

# **Autism Partnership Board Meeting**



**20 June 2023**

**At Probus Village Hall  
and on Microsoft Teams**

# Who was there

Name	About them
Mike Hooper	Healthwatch Cornwall
Robert O'Leary	Healthwatch Cornwall
Anna Clemens	Department for Work and Pensions
Anna Ingleby-Oddy	United Response Cornwall
Antony Bell-Thorne	Cornwall Council
Caroline Finlayson	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Christopher Burns	Service User and disability campaigner
Clive Gaylard	Cornwall Council
David Allkins	Cornwall Council
David Burns	Citizen Checkers and Healthwatch Cornwall
Debbie Rees	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board
Dina Holder	Women's Centre Cornwall & Divas
Sgt Flo Linscott	Devon and Cornwall Police
Julie Atwell-Cook	Cornwall Council
Julie Pape	The CHAMPs
Karen Hooper	Cornwall Council
Lisa Clark	Parent Carers Cornwall
Lizzie Denison	Cornwall Council
Lucy Fremantle	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Marie Ralph	The Autistic Community of Cornwall
Marie Lobb	Parent Carers Cornwall

Name	About them
Nory Menneer	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board
Paul Owen	CHAMPs
Shelagh Mitchell	Healthy Cornwall and CHAMPs
Susan Joseph	Cornwall Council

## Who couldn't make it

Name	About them
Alison Short	The Advocacy People
Andrew Gray	Autistic Individual
Christopher Burns	Service User and disability campaigner
Donna Darby	Calton House Ltd
Fliss Hedge	Cornwall People First
Jane Rees	Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust
Julie Atwell-Cook	Cornwall Council
Julia Wildfire-Roberts	Pentreath and Healthwatch Cornwall
Tigger Pritchard	NAS Cornwall and The Autistic Community of Cornwall

# What we talked about at the meeting



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

## Updates from members



Dina Holder told everyone about the **Learning Disability Partnership Facilitator Project**.

It wants to keep people safe from domestic abuse and improve support services.

A presentation is at the end of these minutes.



David Burns said **Citizen Checkers** were still visiting people in hospitals and speaking with people that had returned home.



The **CHAMPS** are working with the **Police** and **The Autistic Community of Cornwall** to make sure that neurodiverse people can use the **Safe Places** scheme.



The team has also helped to design a course called **Diabetes and You**.

It is online. Click this link for information.

[Diabetes and You - Healthy Cornwall](#)



Robert O'Leary has joined Mike Hooper on the **Partnership Boards** team.

He is meeting new people all over Cornwall to make the Boards as strong as possible.



Department for  
Work & Pensions

There is a sub-group of this Board that looks at communication with the **DWP**. It is meeting in June.



The **DWP** told us that they are working hard to make **Job Centres** better for autistic people.

They now have sunflower lanyards at reception.



**Cornwall Partnership**  
NHS Foundation Trust

The **Adult Autism Assessment Team** reported that it is taking around 2 years for people to get an autism diagnosis.

The team has employed more staff but more and more people are joining the waiting list.

The team have also been working with the **Mental Health** team to improve support and training for autistic adults.



**Blue Light Day** is on 5 July 2023.

Flo Linscott from **Devon and Cornwall Police** said there is enough money for a Blue Light Day next year too.



Members want to talk to the **Police** to see if an autism alert can be added to the new Hospital Passport app.

That would be instead of having an Autism Alert Card.



Members think it would be good if a **GP** joined the Board.

The Autism Team are looking for a suitable person.



The Learning Disability and Autism Team at **Royal Cornwall Hospital Treリスケ** are still working to make appointment letters in easy read format

The **Autistic Community of Cornwall** told the Board more about their work.

They offer:

- Training by autistic people. Feedback has been very good.
- A '**Human Library**'. This is where autistic people with different experiences are there for you to talk to.
- The **Autistic Navigator Programme**. This is to help people to find their way through a world that is not designed for autistic people.
- Support and advice for commissioners to help them understand what services are needed.





Some members of the Board want to meet with the **Police** to talk about how the Police communicate with autistic people.

**The Autistic Community of Cornwall** say that many people tell them that they are scared of the Police.

Better training is needed.

There will be an update at the next meeting.



Devon & Cornwall  
**POLICE**

## Adult Social Care Updates

### Personalisation Working Group

There was a group to look at how to have better control over your personal budget

That may be **Direct Payments** or **Individual Service Funds**.

The Working Group will meet for the first time on 26 June.







## **Day Opportunities and Supported Employment**

Cornwall Council wants everyone to make sure that everyone is able to lead their best life.

For some people that could mean going to a day centre

For other people that might mean support for them to be able to work.

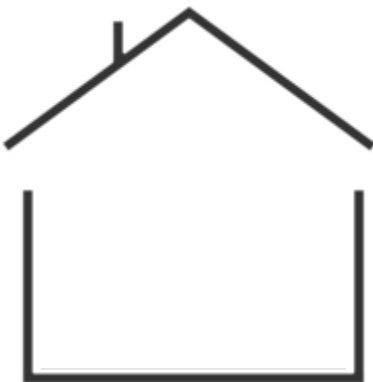
A plan is being written and everyone will have the chance to respond to it.



## **Housing Options**

Cornwall Council's Housing Options Manager has offered to come to a Board meeting to answer your questions.

If you have any questions the email them to [karen.hooper@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:karen.hooper@cornwall.gov.uk) or [partnershipboards@healthwatchcornwall.co.uk](mailto:partnershipboards@healthwatchcornwall.co.uk).





## Practice Quality Standards for Adult Social Care

This is a document that sets standards for Cornwall Council staff to follow.

The **CHAMPs** are converting it into easy read to make sure all staff understand the standards.

## Autism Strategy for Cornwall

It is in the very early stages but at the moment the key areas will be:

- Improving awareness and understanding of autism.
- Improving support into adulthood.
- Increasing employment and access to training.
- Better lives – focus on care and healthcare.
- Housing and being independent.
- Keeping safe.
- Supporting families and carers.



The Partnership Board will be involved all the way through the process.

# Health Updates



## Dynamic Support Register

This is for people that are in crisis and could end up in hospital.

Being on the Register means that people keep a very close check on your treatments.

You can also create a plan to help you avoid a crisis in the future.



## Out of County Hospital Placements

Only 1 person from Cornwall is now in a hospital outside of the county

They have a plan to return home.



## Green Light Mental Health Champions

Autistic people have the right to access the same **mental health services** as everyone else.

Cornwall Foundation NHS Trust are using the Green Light Toolkit to make sure every inpatient has access to services that suit them

## Autism Diagnosis

There are long waits for an autism diagnosis on the NHS.

Some people are getting private assessments because they are quicker.

Work needs to be done to make sure that all assessments are of the same standard.



## Any other business

### Accessible Hospitals

The **CHAMPs** have been visiting hospitals to make sure they are suitable for autistic people.

They are looking at things like:

- lighting
- how the walls are decorated
- Making sure there is quiet space or that headphones are available
- signs that are easy to understand
- posters on how to best communicate with an autistic person.





## Blue Badge

Members said that the Blue Badge team at Cornwall Council still does not understand autism.

Training so they understand why an autistic person might need a Blue Badge is needed.

## Next meeting:



**At County Hall, Truro  
or on Microsoft Teams**

**The LEARNING  
DISABILITY and  
DOMESTIC  
ABUSE  
PROJECT**

**How to keep safe from abuse  
How to get help**



**The EOS  
Partnership**



- The EOS Partnership are a group of people who pay for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services in Devon and Cornwall
- The services they pay for should help you keep safe from abuse and give you help.
- If they are not helping you they will set up new and better services.

**The project**



They have asked Dina Holder and the DIVAS (Women with Learning Disabilities and who have experienced abuse) [The DIVAS](#) to meet with women and men with Learning Disabilities in Devon and Cornwall.

They will ask you

- what will help keep you safe from domestic abuse and/or sexual violence.

Anyone, a woman or a man can experience abuse.

**Domestic Abuse**



**Domestic abuse is**

- when your close partner or family member hurts you or says they will hurt you.
- They might bully you or control you.
- This could be things like hitting you or making you feel bad about yourself.
- They may control your money or what you do on -line.

**Domestic Abuse is always wrong.**

**Sexual Violence**



**Sexual Violence is**

- when someone makes you do something sexual or touches parts of your body in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable or bad or scared.
- If you do not want to be touched by them you can say NO.
- If they ignore you they are using Sexual Violence.
- It is a serious crime and is against the law.
- **Sexual Violence is always wrong.**

**Can you help?**



We want you to tell us

- about your experience of getting help from learning disability services and domestic abuse & sexual violence services,
-



- what it is like using these services.

Tell us



The aim of the project is to find out:

- what type of help you wanted,
- where you went to for help,
- how easy or difficult it was to get help,
- how long you had to wait,
- if the support you received helped you.
- If you did not get any help
- What would work better- what you really needed.


Who can take part...  
Anyone can including  
you



You can take part in this project:

- if you have been a victim of domestic abuse or sexual violence
- Used domestic abuse services **OR**
- Tried to use domestic abuse services **OR**
- Thought about using domestic abuse services **OR**



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't understand what Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is</li> </ul> <p>We'd like to hear from you even if you didn't use any domestic abuse services.</p>
<p><b>We will listen and act</b></p> 	<p>WE will write a report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• telling the EOS Partnership about your views.</li> <li>• We will make suggestions to them about how to improve the services offered</li> <li>• We will show you the report and the changes that the EOS Partnership agree to make things better.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Call me</b></p>	<p><a href="mailto:dina.holder@womenscentrecornwall.org.uk">dina.holder@womenscentrecornwall.org.uk</a> / mobile 07398893242</p>