



Bedfordshire Think Autism Partnership Board Meeting

Minutes of meeting on 19th April 2016 at 11am

The Rufus Centre, Flitwick

	ACTIONS	
<p>Welcome, introductions and actions/minutes from last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Minchington co-chair welcomed everyone to today's meeting. • Copies of minutes and all partnership board documentation can be viewed on the Autism Bedfordshire website at: • There were no outstanding actions from the last meeting. • Steve Minchington presented an article found in the Beds on Sunday, two Police officers have been formally dismissed following an alleged assault in 2014 of a man who had been walking home, and who had a diagnosis of Autism. Steve wanted to highlight how things have changed with better awareness of the needs of people with Autism that have been raised through working closely with the Police. 		
<p>A Team presentation by Neill Tunncliffe Neill Tunncliffe talked about the A team and gave out some handouts to everyone.</p> <p>Neill spoke about his work with Brookdale and about the training provided to professionals, including Beds Police, and support for people on the spectrum who are in forensic settings. The A Team offers support for 'animated' people with Autism and described it as a 'pervasive' condition. The A Team offers a bespoke training to teams and organisations.</p> <p>Questions: A member asked how many people were part of the A Team, at the moment it is just Neill, but anyone he works with other partners and is open to anyone on the Autistic Spectrum to join him.</p>		<p align="center">A Team</p> 

‘Charlotte’ presented by Glenda Tizzard from Pohwer:

Glenda talked about Charlotte, a young lady that a Pohwer have been supporting for some time. Charlotte had been told that she had learning disabilities and a mental health condition, but a recent assessment has shown that she is in fact on the Autistic Spectrum. Charlotte becomes anxious and ‘animated’ sometimes while in shops if people become impatient, this can turn into aggression and has led to her being ‘banned’ from some shops. Following one such incident, Charlotte was arrested, and following a court appearance was electronically tagged. The Pohwer advocate helped to support Charlotte through this and she is now much calmer and she has made a poster about her Autism to show people when she gets anxious. Charlotte also work’s as a volunteer now.

A copy of Glenda’s PowerPoint presentation can be seen on the Autism Bedfordshire website.

Answers to questions asked:

- Charlotte was present at her court appearances with support from her advocate
- Charlotte had been given a diagnosis of Autism sometime before her court appearances.
- The Pohwer advocate helped to support Charlotte to make a poster about her Autism to show people when she gets anxious.
- There can be difficulties across the Criminal Justice system for Autistic people; in this case it was the electronic tagging company that needed more awareness of Autism.

POhWER



Presentation from Bedfordshire Police by Jacqui Whittred:

Jacqui shared a picture of Beds Police Chief Constable Jon Boutcher and Alan Bicknell Deputy Chief Executive at Autism Anglia, signing up to the Autism Charter:



Jacqui continued on from Steve's presentation of the incident involving 2 Beds Police Officers who have been dismissed. Beds Police have working hard to ensure officers are trained in Autism awareness, and this will be ongoing, working alongside services such as the A Team. Jacqui mentioned that Beds Police have also been working with Autism Anglia (picture above), and a working party to develop training and awareness work which will be shared with the Eastern Region and other partners including Autism Bedfordshire.

A member expressed strong concern that there did not seem to be acknowledgment that what happened to the Autistic man was very wrong, Jacqui agreed that what happened was very wrong but the officers concerned were good people. A member said they had a track record of other such incidents and 'good' people didn't do things like that.

Jacqui acknowledged that the police do still get things wrong sometimes but a lot of work has been done and is ongoing, like Autism Awareness training.

Questions asked:

- A member stated that they had not had much help with hate crime, and had been bullied in their flat.
- Jaki assured the member that Beds Police take all hate crime seriously and the position had not changed on this.
- Jaki mentioned that Beds Police are keen to ensure that there are 'Keep Safe' schemes across Bedfordshire, there has been one set up in Luton.
- Another member stated that they had also been the subject of hate crime, and said that they had a good experience with the Police.



Update HMP Bedford and Autism by Mark Salisbury:

HMP Bedford has capacity for about 500 men of 18+

- There is a current Mental Health work initiative and a team based at the prison.
- The A-Team have done a presentation
- Incidents occur when inmates do not understand what is required
- Key staff have received awareness training
- Critical Contact and Autism Awareness month in April each year
- AB leaflets on Prison notice board
- Governor changed last year and a few things changed as a result



- New staff entering service need to be trained but Autism Awareness training is not mandatory under NOMS (National Offender Management Service), this need to be pushed forward by MP's to happen.
- This should be as a 'reasonable adjustment' under The Care Act & DDA.
- HMP Bedford use the AQ10 assessment, 6 out of every 10 may need further assessment for ASD, this is as stipulated by NICE guidance.
- Training is an ongoing need to ensure effective communication with prisoners on the Autistic Spectrum

Questions asked:

- HMP Feltham has a Parliamentary Autism Group which has been set up by ADASS (the association of directors of adult social services in England).
- Prisoners are assessed using an adapted AQ10 but Mark no longer oversees this
- This will highlight prior diagnosis or flag that further testing is needed
- Screening and assessments are very important, recent changes such as privatisation of the CJS can make thing less joined up.
- Screening of people for Autism should happen earlier in the process, not just when sentenced to prison i.e. when a person comes into contact with Police and there is a feel that the person may have an Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
- There are gaps in the system, Mark was involved with a prisoner who was diagnosed and given support on leaving prison, but was later moved to another hostel without the support and re offended shortly after.
- Luton Borough Council have had 'contact points' with CJS but this needs to be re instated.
- It is not known if there is an appetite from the diagnostic services to engage more with CJS. Links often get broken after changes are made to services.



**BCCG /
ELFT**

LBC Transforming Care Partnership, presentation by Bridget Moffat:

- Luton have updated their Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and have a short chapter on Autistic Spectrum Disorder, the Autism Strategy has also been updated.
- Luton conducted a consultation survey before Christmas, and the collected info from this is still being processed.
- A Keep Safe scheme has been launched in Luton for people with learning disabilities, this will be extended to people with Autism in the future.
- There has been lots of activity with the supported employment team.
- The Transforming Care Partnership (TCP) has been a big piece of work in Luton and involves people with Autism. This follows on from the recommendation made after the Winterbourne View findings i.e. hospital care improvements, prevention of people going into hospital if they do not need to and Community Treatment Reviews (CTR). This applies to people with autism, learning disabilities and mental health and involves Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) nationally.
- There is also an ongoing weekly report on people who need to go into hospital
- There is engagement with people who have been through the hospital admission process
- Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes will develop a shared transformation plan for Community Services, transition, Forensic support (which is a gap) and will focus on preventative measures.
- A full update will be given at the next TAP meeting.



Bridget Moffat / Full TCP update at next TAP



Update from East London Foundation Trust:

No one was able to attend today's meeting from East London Foundation Trust, but the following update was provided and read by Steve:

'There have been significant developments with the Bedfordshire & Luton Adult Autism Service provided by East London Foundation Trust.

The service has implemented new models of working



in order to reduce the waiting time for a Diagnosis of ASD and created capacity to provide direct short term therapy for service users following diagnosis, who are unable to access mainstream services.

The Service has delivered awareness sessions for professionals working within Mental Health to support service users they are working with in adapting care and treatment.

The Service will be participating in delivering Awareness and Training sessions for General Practitioners.

The Service is working with Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to develop the service and has conducted a recent audit of NICE recommendations to evidence Gaps in local service provision for adults and adolescents with ASD, a Business case has been put forward and the Service will present further information at the July Autism Partnership Board'

The following questions were posed by members:


- What is the new model of working?
- How many professionals working with mental health have been trained and how long do these sessions last?
- What has been the impact of these sessions?
- Where do we refer health professionals to for training?
- What were the gaps in local service provision and who was consulted

ELFT to update at next TAP

Update from Autism Bedfordshire by Chris Stelling:

- Bedford tennis group is going well and a rowing club is in development, this can be accessed outside of Autism Bedfordshire.
- Physical activity is very good for 'animated' people, exercise can be calming and be a distraction.
- Luton 'Open Arts' project have made a Mural and there is more funding for other projects across the county.
- Life Skills and Communication Skills courses Luton and Bedford.
- The Barn Dance fund raiser made £750!
- There is a new news letter and Directory of



<p>services on Autism Beds website – www.autismbedsdirectory.co.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All papers from the TAP will be on the Autism Beds website, and not on the CBC website. 		
<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>Any other business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Barn Dance was a great success, Thanks to Autism Beds for organising this. There is a 'Community Works for You' Film Club, can be accessed via the ALDT, further info is on Autism Bedfordshire website Questions for ELFT can be left using the feedback questionnaire. There will be a replacement for Marek from BBC, the TAP was part of the role. Just to clarify, referral to the diagnostic service is via a GP or other health professional, whether the person has an ASD diagnosis or not. The theme of the next meeting will be Accommodation and Housing, this will also fit in with the Transforming Care Partnership (TCP) as it is a big part of it. 		
<p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19th July 2016 at the Lockyer Room, The Rufus Centre, Flitwick</p>	<p>All</p>	