

## Meeting of the Aspergers/Autism Group

Present – (Please use E-mail list)

### Welcome & Introductions

BL welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that this was the follow up to a previous meeting with some of today's attendees.

Steve Allen then gave a brief summary of the agenda for the meeting, this was:-

1. Update on the Actions outline in the "I Exist" Campaign.
2. Formulation of a working group to discuss the Autism consultation, "A Better Future."
3. Identification of future workstreams to discuss after the working group has met.

#### 1. "I Exist Campaign (challenges)

- Have systems in place to accurately record the number of adults with Autism in the area.

Maria explained the work being undertaken to complete a mapping exercise. Two providers have expressed an interest to undertake this work and we are awaiting a decision on the funding.

- Ensure staff who carry out assessment are fully trained in Autism.  
Steve explained that we have had contact from a provider who have been working with Hertfordshire, looking at training for staff from team admin to consultants.  
Steve & Chris Martin are going to arrange to meet them, with Hertfordshire's manager's at a later date.

- Include the needs of adults with Autism in commissioning strategies.

- Establish a clear route to enable adults with Aspergers Syndrome or high-functioning Autism to access assessment and services.

Steve explained that the first part of any commissioning strategy is to undertake the collection of the demographic information. When this work is concluded a project will be commissioned to look at how this work is taken forward.

- Implement the Director of Adult Social Services guidance and appoint a named individual or team with responsibility for Autism Spectrum Disorders.  
The two lead offices have been identified, they are:-
  1. Chris Martin from strategic commissions
  2. Steve Allen from Operational Management

#### 2. Formulation of Working Group

Steve explained that the County Council has to reply to the consultation on "A Better Future" by the middle of September. He asked for volunteers to join a working group to look at this. Everybody volunteered and two dates were set for

the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of August. Steve said he would notify of a venue when arranged.  
Venue to be close to Chelmsford train station.

### 3. Future Workstreams

A discussion took place on future workstreams that need to form part of any work plan. Those identified were:-

1. Transport
2. Housing
3. Employment opportunities
4. Early diagnosis
5. Transition planning
6. Relationship counselling
7. Carers network/support      lack of co-ordination
8. Training for staff
  - Adult Social Care
  - Police
  - Prison staff
  - Education/Children's Service

### AOB

Andrew present on Aspergers Awareness and future services including a national helpline.