Meeting Title: Cornwall Autism Partnership (CAP) Meeting

Date: 28 June 2016
Time: 10.00 – 12.30
Location: Chacewater Village Hall
Chaired by: Serena Collins, Commissioning Officer, Education Health & Social Care

PRESENT
Nicky Abrahams Cornwall Advocacy
Angie Andrews EH&SC Cornwall Council
Henry Barnes National Autistic Society
Rachel Brown (RB) Spectrum
Chris Burns
David Burns
Serena Collins (SC) EH&SC Cornwall Council
Heather Davison (HD) Parent Carer Council
Caroline Finlayson (CF) Speech & Language Therapist, Trengweath
Donna Friggens Student Nurse (Health Visiting)
Scott Fuller EH&SC Cornwall Council
Andrew Gray (AG) Cornwall People First Trustee
Dave Hocking Cornwall Rural Community Council
Suzanne Lee (SLe) Cornwall People First (CPF)
Suzanne Leggett (SL) Cornwall People First (CPF)
Ruth McLeod (RM) Carers Service
Nory Menneer Clinical Lead & Programme Manager, Learning Disabilities, NHS Kernow
Shelagh Mitchell Champs Health Promotion
Neil Oats Champs Health Promotion
Mandy Owen (MO) Children’s Psychology Services
Debbie Pritchard Healthwatch Cornwall
Karen Riley Health Visitor (complex needs/disabilities)
Henry Scrase Cornwall People First
Dr Alison Stephens Clinical Psychologist, Outlook SouthWest
Jo Ward Devon & Cornwall Housing
Katie Wheeler Champs Health Promotion
Barry Whitehead (BW) Parent
Fiona Whitehead (FW) Parent
Joel Williams (JWi) Isles of Scilly
Jody Wilson (JW) Healthwatch Cornwall
Georgia Wright (GW) Learning Disability Team, Cornwall Council
Sue Henthorne (SH) Note taker EH&SC, Cornwall Council

APOLOGIES
Bev Coombe Greenlight
Colin Gameson (CoG) Devon & Cornwall Police
1. Arrival – teas and coffees

2. Welcome, introductions and apologies

SC welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that she is co-chairing the meeting today. That the Council would not be talking about CPF funding at today’s meeting as previously established funding for the Autism Forums has remained at the same figure for this financial year.

The meeting today is to talk about the changes in the Partnership. SC explained that a Working Group has been set up to bring information to the CAP and for the CAP to be the responsible decision maker based on information provided.

Introductions were made around the room including whether the attendees were also members of the Working Group. Apologies are listed above.

SC advised that there is a sheet at the front of the room for people to give feedback around fears and issues that they do not wish to voice at the meeting.

SC explained that Healthwatch Cornwall will be doing a presentation at the meeting looking at the positive changes that are happening with CAP.

3. Actions from last meeting

SC advised that she wants to be able to draw a line under some of the long standing actions. Then went on to discuss the action grid.

Serena
Circulate the Easy Read minutes – this will be done as a matter of course following meetings so does not need to remain on the action grid.

Someone from Adult Education to be invited to a future CAP meeting – SC advised that this has been done.

Discussions regarding funding – DC advised that meetings have been held with individual members.

Autism Awareness Courses – SC explained that Natalie Thompson is the new Commissioning Manager for training and is looking at different ways and new partners for the training – SC encouraged people to attend but that this training may look different in the future. Natalie is to be invited to a future CAP to talk about this. Information is available on the autism website as to how to book on training. MO said that all information should be in the same place –
need a co-ordinated approach for Adults and Children’s with one webpage.

Day Services – SC advised that engagement is still ongoing and will ensure that CAP members are advised of future events etc.

Nory

Cost of support at RCHT – NM advised that this is £150k per annum – also money given to Devon for Derriford – service different at Derriford.

Waiting list issue – MO said that families are waiting 18/24 months for diagnosis – huge number of families are coming forward for diagnosis and would be helpful to ask the Children’s Health Commissioner to a future CAP. Looking at in 3 years’ time having a joint Autism Strategy – useful to start working closer together – need to be working on transition services.

CB asked about what happens with the assessments – assessments explained and that the recommendations go to GPs and families. SC explained that the Working Group is working on improving communications and guides and information that explains pathways etc – need to be identifying gaps.

BW asked whether there is guidance for GPs to help families and whether there should be a process – NM said needs to be the correct person to suit the needs.

NM said that talks have started with CFT and Outlook Southwest around services for Autism and Mental Health – looking at getting services. Within the CFT LD services there are gaps. RB raised issue of IQ tests being used as part of assessment.

NM advised that he had written to the Public Health Observatory around the Health Checks and has looked into studies – no evidence available around autism. Has therefore spoken to Public Health Cornwall and looking at running a pilot of Health Checks for people with autism. Public Health have nationally offered to help but there will be blocks around funding – may look at approaching charitable organisations about this. On 27 July there is a meeting in Dolcoath from 10 – 12:30 to look at ideas around Health Checks – this will be separate from the Working Group but the Working Group meeting may follow on. NM said do not know what GP reaction will be to this so need to ensure there are clear communications. Recognise that the meeting will be during school holidays – SC agreed expenses could be claimed to attend.

NHS England are looking at service gaps for autism – Katie Watson – lead for Mental Health/LD.

Transforming Care Plan – NM advised work is still being done on this – making plans around behavioural/challenging issues for people with LD and/or autism. Looking at local service around autism – local interventions – service to be developed jointly to stop people becoming more distressed. NM said wants to make training available and will talk about this at a future meeting. Presentation about Transforming Care Plan to be circulated with the minutes together
4. Changes to the CAP through working with Healthwatch Cornwall

DP and JW gave a presentation about what Healthwatch Cornwall do and about how they have been asked to change how the CAP is run. This to be similar to LDPB to make the Boards independent. Healthwatch are involved in the Working Group and have the statutory authority to raise issues with the Commissioners.

BW asked whether Members had been approached with regard to the co-chair. DP explained that a letter had been drafted that was to be forwarded to the CAP for comments prior to approaching Members.

CB asked about funding for the co-chairs. DP said that this would be expected to be on a voluntary basis with support. HD asked what the co-chair role would involve and what training would be provided. SC said that the co-chair needs to steer the CAP – there is an element in the role of ensuring that change starts to take place. CAP needs to start taking ownership of issues and taking them forward – the co-chair will need to do this and be actively involved in the Working Group. DP asked for anyone interested in being the co-chair to contact her. BW said that the Councillor co-chair would need an understanding of people with autism.

SL asked what would happen about the presentation from the CPF forums. SC advised that all presentations from all groups would be taken to the working group for then those individual issues to be addressed and wider issues brought to the CAP for with possible solutions. DP said it is important to listen to wider voices.

RB asked about payment for service user co-chair as Councillor co-chair would be paid.

The meeting then went on to discuss the papers circulated previously from the Working Group around positive changes. SC advised that from the September meeting Healthwatch Cornwall will be taking over the administration and organisation of the CAP meetings.

5. Break

6. Working Group update

SC explained that at the last CAP had asked for people to be involved in the Working Group and have had 3 meetings so far – meetings are every 6 weeks for 2 – 2.5 hours looking at what needs to be done and what needs to come to CAP for decisions. It is about who is on the group and knowing this – there will be some core members and some that will come and go for specific topics – it is about finding solutions together – what can be done to change things around employment, housing etc.
AG said need to have people to train people with autism so that they can have meaningful work. Minutes and actions are taken for the Working Group and it is possible that these can be put on the webpage if this is wanted.

SC explained looking at the Autism Strategy – wants this to be a working document that is looked at by the CAP. Need to focus on one topic at each CAP meeting so meaningful discussions can be held. Commissioners need to be actively involved but will be led by the membership to move discussions on. The Working Group needs to put solutions forward to CAP for decisions to be made.

The Chair of CAP must be working better with other partners such as Health and Wellbeing Board and Councillors – need to take issues to high levels in organisations.

CAP must look at solutions, have responsibility and take ownership.

SC explained that Safe Places is being expanded to other vulnerable groups e.g. Autism, Dementia.

The meeting then went on to discuss what had happened at the Working Group meetings.

First meeting – all looked at specialisms etc – this led to what wanted to look at:
  • Could we look at a similar model to Pentreath for Autism for employment
  • Looking at transitions

Second meeting – talked about the assessment process – Outlook Southwest currently not being able to communicate effectively with Health and Social Care therefore having to start again with the assessment – looking at how can share information. Training for Access team around requirements etc to improve the process. Looked at the membership – this needs to be representative.

Third meeting – talked about what can be done in the near future. Talking to other local authorities about what they are doing and starting to share.

BW said need to talk to people in Scandinavia about work being done there around autism. SC asked members to do some fact finding and send links etc through to her. Need to do work around data and evidence to be able to look at funding – needs to be done as a collective to pull together.

Possible bespoke assessor training for Social Care assessing staff – need to have consistent approach for Health and GPs as well so this is consistent – perhaps a small group could look at this – CF to catch up with SC re this.

SC said that she would like more people to come to the Working Group meetings.

All the presentations from the forums (CPF, Carers etc) to go to the Working Group so that the broader themes can then be taken to CAP
to discuss.

RB said need to work with people with autism around how to engage GPs, how to get assessments etc – i.e. what they need to say to get this – possible scripts, prompts, right words to use etc.

Need to produce monthly updates around the progress that is being made.

NM said that the CAP is a great place for decisions to be made – new format will help this.

SC explained looking at a joint piece of work with the Isles of Scilly – JWl said wanting to share stories/experiences.

### 7. Childrens Strategy

MO explained that the Health and Wellbeing Board want Commissioners to work towards all age strategies.

Children’s are currently working on their autism strategy – looking at gaps – have received feedback and the drafted strategy has been out to partners for comments – looking at having the final version by the end of July – this covers 4 main sections:

- Health – Sue Newman leading
- Education – Katie Neve leading
- Early Health Social Care – Yvette Yates leading
- Leisure/community etc

Looking at Special Education provision in Cornwall – recognise there needs to be a change in provision.

Draft Strategy to be circulated to members of CAP for comments – this is a 3 year strategy.

### 8. Any Other Business

**Ted Talks** – RB gave an update – these are going to be Aspergers information evenings – has met with Volunteer Cornwall – first supper club planned for October – intention to have 2 15 minute speakers at each to be videoed so this can be shared.

About community partnership – want 15 minute talk from CAP, CHAMPS, Safe Places, What it means to have aspergers, Mate/Hate Crime, employment, volunteering. Hoping for 8 speeches this year to build a library of information. RB to produce a flyer and circulate this via CAP.

Lauren Reid – update link

Meeting then went on to discuss venue for next CAP on 20 September 10 – 12:30 – meeting decided to have in New County Hall Truro – room to be booked.

27 July is the Health Checks Working Group meeting.

Parent/carer working group looking at the transition from Children’s
to Adults – general discussions around the gaps – working with Carers Service around this. Initially looking at this from adult’s perspective to look at gaps – SC asked that if anyone wanted to be involved to let her know. Will then link to Children’s to make more inclusive.

Presentations to be discussed at the next Working Group need to be with SC by 27 July.

SLe raised issues around CPF funding, the presentations etc. SC explained that the presentations from the forums feed into the Working Group – funding is a separate contractual issue and the CAP meeting is not where this should be discussed – it sits outside of this meeting with the Council.

**Next meeting:**

Date: 20 September 2016  
Time: 10.00am until 12.30pm with tea and coffee from 9.30am  
Venue: Trelawny Room, New County Hall, Truro

**N.B. Reminder for all meetings**

In order to assist other members’ understanding of items being discussed, attendees are asked to avoid using jargon and to be clear when mentioning people’s names. Full names and job roles would be appreciated.

**COMMENTS**

You can send any comments to Healthwatch Cornwall

- By post to:

  Freepost RTUL-UBEJ-ERCA  
  Healthwatch Cornwall  
  6 Walsingham Place,  
  Truro, Cornwall,  
  TR1 2RP

- By phone at the following number:

  Freephone number: 0800 0381 281

- Via the website at:

  www.healthwatchcornwall.co.uk  
  (complete have your say form)