

## **Autism Working Group**

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011

Norden Room, Essex Records Office  
Chelmsford  
10:00 – 12:30

**Apologies:** Adrian Russell -ECC  
Caroline Robinson - ECC  
DM – North East Essex NHS Trust  
SA – South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT)

**Attendees:** Maria Warren – Chair  
Steve Allen – Senior Operational Development Manager ECC  
Jenny Peckham – Contracts Manager ECC  
Loretta Sollars – Corporate Policy Team ECC  
IH – North East Essex PCT  
NC – NEPCT Cluster  
ST - WEPCT  
SJ – Essex Cares  
TP – National Autistic Society  
Pauline Stratford – MH Commercial Team  
JH – Thurrock Council  
FD – Autism Anglia  
CJ – SAFE  
AH – Shenfield Aspergers Support Group  
CB – Service User/Carer Representative  
Tony Crouch - ECC  
WB – Carers Network  
MC – Business Administrator - Minutes

### **1. Presentation on the employment pilot**

SJ gave an introduction on the pilot to work with approximately 8-10 people who all have Aspergers Syndrome to support and make a difference in their lives. Some of the people were closer to employment than others we have looked at their skills, aspirations and created CV's etc. SJ gave a brief overview of where each of the 9 people are in the pilot and the progress they have made. This pilot and the examples given prove that people need the support from the very beginning to work with the staff.

Pauline Stratford suggested we look at the scheme that was in mental health as it could be a joint rather than stand alone scheme.

TP stated that this pilot should be more about improving quality of life and travel training should form part of this. Does any of this work link in with right to control access to work? SJ confirmed that they are delivering on the right to control, as they are working with more than just this pilot.

Steve Allen suggested that when this pilot finishes we pull all the information together to get a complete picture. We will also need to look at the pathway into the

service. Wendy advised that we need to look at the way children come in to the service. Steve stated that part of the next step would be to run with the disabled employment advisors.

Tony Crouch advised that the green paper will offer us an opportunity to do better but the wider group will be much more of a challenge.

## **2. Introduction and Strategy Writing for Essex – Loretta Sollars**

Loretta advised that she had been asked to look at an Autism Strategy which also has to fit in the new world clinical strategy. Loretta would like to know what issues we have, what works well, what can be improved and what is already in place. The idea is that we have a strategy that covers children and adults across ECC and the PCT's.

ST stressed that as PCT's are now in consultation your key focus has got to be emerging GP's.

TP asked if there is an emerging number of people around ASD. It was suggested that Pauline look at a myriad list of policies and will need to have a good understanding of what is going on and how it links together.

Do we know what the GP understanding is on what they are dealing with for LD, ASD, etc? ST advised that things are improving but it is still work in progress.

NC advised that they are now starting to see the number of people with LD and ASD and they are now recording this information but it is still work in progress.

FD stated that we also need to remember that there are some people that do not fit in any of the categories and they currently don't exist.

It all goes back to training, the type of training, who delivers it and who accredits it. Where do you find these people, where do you start and where do you stop. All of this requires money. FD suggested that we look at other areas who are already ahead of us like Nottingham.

Thurrock would like to be joint with ECC, Southend may want to link in as well but further discussions will need to be had around this.

## **3. Awareness Training**

Maria stated, some good news, we have identified a training gap and that is going to be looked at in 2012 for Practitioners. In the short term there was an under utilised training course and we have 100 Practitioners down to attend, with a waiting list as well. This training is to give awareness on ASD as a whole. The training is being provided by Positive about Autism (Chris Barsen) which was given the thumbs up.

TP advised that there is a BPS on-line course and the first 2 modules can be accessed by anybody. Some of the royal colleges have online training but you need to be a member to use it and NAS do not have access to it. Individuals can access it if they are members.

**Action:** Maria agreed to send out invites to reception staff.

**Action:** WB to send contact details (link) to BPS to MC regarding health training.

**Action:** Maria agreed to send out details of the course to members of the group.

Adults Social Care Practitioners will have training as mandatory in their My Performance next year.

ST advised that we are talking about access to primary care and secondary care and they are not represented at this meeting.

FD enquired if the Disability Distress Assessment Tool could be used. If this was rolled out it could make a difference.

NC stated that we need to see if we can get the GP's involved.

Maria confirmed that once we get a direction of where we are going we could invite the GPs to this meeting.

TP advised that there is a conference in November which is free to commissioners to assist with this work.

#### **4. Carolann's Blog and the Feedback**

The group thanked CJ for her blog it was really interesting. It would be good to do the same sort of blog but from a Service Users perspective. We would need it by the end of the month. AH and CB agreed to do a blog by the end of this month.

**Action:** AH and CB to write a blog and send it to Maria Warren

WB suggested that in the future would it be good to have blog from carers that care for someone with ASD.

#### **5. AOB**

Maria gave information on the 999 cards. All hospital staff across the county are aware to look for these cards. These were initially for LD but they are really good for all vulnerable adults including mental health. We are working with AT on this work as well as the passports.

There is a Conference 17<sup>th</sup> November in Cambridge and will be linking into the 14<sup>th</sup> December Commissioning Group.

**Action:** TP to send to MC to add to the minutes.

Carolann enquired where we are with the Strategy; Maria advised that this will now be done by Loretta's team.

NC updated regarding a new project inside the Trust to ensure that the people get a more local service. They bid for 2% transformation funding all part of Quipp from all 3 PCT's for a pilot in NE Essex in diagnosis and treatment support for people that do not access the Specialist Trust. If the funding is successful they should be well placed to have the work spread across North Essex. FD confirmed that it is a joint project from 2% Transformation fund money, so people can access diagnosis

services that wouldn't normally. They will have 6 weeks around each individual to look at what will help them in their life. It would give people practical signposting and some support. This is also joint with the University of Essex.

FD advised that they are about to implement the training for referrals takes place next month. TP suggested that it would be useful for the NAS helpline to be aware of this. There is also a real need for the correct diagnosis including a cognitive assessment. We are hoping that we will be able to see how successful the screening tools are with this pilot.

AH advised that he has just done a carers course on diabetes. The diabetes document is very good and could be manipulated for Autism. Tom from NAS agreed. We do need a National Autism Strategy Framework and the DoH is flawed. There are now a number of other documents but there isn't a National Framework. We need to be aware of the DSM5.

**Next meeting will be arranged for January/February.**

**Action:** MC add AM from NE Essex PFT (mental health) to this meeting.

**Action:** Maria to send MC the electronic copy of the 999 card to add to minutes.