

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Minutes



ALL-AGE AUTISM AND NEURODIVERGENCE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

DATED: WEDNESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Facilitation Team:

Tony McLinden (Person with Lived Experience) – Co-Facilitator

Alistair Jeffs (Head of Policy, Performance & Partnerships SC Joint Strategic Commissioning – Cheshire West and Chester Council) – Champion

Katy Ellison (Coproduction Development Manager) – Supporting Co-Facilitator

Su Chapelow – Notetaker

Along with representatives from:

- Cabinet Member – Councillor Sheila Little (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care)
- Strategic Commissioning Team – Learning Disability and Autism, Cheshire West and Chester Council (Ruth Robinson)
- Strategic Commissioning Team – Children and Families, Cheshire West and Chester Council - (Steve Arnold)
- Vivo Care (Luke Sheehan)
- Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (Sean Donnelly, Dan Jones)
- Cheshire Autism Practical Support (Chloe Carter)
- Parent Carer Forum
- Parent/Carers
- People with Lived Experience

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Tony, supported by Katy, chaired the meeting in Oliver's absence and thanked the group for their support.

REVIEW OF ACTION LOG

- Workshops for strategy to be arranged by Katy for four groups: care receivers, parent carers, young people, health professionals.
- Updates from Karina Zlocinska and Chris Caldwell to be circulated.
- Strategy draft to be presented to DMT in October and Health & Wellbeing Board in early 2026.

ACTIONS

- Su to update action log as appropriate.

CELEBRATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Adam received a Rising Star Award from Kaleidoscope.
- Lucy Kennerley secured grant funding for Neurodiversity Forum and Preparation for Adulthood event.
- Sean Donnelly shared updates on COCH reasonable adjustments and virtual tours.
- Jennifer highlighted Greenbank students' achievements and transition support.
- Alistair shared Mental Health Alliance video and profiling tool updates.
- "This is Me" tool rollout in 50 schools noted.

DISCUSSION POINTS AND REFLECTIONS

- Suggestions for board improvements: fewer agenda items, more breaks, better timekeeping.
- Escalation process for complaints to be drafted by Tony/Katy.
- Guest speaker suggestions: SEND Strategy Board, Police/Criminal Justice System, Homelessness team

SUB-GROUPS

- **Lived Experience**
Focus on reasonable adjustments, awareness, accommodation. Achievements include training, campaign materials, and participation in events.
- **Service Mapping**
A directory is being developed digitally. Consideration needed for non-digital access.
- **Strategy**
Workshops being arranged. A draft Strategy to be presented to DMT and Health & Wellbeing Board.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Supported Employment: Concerns about eligibility and clarity. Alistair and Karina to follow up. Katy to invite Matt Pilling.
- Homelessness: Andrew raised concerns about local support. Homelessness team to be invited.
- PIP and Social Care Assessments: Issues raised by Jo and Dorothy. Suggestion to involve lived experience speakers in training.
- Street Works Accessibility: Tom raised concerns. Board to escalate to the Council.

LINKS SHARED IN CHAT

<https://www.pcfcheshirewest.org/nd-profiling-tool-update>

[Cheshire and Merseyside neurodevelopment pathway - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

[ADHD Service Update :: Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Cheshire Adult ADHD Service update :: Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)

NEW ACTIONS

Number	Action	By
1	Arrange four Strategy workshops	Katy Ellison
2	Draft and circulate escalation/complaint process.	Katy Ellison / Tony McBern
3	Invite SEND Strategy Board and Homelessness team representatives to future meetings.	Katy Ellison / Alistair Jeffs
4	Invite Police Crime Commissioner, Dan Price to a future meeting.	Jennifer Emerson
5	Discuss options for Service Directory accessible to non-digital users at a future Service Mapping Sub-Group.	Alistair Jeffs
6	Follow up on supported employment eligibility and training.	Karina Zlocinska / Alistair Jeffs
7	Invite Matt Pilling to discuss post-18 options.	Katy Ellison
8	Consider lived experience speakers for Social Care Assessor Training.	Katy Ellison / Jo Moss
9	Raise accessibility issues with street works contractors.	Alistair Jeffs

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Meeting date	Items for discussion
November	Action planning, TBD
March 2026	AGM (during ND Celebration Week)

DATES OF NEXT PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

Wednesday, 5 November 2025 – online only
2026

Wednesday, 7 January 2026 – hybrid

Wednesday, 18 March 2026 – hybrid

Wednesday, 6 May 2026 – hybrid

Wednesday, 1 July 2026 – hybrid

Wednesday, 2 September 2026 – hybrid

Wednesday, 4 November 2026 – hybrid

2027

Wednesday, 6 January 2027 – hybrid

Wednesday, 17 March 2027 – hybrid

DATES OF NEXT SUB-GROUPS MEETINGS

Autism/Neurodivergence Strategy

Dates to be confirmed

Lived Experience

Dates to be confirmed

Service Mapping

Dates to be confirmed