SOUTHEND AUTISM PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Minutes of Meeting held on 9th February 2018

Attendees:
Jacqui Lansley
Hugh Johnston
Suzanna Edey
Ross Gerrie
Judith Snell
Judith Mummery

Sharon Alison
Cllr Meg Davidson
Tina Axup
Kim Drake
James Swatton
Colin Newton

Apologies:
Michelle Matthews
Andrea Walter

Evelyn Mackay
Glyn Hawksworth

Minutes:
Suzanna Edey

Agenda Item
1 Welcome and Apologies

2 Minutes from last meeting

Chloe Angliss-Moore to be invited in place of Sarah Haines as the Learning Disability Nurse.
Leanne Crabb is no longer working at Southend Healthwatch – SE to identify new representative
Glyn Hawksworth to be added to the membership.

The November Minutes have been signed off and will be uploaded to the internet.
http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/download/728/southend_autism_partnership_board

3. Membership (Item 6 on Agenda):
Suzanna read out an e-mail from an individual who wished to join the Partnership Board. This had been discussed with chair between meetings and brought for decision to the Board. It was felt that the board is already well represented, as there are parents, and organisations working with parents represented, as well as an individual with High Functioning Autism (his terminology). We agreed that to avoid over-representation in anyone area, people who are interested in the work of the Board can be involved in alternative ways, for example the upcoming workshop (on agenda), stakeholder fora (TCP and local) and through involvement with SAFE.

Action:
Jacqui as chair to respond to the request. Suzanna to ensure she is aware of SAFE and invited to future stakeholder events

4. ASD – Ross Gerrie (Item 9 on Agenda)
Ross reported that the key priorities relating to Diagnosis in children remain reducing the waiting list for diagnosis and reducing the number of referrals made for diagnosis. Progress – there are plans to increase the admin capacity in hospitals to process referrals and prevent bottle-necks, as well as longer term transformation planning to develop community based services such as schools, localities etc. as well as traditional settings for engagement, such as the Lighthouse centre. In addition upskilling the local GPs to be able to make confident diagnoses will make the position more sustainable. MA (Multi-agency) approach is needed to address behavioural issues, in effect extending the current under 5s offer – to focus on addressing the need rather than seeking diagnosis. There is work underway to ensure the pathway for 16/17 year olds caught between paediatric cut-off and adult services is addressed, and diagnostic pathways continue to be strengthened, for example Little Heroes are now able to access children’s centres once a week, and speech and language therapists are setting out what they can offer in this provision. OTs have been approached to visit families awaiting diagnosis on a regular basis – this has started small scale, and practitioners will evaluate the pilot and feedback.

Ross reported full attendance at the clinics at the Evalina (GOSH) clinic, and there had been good parent feedback about this service. South London and Maudsley have offered to carry out 50 assessments over 2 consecutive days, and the option to send our own practitioners for cpd is being explored. CPR have continued to use the Lorna Wing centre, work is ongoing to predict the need across both CCGS potentially with a pooled budget to reduce waiting lists. Sharon Alison pointed out that within Eput there are people with the correct qualifications, it is a question of capacity to deliver. Ross confirmed that the longer term plan would be to ideally have a local community provider. Currently there is no capacity within the hospital, although the community paediatric review would wish to increase this capacity. Judith Snell asked whether travel assistance was being offered, Ross confirmed there was a mechanism, but little take-up. Feedback from Ewmhs indicates that age 9-10 and transition to Senior school are key times of pressure for families on the pathway, and that the offer for children with autism varies greatly from school to school. Simon Dickinson has prepared a list of 15 recommendations relating to the pathway, which he has asked APBs to review.

**Action:**
Ross to circulate the list of recommendation to members of this board electronically. Suzanna to ask Phil Brown/Simon Dickinson for an update of their work for the next Board meeting.

Jacqui thanked Ross for his hard work in finding additional capacity. The right providers with the right skills at the right price has meant we have been able to impact on more children.

**5. Housing update (from minutes)**

Glyn Halksworth has met with the Director of planning, and a new housing strategy is being produced by July 2018. This was approved by Cabinet January 2018.

Jacqui asked the board to consider how we feed into this. Judith raised the importance of looking how reasonable adjustments can assist individuals to access current mainstream properties.

**Action:**
Glyn to provide an update at the next APB

**6. JSNA update (from Minutes)**
Suzanna confirmed that the JSNA steering group and working group have now met, and that she will ensure that the APB and the work from the Essexwide stakeholder group feeds in to the Autism JSNA

7. Presentation on Hate Crime (Item 3 on Agenda) – James Swatton

James Swatton leads on Hate Crime Reporting for Southend/CPR/Basildon. Last year 2000 hate crimes were reported across Essex, 16% targeting disability. He introduced the online reporting tool as less intimidating than having to attend a police station, and confirmed that reasonable adjustments are made to follow up any reporting, for example, police attending in plain clothes to the victim's home if required. The adjustments should be victim led. If people do not want to go to court, they are willing to take anonymous information for intelligence. The evidence threshold is quite high, so reporting does not always get the outcome people might want (court) but the police will do work with the victim without involving the perpetrator in those cases, for example developing safety plans signposting to services. On the 14/2 a number of SBC staff are being trained to take reports, including housing officers. HIRCS are community place trained to take reports, support victims to report to the police. Civic, Hub, Estuary Housing, Ace lifestyles and The Attic are HIRCS. The university/Library are not yet HIRCS, Cllr Davison suggested to contact Simon May/Gemma Robinson to progress this.

Cllr Davison asked whether, if we were to use the board to promote and increase reporting, which is what the police want, whether there would be capacity to deal with increased reports. Currently only 2 Hate Crime Officers in whole of Essex. Reports are triaged, as emergency or “slow time”. A standard or medium incident is dealt with by community policing, if graded as “high” then dealt with by CID. Jacqui stated we would need to manage expectations of response if we promoted the service through our boards. Board agreed to invite the Hate Crime Ambassadors to the planned workshop.

8. Autism Training Pathway and ARE update (Item 5 on Agenda)

Judith has analysed the feedback, and felt the ARE is worth commissioning again, but she has fed back to the provider about people not being left in the classroom for so long.

The ARE will be part of the training pathway as part of the qualification. The pathway now stands at 30 pages. Judith reported that some of the online training does not deliver everything you might wish, she is going to feedback to the BPS. In future, SBC might consider mapping the content on SPARK for in-house training. There is also the potential to partner with the National Autistic Society.

Kim/Tina suggested Judith look at the Minded website as a resource.
Suggestion to raise the profile of the ARE and pathway to Multi Academy Trusts as it could be useful for Secondary schools.

9. SAF – (item 7 on the agenda)

Judith/Hugh suggested the SAF analysis should include areas where we are Rag-rated. It was agreed that the SAF should be sent out electronically by Suzanna when the “greens” have been added, with a 3-week response time from the board with suggestions of who could progress/monitor SAF actions.

Suzanna confirmed she does not know when the next return will be required, however the 2016 SAF relied on data collected between June and November.

Action:
Suzanna to add the “greens” to the SAF plans and circulate electronically.
Suzanna to co-ordinate the above going forward and to bring an update to each board meeting on how we are progressing.
10. **Engagement workshop – (Item 8 on the Agenda)**

This was originally being considered for April 2018, but after discussion the board suggested the week commencing 22\(^{nd}\) June, being after Easter but before Summer holidays. It is Autism week in April and the board felt that on the back of that, we could promote the Workshop day using Survey Monkey, The APB flyers, Making it Work, Dwp, special needs schools, GPs, and local press. The objective of the day is to share information (invite agencies to have stands), improve our work planning, and understand the Top 10 challenges of people with autism in the borough/what would make life easier in the Borough. This can inform how we respond on the next SAF and any future commissioning intentions.

**Actions:**
- Suzanna to adapt the flyer to promote the workshop and circulate widely in April.
- Suzanna to complete Pid to get the assistance of the communication team.

11. **AOB (item 10 on the Agenda)**

It was noted that Gary Bloom has replaced Alison Macillraith as the lead contact for SEN schools as group manager.

EWMHs training in ASD being held on 23\(^{rd}\) March at Tickfield, and this is open to schools, can be booked through Lisa Hollaway

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Next Meeting: 16\(^{th}\) May 2017