

Worcestershire Autism Partnership Board Meeting

Tuesday, 18th March 2025 11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Online – Microsoft Teams

People Present:

Name	Organisation/Job Title
Laura Westwood	Co-Chair, WCC, Lead Commissioner
Hazel Shaw	Co-Chair, Expert by Experience, parent carer and Co-Chair of Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum
Emma Allen	WCC, Commissioning Officer
Sue Onions	Carer
Bridget Nisbet	Carer
Bernadette Louise	Parent carer, ICB Autism Champion, Co-Chair of Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum
Cat Bennett	Ourway Self Advocacy
Jill Hughes	WCC, Interim head of neuro diversity services
Debbie Lamont	Healthwatch Worcestershire – Lead for Children and Families
Nikol Harrison	WCC Team Manager, Adult Neurodiversity Team
Nicky Pearson	WCC Adult Front Door
Anna Swift	H&W ICB Lead for neuro divergent children and young people
Linda Ebbutt	NAS volunteer
Cass Margetts-Currie	Expert by Experience
Anne Eyre	Parent Carer
Dawn Salter	Parent Carer

Apologies:

Name	Organisation/Job Title

Item	Notes
1	Welcome and Introductions Reflections: what have you achieved/progressed since the last meeting (update in chat function)

Item	Notes
	<p>Since the last meeting Onside has offered volunteer work experience collecting service user feedback to an ASC young adult. I am very interested in any resources that are available with regards to reasonable adjustments. Suggestion made: World Autism Acceptance at Work Toolkit</p> <p>Since the last meeting, WPCF am now involved in the CAMHS & Autism QA visit (a deep dive). We are also a partner in the PINs project (Primary inclusion for Neurodivergent students) that will run through the school year 2025/26.</p> <p>Since the last meeting I looked at the ACAS info about reasonable adjustments (RA) - some good examples. Also accidentally spoke with a friend who had asked for RA at an interview - it went well.</p>
2	<p>Minutes from last meeting December minutes - No errors or amendments raised, now finalised.</p> <p>Actions from previous meeting/s:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gap in mental health provision for autistic people- Invite Jack Wainwright and Adult Mental Health Service Practitioners to a future meeting. It was suggested to invite Amy Smith from health. 2. Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training (OMMT)- Invite Ugo Jonathan to a future meeting to update on the rollout of the OMMT. 3. WCC Adult Neurodiversity Team (ANT)- Invite back in 6 months' time along with the Adult Front Door to give examples of the support that has been accessed. 4. Autism training- Update from Jack Caine: The ICB are still waiting on a code of practice for OMMT from NHS England which should clarify opportunities to integrate OMMT with other training and eligibility of certain groups for tier one vs tier two. 5. Work Well Project-Invite David Mehaffey back in 6 months' time. 6. Reasonable adjustment resources – AWM to share the resources they have. 7. Data on the number of Children and Young People that currently do not have a school place - Daniela Carson, Assistant Director for All Age Disability clarified this information is not in the public domain. It was then asked why the data is not available, Daniela agreed to follow up on the action and find out why.
3.	<p>ADASS Autism and parental blame research</p> <p>https://www.wm-adass.org.uk/improvement/autism-and-parental-blame-research/</p>

Item	Notes
	<p>The following video was played:</p> <p>Autism and parental blame research project on Vimeo</p> <p>Some group members shared their thoughts and experiences.</p> <p>Anna Swift explained that the ICB held a system wide workforce development workshop last week, and discussed the upskilling needs of the children's workforce and better understanding of the impact on families lives and parental blame came up as a key area for development. They are also taking through a business proposal to establish a ND Support Service for CYP & families, which if successful would provide individualised support, self-referral and not time limited. Should know if successful by mid-April.</p> <p>Discussion took place on what needs to happen for Worcestershire.</p> <p>Considerations to explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need for more specific training for professionals on neurodivergent conditions - Understand WCCs 'Family front door' threshold for S47 referrals. Update: there is a threshold document: https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/Levels%20of%20Need%20Document%202025.pdf - The relationship between Social Work professional standards, parental blame and FII - Neuro affirmation training/education needed <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Circulate ADASS parental blame research webinars when published - Establish what professionals are already doing against the 8 research considerations - Agenda parental blame research at a future APB meeting when ADASS have the findings/recommendation from phase 2 of the research. - Daniela will take neuro affirmation training/education action to the SEND committee to inform the wider training package that is being developed. - CWD SW team to understand the parental blame research and consider how they mitigate against issues raised within day-to-day practice whilst ensuring safeguarding remains a key priority.
4.	Feedback from LDA Programme Board

Item	Notes
	<p>Not discussed</p> <p>Feedback from SEND Delivery Plan Review - Daniela Carson, Assistant Director for All Age Disability</p> <p>Daniela gave a brief update:</p> <p>There was an event on 27th February which looked at the strategies that feed into SEND strategy delivery plan to understand the journey so far. Six strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early years and best start in life - Post 16 NEET - School organisational plan (SEND provision now and in the future) - Learning Disability - All-age Autism - All-age Carers <p>Discussed what needs to happen next. Daniela explained she will be able to provide another update at the end of April.</p>
5.	<p>AOB and partner updates</p> <p>Reflections: what are you going to do before the next meeting? (update in chat function)</p> <p>I am going to talk to Louise Oland about ND and Parental Blame training for schools</p> <p>I'm going to look for "Blamed Instead of Helped" and share it wherever I can!</p>
	<p>Next Meeting: 17th June 2025 11:00-12:30</p>