

Autism Partnership Board Meeting



20 September 2022



Who was there

Name	About them
Councillor Sally Weedon (Chair)	Cornwall Council
Mike Hooper	Healthwatch Cornwall
Tanya Falaschi	Healthwatch Cornwall
Anna Ingleby-Oddy	United Response
Anna Passmore	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
David Allkins	Cornwall Council
Dina Holder	Women's Centre Cornwall & Divas
Emily Nicol	Cornwall Integrated Care Board
Ian Hutchinson	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and National Autistic Society Cornwall Branch
Jane Rees	Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust
Jason Pape	Proper Job Café
Julie Atwell	Cornwall Council
Julia Wildfire-Roberts	Pentreath and Healthwatch Cornwall
Kate Kelly-Talbot	Cornwall Council
Margee Polawski	Cornwall Council
Marie Ralph	National Autistic Society Cornwall Branch
Nory Menneer	Cornwall Integrated Care Board
Rachel Roberts	Brandon Trust
Tigger Pritchard	NAS Cornwall
Tina Sanford	Cornwall Council

What we talked about at the meeting



Everybody agreed that the minutes of the June meeting were correct.

Updates from members



Healthy Cornwall Margee said the **CHAMPs** are holding walks in Penzance, Hayle, Newquay, Camborne and Truro.

There are Healthy Me and Healthy Weight courses too.

DIVAS

Dina Holder is doing a project about support for older people that have been abused.

She wants to hear from people with a learning disability or autism.



Marie Ralph is the new Chair of **NAS Cornwall**.

She wants to set up a support group in Launceston.



Marie also runs **Youth Art Connect** to promote positive mental health in young people.

https://youthartconnect.org/



Spectrum were no longer providing care services for adults in Cornwall.

Salutem Care and Education had taken over.

Self-Advocates and Service Users Meetings



Department for Work & Pensions Mike and Tanya had a meeting with **DWP** service users about how it communicates with people.

14 questions have been sent to the DWP.



They also held a meeting so autistic people could have their say about **Cornwall Council** services.

Another would be held in the coming months.



Another meeting that the **Partnership Boards** team held was for autistic people to take part in a Peer Review of **Cornwall Council**'s **Adult Social Care**.

More later in these minutes.



Mike and Tanya thanked the **Partnership Boards Community Promoters** for all of their work at Blue Light Day and Royal Cornwall Show.

If you want to join the team at events then email us at <u>partnershipboards@healthwatchco</u> <u>rnwall.co.uk</u>.



Blue Light Day was a success but more money is needed for next year.

Lots of people could not get there as transport was not provided.

Sally Weedon will ask **Cornwall Council** about funding for next year.





Members talked about how the **Police** need to be trained to better understand autistic people.

A few years ago there was going to be an Autism Alert Card but people did not want their details on a database.

Maybe the new Hospital Passport app could be used.

Options will be talked about at the next meeting.

Shine Together - Pentreath

Julia Wildfire-Roberts was doing a project for **Pentreath** called Shine Together.



Pentreath have done lots of work to make sure its staff are all treated equally and understand each other.

She wants to make sure that autistic people get good mental health care.

By helping people into work, education or training it will help others to learn too.

Updates from Adult Social Care



Adult Social Care



Cornwall Council want to make sure that everyone has the right support.

Everyone should have a say about the support they need.

So they Council asked the **Local Government Association** to Peer Review what they do.

A presentation is at the end of these minutes.



Adult Social Care has a new leadership team.

They have decided to pause engagement on Delivering Better Care.

The Partnership Boards will be involved when things restart.

Mind The Gap - Bridging the Neurodivide CIC



Tigger Pritchard has designed a brilliant new website: <u>Resources | Mind the Gap</u>

It has links to lots of information and support for autistic people, their families and professionals.

Tigger is autistic and neurodivergent himself so he understands what will help people.

Health Update



Nory Menneer said everyone that works with neurodivergent people has to do Oliver McGowan training.





It was important to make the training correct and not focus on learning disability.

Mental Health services for autistic people need to improve.

The Board may do some work on mapping all of the services in Cornwall.

The Board might also look at Cornwall's old Autism Strategy to see how it could be used today.

Any Other Business

Language



Ian Hutchinson reminded everyone how important it is to use the right words.

Many autistic people do not like it when others say they 'have autism'.

That can sound like it is something wrong when it is not.

Easy Read Appointment Letter



Jane Rees wanted to make sure all letters for hospital appointments could be easy read.

She would bring a draft letter to the next meeting.

The next Autism Partnership Board meeting will be on Teams at 10am on Tuesday 15 November 2022

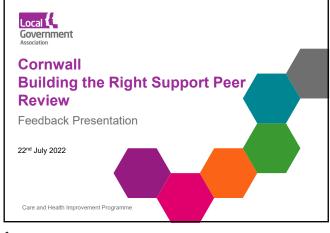




APPENDIX

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Government Peer Review explanation

work.

surprises.

call this triangulation.

Peer reviews look at what and how things can improve (get better) and what is working well already

A peer team is invited by the area as 'critical friends'. This means the team all bring their experience of doing this

All the feedback and recommendations the peer team give

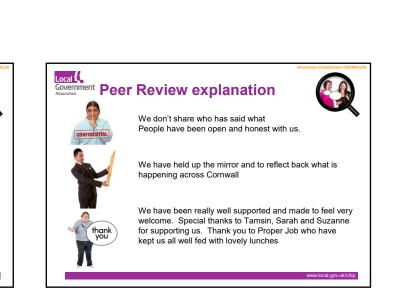
are checked from what we have read, heard and seen. We also make sure it is found three times or more. We

We have given daily feedback to colleagues so they understand what we are finding out and there are no



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Local L Peer Review Team

- Di Domenico is a Senior Programme Lead for Strategic Commissioning in NHSE England Learning Disability and Autism Programme, she brings her experience of commissioning in health and social care
- Sam Prowse is a expert by experience and works for Hertfordshire Council as an Expert by Experience Advisor
- Kirsten Peebles is parent of an autistic teenager who has been detained. She co-chairs the Building the Right Support Advisory Group and works with the British Institute of Human Rights and NHS England Parent Council delivering human rights training. Kirsten is part of the NHS England Children & Young People quality improvement taskforce
- Jez Harris is an expert by experience; parent, who supports Lancashire with their Small Supports development. He also participates in C(E)TRs through NDTi and works on various projects to end restrictive practices
- Vicky Rogers is a Head of Quality and Compliance for SECO support providing bespoke services to people leaving hospital and people at risk of admission supporting them to live well in their community

Local Covernment Peer Review Team

- Kirstie Haines is a specialist in learning disability and autism improvement programmes and is currently working with the Local Government Association
- Bev Stockton has been a Director of Adult Services (DASS) in various Councils including Bradford and a Manager in a Learning Disability Team
- Catherine Nolan is West Midlands Association of Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS) regional lead for learning disability and autism. She was also a commissioner
- Nikki Henderson is a Senior Adviser on the Building the Right Support programme at the Local Government Association Care and Health Improvement Programme
- Sue Gale is a Assistant Director for Learning Disability and Autism, Building the Right Support, in Local Government Association Care and Health Improvement Programme
- Kay Burkett is the Peer Review manager, she has worked with places and systems supporting health and social care integration and currently leads on public health improvement for the Local Government Association

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• Sue C

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Local

Government

Agenda

5. Feedback

7. Discussion
8. Next steps

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2 The Peer Team

1. What is a Peer Review

4. What is looked at (the scope)

6. Your thoughts and questions

3. What the peer review team do (the process)





What is looked at (The Scope)

How does the System work for people? Do all the different services and parts of the system work together so people have good lives?

What are the barriers for people and families?

Are the things the partnership is involved in Sustainable?



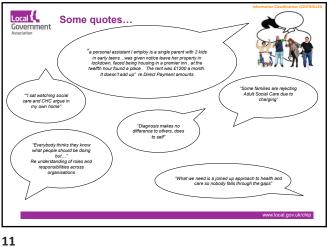
Is the everything planned to last or just fix a problem in the system now?

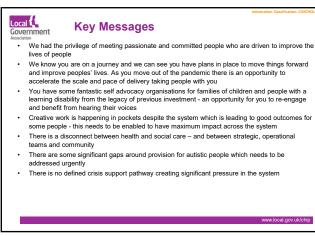
Is there a plan that people know about, and everyone is trying to make it happen?













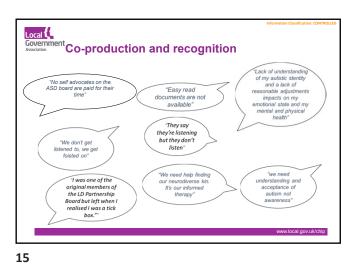
Local Local

- Lack of autism specific services mental health, local offer, drop in centre, front door to services
- Recruitment/retention of Personal Assistants pay rates
- Crisis and prevention
- Training front line services
- Employment

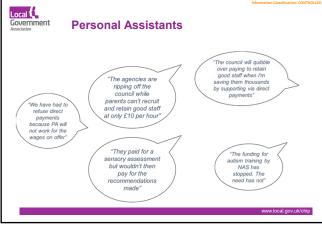
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- No provision/support after 25 day services closing, transport issues, no activities especially for those with most complex needs
- Transition service needs improvement
- Poor communication & lack of consistency
- Respite services no choice or control

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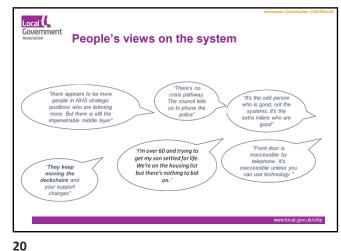


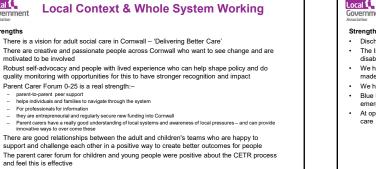












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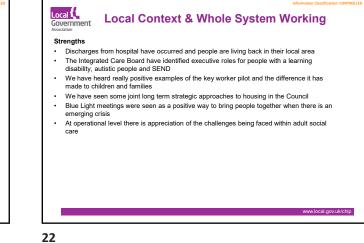
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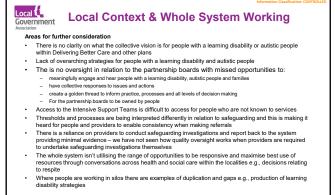
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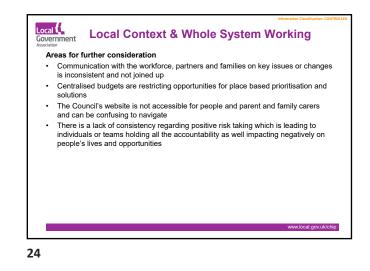
Government

Strengths









Local 🕻 Government

Sustainability

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- Having some new key strategic permanent appointments is viewed as very positive and seen as an opportunity enable sustained change
- There are some great staff practitioners, commissioners and managers who are taking dynamic approaches in several areas of practice e.g., Learning Zones to complement formal training and continuous professional development
- There are pockets of innovation across commissioning and practice People working across the system are keen to hear about good practice and are committed to continuous improvement; and shared learning
- New approach to data reporting bringing together children's, adults and public health reporting - opportunity to think creatively about how outcomes and assets are report alongside areas for improvement.

Local overnment

Areas for further consideration

Sustainability

- There are a couple of key elements of work and functions being held by a few people who are in demand
- There are a couple of key elements of work and functions being held by a few people who are in demand with regard to their input and knowledge with a lack of succession planning for these key roles. People are getting on a doing things because they need to be done with elements of firefighting to respond to people's needs that are not necessarily addressed by the system People are keen for change but wanting future changes to have the opportunity to be embedded based on clarity about direction, vision, partnerships and best practice
- Lack of a positive risk management agreement across health and adult social care
- Lack or a positive risk management agreement across nearin and aduit social care Existing provider market not meeting the vision or needs of people causing pressure across the system e.g., respite, short break, Personal Assistants There is a shared acknowledgement that there is a tendency towards a risk averse culture and the need for the development of a positive approach to risk management that is shared and owned by partners, people with lived experience
- Access to data requires further work to ensure the depth and scope of this intelligence is available to inform decision making and provide insights to impact on outcomes for people
- Personal Assistant rates not in line with Care at Home rates means that people are struggling to recruit and retain PAs with missed opportunities for early conversations with people who have PAs which may have helped to understand the implications and impact
- A focus on cutting services to reduce spend rather than looking at how investments on early intervention and prevention activities could reduce spend in the future

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Local 🕻 **Capacity to deliver** overnment

Strength

- Work by the Children's Trust taking an integrated approach is successfully keeping children at home and out of hospital
- Children's Multi Disciplinary Teams crosses organisations and includes youth workers and social workers
- Use of community education and treatment reviews for children is effective at keeping children out of hospital
- Social work training and development includes health, rights and strength based approaches.
- There was an example of individual's influencing how their provider trains staff responding to the individual person's aspirations
- Evidence of positive approaches to support for example someone was supported to go away over night to a concert
- Social care provider with a strong focus on reducing health inequalities where 100% of people supported have had a health check.
- Relaunch of adult dynamic support register building on the Dorset best practice just at the beginning but real opportunity to shift towards earlier prevention
- Recognition that a post-diagnostic autism pathway is an area needing some priority attention

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Local Government

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Capacity to deliver Strengths

- Innovative approach to working with inpatients by the ICS including using life coaches
- Autism Diagnostic Team is becoming a multi-disciplinary team and they have a clear aspiration to establish post-diagnostic support networks for autistic people
- Mental health commissioners are clear that there is funding to invest in the autism pathway

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Local 🐫 Capacity to deliver Government

- Areas for further consideration
- The diagnostic and support system for autistic people is underdeveloped Creating long-delays for autism diagnosis No pre or post diagnostic support Peer support for autistic adults is not there
- Family carers are unclear about the therapeutic offer for autistic adults (SALT, OT, physio and IAPT) is and how they access it
- Provision for autistic people is limited
- Outcomes from diagnosis referrals have been received via a letter, this is not good
- practice Carers spoke of their experiences of not being spoken to about large changes in
- care packages or closure of day services Family carers are not getting the information they need from the statutory agencies - at times of crisis or other transition points
- A 'waiting list' for accommodation with support of 136..

Local 🐫 Capacity to deliver overnment

- Areas for further consideration
- Leadership confusion amongst providers and practitioners about who will be leading work to redesign and commission the accommodation and support offer from '23 when the current contract ends
- Gaps around training:
- Learning disability and autism understanding Reasonable adjustments
- Communication
- Sensory environments
- offer to commissioners
- The employment offer that is being developed sounds really exciting and innovative, but there needs to be a plan in place that draws together the different agencies and sets out who is doing what this would benefit people's employment opportunities external to the council
- We heard that communication from the council and the NHS to families and individuals is often poor and reasons for why things have changed is often unclear



Local 🕻 ment

Capacity to deliver

responsibilities will be unable to attend these meetings

Areas for further consideration

- We heard from practitioners that risk is not always shared between agencies and senior managers understanding need to be aware of what risk in the community looks like for individuals on the Dynamic Support Register and inpatients
- Payment to social care providers cashflow is key to the survival of services but we heard that invoices can take a long time to pay especially if there are errors People with lived experience are not recompensed to attend meetings - this will mean that people who can not afford to have time off work or have caring

Service Design

overnment Strengths

Local

- Staff in the council and the NHS have shown a person-centred drive and really want to work in ways that allows them to do this
- Parents and family carers worked with the transitions team to identify what does/does not work and parent/family carers and influenced the neurodiverse pathway
- Parent Carers Forum and the Partners in Policy Team have developed services and are trusted by families and people with the potential to do more with a some additional funding
- Parent Carers Forum was provided with flexible covid funding from the CCG that could be used to meet sensory needs during lockdown - empowering decisions about how to spend money to meet communities needs

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Local **Service Design** overnment

Areas for further consideration

- Leisure and day opportunities for those who cannot access training and employment are not easy for parents to access and even when they can access transport becomes a barrier because some provision is many miles away from their home.
- Working and influencing DWP as the offer for disabled people is very slow and without reasonable adjustments, with long waiting lists causing unnecessary delays for people wanting to work
- The post Covid respite and social care placement offer is undeveloped in places and it feels to parents that hospital discharges are being prioritised; so an opportunity to prevent carer fatigue or care breakdown is lost
- Transition to adult services: pathways and transitions for social care and health need to be clear about what criteria are being use to set the age at which transition planning is initiated. We heard from parent and practitioners that this varies from 16 years to the day before their eighteenth birthday. How transition into adult services works needs to be better communicated for parents

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Local **Service Design** Government

Areas for further consideration

- The current mental heath community team offer and crisis support feels inaccessible to individuals and their families with an individual's disability being used to explain their presentation rather than their mental health needs
- Why has the Autism Intensive support team taken a long time to get established and secure its staff base, this is welcome service but is currently closed to new referrals
- Current needs assessment for adult social care eligibility and care planning was too focussed on fitting people to available services – not enough building on strengths and helping them realise their aspirations
- Financial assessments feels clumsy and unhelpful to individuals and families. Communication in relation to Direct Payment; Individual Service Funds and Personal Budgets not clear or accessible

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Local 🕻 Government

Recognising the ambition to have people and communities at the heart of your systems (the fundamental 'flip' you talk about) – this is a big jump from where you are now and perhaps a step too far at the moment. We suggest making a smaller 'flip' to enable you to work on some fundamental areas that will help inform and guide your journey to the bigger 'flip' over time

Fundamentals to focus on:

- Varinemiatis to 10005 011. Working together all organisations, all agencies and people and families to have one vision of where you are going that you are all signed up to True co-production there is some great work going on around engagement but taking a step further and making sure that 'nothing about us without us' is embedded at all levels is key Risk working to develop a consistent approach to risk to enable people to get the lives they choose and reducing/removing a risk aversion culture
- Teaucing/removing a risk aversion cumure Can-do culture moving to a 'do with' rather than a 'done to' position. Giving all levels of the system (including people and families) the permission to be creative and solutions focussed so that you have shared problems to develop shared solutions
- Co-ordinate and build on what you have you have great, values driven ad passionate people in the system with lots of good things happening. Find a way to bring these together in a co-ordinated way to enable them to grow and develop







