

Autism Steering Group
Meeting #2 – 30th July 2024
Chalvey Community Hub, Slough
Easy Read Minutes

Welcome and introductions.

- GDM welcomed all professionals attending the meeting and noted that only a very small representation of autistic people and their carers was present.
- Everyone said hello and shared a bit about themselves with the group.
- Some members expressed disappointment in seeing a wide professional representation but little autistic representation.
- A member of the group asked for clarification on what the group will work to achieve. It was explained that the group will be responsible for delivering the action plan included in the Adult Autism Strategy.
- Participants shared their expectations about the meeting saying they would like to see more initiatives dedicated to Autistic people because it seems there are no services available in Slough for Autistic people.
- A comment was made about looking into long delays for being assessed. It was explained that assessment is managed by NHS and the Local Authority has little influence on this.

Actions: GDM to explore how to involve more autistic people with the group.

“Expert by Experience” training – Autism awareness and reasonable adaptations

- The Group Chair introduced the agenda item
- The goal of the expert by experience training will be to create a training programme that can be delivered to professionals within the local authority, the NHS, and the business community to increase awareness and understanding of autism.
- The programme must be led by autistic people and delivered by autistic people
- Creative Academy has offered to support the creation of the training and the support of their neurodivergent students to deliver the programme
- The group commented the main areas that the training should focus on such as what being autistic means for autistic people, the challenges they encounter to navigate their daily life, and the adaptations that are needed in education and at work.

- The group suggested that the training could be made in short videos rather than being delivered in person.
- The videos can be made available via Slough Borough Council website so that everyone can access these.

Actions: GDM to coordinate with the group, Creative Academy, and the Communication department at Slough Borough Council to create the training videos.

Tea Break

Support in the Community – Step Together

- TC from Step Together introduced their organisation to the group. They provide a variety of activities in the community
- People can access those activities privately and/or via Direct Payments and can talk to their social workers to be referred or refer themselves.
- The organisation is not CQC registered and do not provide personal care but the activities are supported by the presence of support workers.
- The organisation is looking forward to collaborating with the Steering Group to improve their offerings and include more and more activities.

Actions: GDM to share the calendar of activities with the group.

Active in the community – Disability sport event in Slough

- The non-profit CIC “Active in the Community” presented their sport taster event for visible and invisible disabilities.
- The event will take place at Hershel Grammar School on 16th August at 10:00
- It is both for children aged 8 and above and adults with disabilities.
- There will be possibility to participate in wheelchair rugby, disability football, and “multi-sport” session.
- Booking is needed to attend the 2 hours slots and can be made on the day.

Actions: GDM to share the event presentation with the group.

The Autism Steering Group – Agenda Items for next meeting

As there were not many people present, and there were not many autistic people and their carers attending, the group decided to agree on agenda items for next meeting via email.

Actions: GDM to start email circulation to agree agenda items for next meeting