWP



Department for  
Work & Pensions

Last year the Partnership Board formed a **DWP** working group.

The aim was to make communication better.

**Job Centres** in Devon and Cornwall are now getting clearer signs.

New information leaflets have been written. They will be available online too.

A virtual walk-through is being created.

That will mean people can go online to see what their Job Centre is like before they go there.

They want every **Job Centre** in the country will go through the **Autism Accreditation Programme**.

The programme is run by the **National Autistic Society** and aims to make sure that organisations offer excellent support to autistic people.





More advocates are needed to help people to fill in their **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** forms

Cornwall Council's Complex Needs Team have also been helping people with forms.

The **Access to Work** scheme can help you to get a job or stay in work if you have a physical or mental health condition or disability..

The company you work for must make changes to help you do your job. They are called **reasonable adjustments**.

Easy read information is available. [Click here](#).

But people are not getting help quickly enough. There is a wait of up to 16 weeks.

## An Autism Strategy for Cornwall



Cornwall Council is leading on an **Autism Strategy for Cornwall**.

There is a working group of autistic individuals, carers and professionals.

The draft Strategy will be emailed to all Board members.

There might be an extra Autism Partnership Board meeting to look at it.

# Updates from the Adult Autism Assessment and Diagnosis Team



**Cornwall Partnership**  
NHS Foundation Trust

The **Adult Autism Assessment Team** is working with the **Mental Health** team to improve support for autistic adults.

Training has been set up with the help of **The Autistic Community of Cornwall**.



Getting an autism assessment still takes a long time but the wait has fallen from 4 years to 2 years.

That is not just for Cornwall. It is the same all over the country.



There are lots of organisations that can support autistic people.

Tazmin Hook from the **Independent Cornwall Autism Network** and Dr Rebecca Jelbert will be meeting to make sure that helpful information about services is available.



Devon & Cornwall  
**POLICE**



The Board had raised lots of concerns about the **Police**.

**The Autistic Community of Cornwall** and **The Women's Centre Cornwall** worked with the Partnership Boards team to write a report about how the Police communicate with autistic people.

Marie Ralph, Dina Holder and Robert O'Leary all went to the Police Community Reference Group in October.

Much more work needs to be done so a small group will be formed to look at all of the issues.

The Police **Learning and Development Department** gave a presentation about what the team do to help neurodiverse individuals join the Police.

[Click here](#) to see it.

# Next meeting:



**on Microsoft Teams**