

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Minutes



NOTES FROM ALL-AGE AUTISM AND NEURODIVERGENCE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

DATED 8 JANUARY 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Alistair Jeffs, Director of Vivo Care Choices, Cheshire West and Chester Council – Chair
Oliver Downing, Commissioning Lead (Learning Disability and Autism), Cheshire West and Chester Council – Co-Chair

Along with representatives from:

- Strategic Commissioning Team – Learning Disability and Autism, Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Strategic Commissioning Team – Mental Health, Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Sensory Support Team – Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Transitions and Autism Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Skills and Employment, Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Fresh Start, Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS
- Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board
- Mid Cheshire Trust
- People's Choice Group
- Active Cheshire
- Ellesmere Port Catholic High School
- Dial West
- Parent Carer Forum
- Parent/Carers
- People with Lived Experience

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Alistair Jeffs welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given. Alistair asked if anyone was interested in being a co-chair for them to send in an expression of interest by the end of January. There were three criteria which Alistair shared:

1. the co-chair needed to be a person with lived experience;
2. live within the borough;
3. do not work for the Council.

UPDATE FROM HEALTH PARTNERS TO INCLUDE “WAITING WELL” SERVICE

Presented by Sean Donnelly, Learning Disability and Autism Project Manager for Integrated Care Board, Cheshire and Merseyside, and Tom Egerton-Parry, Operational Manager for Cheshire & Wirral Partnership’s Adult Autism and Adult ADHD Services

Sean gave a presentation which highlighted some of the services commissioned by the Integrated Care Board, all of these services are on the Live Well site [Home | Live Well Cheshire West](#).

The presentation will be shared with members in due course but during the conversation Tom shared that Cheshire & Wirral Partnership Autism Outreach Workers were being recruited and will become a front door service who will help signpost those already diagnosed as well as those without a diagnosis.

Tom shared the generic contact details, which are as follows: Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust: ADULT AUTISM SERVICE cwp.adultautismservice@nhs.net or (01244) 397640.

Discussion then centred on the lack of capacity around assessments, and it was noted that the Partnership Board need to continue to highlight this. Sean shared that anyone who has any concerns about their care can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) details as follows: email cochpals@nhs.net or (01244) 366066.

PRESENTATION ON PINS (POSITIVE INCLUSION NEURODIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS)

Presented by Gill Tyler, Designated Clinical Officer for Special Education Needs and Disability, Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board

Gill shared the attached presentation with the Partnership Board. During the presentation Gill stated that four primary schools were taking part in this project across Cheshire and Merseyside. She gave the criteria for those schools being asked to take part with the Partnership Board and informed that the outcomes will be measured by another self-assessment from the schools at the conclusion of the project.

ACTION 1: Su to include Gill in the mailing list for the Partnership Board and to send the invites for the rest of the year’s meetings to her. (Su Chapelow)

SUB-GROUPS:

- Service Mapping

The purpose of the Service Mapping Sub-Group is to capture what is out there in terms of support and to try to map and signpost as appropriate, highlighting any gaps still perceived in this area.

There is a lot of work to do but the group is active, and members are meeting regularly.

- Autism/Neurodivergence Strategy

Since Dave Biddle has left Cheshire West and Chester Council, Oliver Downing has picked up the responsibility of this Sub-Group and unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances the group have not met but have a date in the diary for later in January.

Oliver will update everyone at the next meeting.

- Lived Experience

This Sub-Group has yet to meet. Katy Ellison was unfortunately unable to give an update, but Tom shared that she has spoken to most of the Sub-Group on an individual basis and had plans to meet before the next Partnership Board meeting.

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

The action log was discussed and updated. This will be circulated separately.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND FURTHER LINKS SHARED

Future agenda items

- Old age and autism
- Sexuality in Autistic people

Both of the above items to be picked up by the Lived Experience Sub-Group.

ACTION 2: Katy Ellison to include old age and autism, and sexuality in Autistic people in future Lived Experience Sub-Group meetings as topics for discussion. (Katy Ellison)

LINKS SHARED IN THE MEETING FOR INTEREST

[FutureNHS Collaboration Platform - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)

[Teens and Toddlers | Power2](#)

The Austica Video Tom mentioned [Our World, 2030](#)

DATES OF NEXT PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

Wednesday, 7 May 2025

Wednesday, 2 July 2025

Wednesday, 3 September 2025

DATES OF NEXT SUB-GROUPS MEETINGS

Autism/Neurodivergence Strategy

Wednesday, 30 April 2025

Wednesday, 25 June 2025

Wednesday, 27 August 2025

Lived Experience

Dates to be confirmed

Service Mapping

Friday, 11 April 2025

Friday, 13 June 2025

Friday, 15 August 2025

ACTIONS:

Number	Action	By
1	Su to include Gill in the mailing list for the Partnership Board and to send the invites for the rest of the year's meetings to her.	Su Chapelow
2	Katy to include old age and autism, and sexuality in Autistic people in future Lived Experience Sub-Group meetings as topics for discussion.	Katy Ellison