

Sheffield Autism Partnership Employment Subgroup

Notes of the meeting held on January 10th 2017

Present: Sylvia Johnson, Glynis Beck, Roger Guymer, Carolyn Bealby, Graham Nield, Laura Jaine Walker, Pam Walton

1. It was agreed that Sylvia would check on whether the actions at items 2 and 3 from the previous meeting had been completed by contacting Lucy and John.

Action: Sylvia to email

2. Graham reported from an email that day via Ed, that Phil Holmes had taken over as Autism Lead for Sheffield following the secondment of Joe Fowler to the CCG.

Action: Sylvia to contact Phil to introduce the group.

3. Glynis Reported more detail of the new contract to provide support for Autistic Adults into work. She explained the three step process for clients referred to or arriving at ASCE:
 - a) Support client into the workplace by finding workplacements
 - b) If not ready to do this refer them to First Step Café
 - c) Once ready for work, refer on to Big Ambitions for securing paid employment
4. There was discussion about the need for ongoing support to ensure that clients remained in work and that this was not a short term level of support, rather ongoing as so many issues could, and do, arise.
5. There was also discussion about the sorts of jobs that Big Ambitions were able to secure and whether those signed up to the Fair City Charter (circulated previously) were actually employing autistic adults.

Action: Glynis to send Sylvia email contact for the Employer Champion at Big Ambitions; Sylvia to contact her and ask her to attend the next meeting and report back on the extent to which employers are coming forward with jobs and what sorts of jobs.

6. There was also discussion about the specific support that might be available for self employed autistic adults. Laura stated that there were courses and agreed to send details to the group of what she knew.

Action: Laura to send round contacts and information

7. No-one had any feedback on the impact of the Sheffield Telegraph /Sheffield Council campaign on the employment of disabled adults.

Action: Sylvia to enquire about this

8. There was a report back from the last APB meeting and considerable discussion about the ongoing issues relating to the supply of Blue Badges and the failure to understand that a special plea for autistic adults was not being made, rather a reframing of the criteria as per

other Council guidelines in other parts of the country so that it better reflected a diversity of disability conditions. It was agreed that this would need to be discussed further.

Action: Laura to circulate her latest document. All to alert Ed that this matter has not been resolved in advance of the next APB.

9. The second issue discussed related to the status of items discussed at the APB. Roger reported that whilst the Communication and Engagement Strategy had been endorsed by the APB, it was unclear whether this was now a Sheffield strategy or not. It was agreed that there needed to be some clarification about the status of items discussed and agreed at the Board. At the same time Roger also drew attention to the two documents circulated by Ed Sexton prior to Christmas and encouraged all to read these. (Attached for further perusal)

It was also agreed that we needed to follow the model of other partnership Boards in this matter.

Action: Sylvia to discuss this with Ed but also raise it with Phil Holmes.

10. There was also discussion about the survey. It was confirmed that the closing date was 13 Feb 2017 and that the Council team led by Josie Billings would complete the analysis. There was some discussion about the distribution of this survey and Roger agreed to send it to some further places. Sylvia agreed to forward this to the Universities for them to circulate. She also agreed to contact Suzanne Eusman and see if it could be uploaded to the Stratify site.

Action: Roger to circulate his words to groups. Sylvia to contact Suzanne Eusman and also send to Universities for distribution.

11. This led to wider discussion about the growing need for an Autism Network in Sheffield. Sylvia agreed to set this up.

Action: Sylvia to initiate Autism Network

12. There was brief discussion about the future of the group and what the group needed to focus upon during 2017. Members were invited to contribute ideas on receipt of the notes, ready for the next meeting. Glynis suggested that one matter was to decide what to do with the pathways document.

Action: All members to contact Sylvia with suggestions.

13. Tuesdays 1pm to 2.30 pm were confirmed as a time that suited everyone currently attending. Sylvia agreed to book rooms via Christina and to let Emily know dates so that we avoided clashes with the other subgroup. It was also pointed out that really we needed to establish other subgroups but that the number of people actively involved was rather low.

Action: Sylvia to contact Christina and Emily.

Dates of meetings in 2017

7 March

2 May

4 July

5 September

7 November

I have requested meeting rooms for these dates.