

Bedfordshire Think Autism Partnership Board Meeting

Minutes of meeting on 19th July 2016 at 11am

The Rufus Centre, Flitwick

	ACTIONS	
<p>Welcome, introductions and actions/minutes from last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As chairperson, Steve Minchington welcomed everyone to today's meeting. Steve asked for all attendees to avoid interrupting the guest speakers and try to keep questions at the end of the presentations. This makes it easier for people with autism to follow what is being said. Copies of minutes and all partnership board documentation can be viewed on the Autism Bedfordshire website at: http://www.autismbedsdirectory.co.uk/ Actions from the previous meeting – Neil Tunnickliffe had an amendment for the minutes. 	<p>Minutes to be amended.</p>	
<p>Housing Presentation from Luton Borough Council – Bridget Moffatt Bridget's presentation is available to read here: http://www.autismbedsdirectory.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Autism-Housing-3.ppt</p> <p>Questions: Neil Tunnickliffe asked how many properties will be needed. Bridget there are currently four properties for five people and they would need another twenty properties over the next three years. Social Workers' assessments will be recorded and passed to commissioners.</p> <p>Emma Reade asked if Central Beds and Bedford Borough have housing strategies which specifically mention autism. It was explained that while the Central Bedfordshire strategy does mention autism it does not go into great detail. This is under review at the moment. Andrew Kyle, Service Manager at</p>		 

Housing at Bedford Borough Council would be attending the meeting later and would be able to clarify this.

Peter Scott asked about adults with autism who present more challenging behaviour. Bridget explained that most people prefer supported living to residential homes, which often works better because people have more personal space. However, it is a matter of personal choice and residential care is certainly an option. A question was put to the representative from Central Bedfordshire Council as to whether the Central Bedfordshire Housing Strategy (currently under review and due to go to council in the week following the meeting) mentions autism specifically. The answer is to be fed back to the Board.

Presentation from Aragon Housing Association

The presentation is available to read here:
<http://www.autismbedsdirectory.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Aragon-Supported-Housing-Presentation.pptm>

Questions:

A question was raised as to Aragon is not on the Bedford Borough Council list of partners to work with. The list has recently been updated and Aragon hope to continue working with Bedford Borough Council.



**Presentation from Andrew Kyle, Service Manager
- Housing at Bedford Borough Council.**

The recent Housing Needs Assessment highlighted several areas of need: domestic abuse; mental health; and teenage parents. The assessment specifically looked at autism.

An autism focused workshop provided some useful information. The Bedford Borough Council website looks at the needs of those with autism.

Often those who are at the higher functioning end of the spectrum who are living independently or semi-independently and are not currently accessing services are not picked up by social care.

Bedford Borough Council have a project to look at needs for the future. This is not about access to accommodation but trained staff and access to support. Bedford has floating support services with autism trained staff. There is a full range of support available and there are autism trained staff working on all supported housing schemes.

Bedford Borough Council have looked at how to register clients for the housing service earlier. There is an online service and also a customer service centre in the town centre.

The Housing Service uses a bidding process and help is available for this. They are looking at how many people will need to access this service in the future. The Housing Service are working with Social Workers and Health Workers to identify individuals who may wish to access this service.

Questions:

Steve Minchington asked about older people with autism. Andrew Kyle explained that autism does not qualify as a housing need after the age of 64. At 65 the government defines people as 65+ or 65+ with mental health problems. Clients are still assessed according to their needs.

Chris Stelling said that there are needs across Bedfordshire and a lack of support for those with autism. There is also a long waiting list. He asked what are the options for someone with Asperger's?

Bridget Moffatt replied that those with Asperger's should contact their local authority and request an Independent Living Assessment. They can then start



planning and looking at the skills they might need to live independently.

Rita Davison told the panel about her son Robert's experience. Robert is now 36 years old and has autism with severe learning difficulties. Some years ago Robert went into a day centre and began to regress. Throughout his time at school Robert had used the TEACCH approach but this was not used at the day centre. They are now using TEACCH in the day centre and Robert is making progress.

Two years ago they started looking for accommodation for Robert. They looked at some plans in February 2015 but they were not suitable. No further accommodation has been offered. Rita and her husband began looking for accommodation themselves. They found a suitable place but lost it because Robert's case dragged on for too long. They attended a meeting at the town hall but the council were not prepared to fund the transition. Rita said that the Social Workers did not seem to understand the problem. They have now gone back to brokerage but fell there is little support for them.

Bridgat Moffatt said that, while she could not comment on individual cases, Social Workers will work to find a place that meets individual needs. They should work with parents/ carers to find a suitable place and then go to the funding panel. If people are struggling to find a suitable place the commissioning team should be approached to look at brokerage.

Neil Tunnicliffe asked if there are council funded support workers who can work with individuals using PECS? Bridget Moffatt said that communication support would be based on the needs of the individual. The housing provider is separate from the support services provider, which gives the individual more rights.

Update from East London Foundation Trust:

The presentation is available to read here:
<http://www.autismbedsdirectory.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/ADULT-AUTISM-TEAM-Power-Point-Partnership-Board-JULY-2016.pptx>

Questions:

Neil Tunnicliffe was concerned that clients aren't given enough sessions with the psychologist to be really effective. Often people see a different psychologist at each session, which is not helpful for



<p>someone with autism. Sharon said that the trust will continue to work with the care provider to improve the delivery of services.</p>		
<p>Any other business</p> <p>No other business was raised.</p>		
<p>How was this meeting? – questionnaire: Autism Bedfordshire will collate the feedback from the questionnaires and will send them out with the minutes. Actions will be picked up at the next TAP meeting.</p>	<p>AB, Chair</p>	
<p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 18th October 2016 at the Lockyer Room, The Rufus Centre, Flitwick</p>	<p>All</p>	