

Worcestershire Autism Reference Group Meeting
Wednesday, 4th June 2025, 13.00 am – 14.30 pm

People Present:

Name	Organisation/Job Title
LW	Co-Chair, Worcestershire County Council (WCC), Adult Social Care Lead Commissioner
CC	Co-Chair and Expert by Experience
HS	Co-Chair of Worcestershire Autism Partnership Board and Expert by Experience
EA	WCC, Commissioning Officer
JC	NHS in the Integrated Care Board for Herefordshire and Worcestershire
5	Expert by Experience

Item	Notes
1	Welcome and Introductions
2	<p>Minutes from last meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minutes from the last meeting – approved and agreed these will be published online. 2. Actions from previous meeting: <p>ACTION: Send around services and mapping template – ask for responses- completed</p> <p>ACTION: Find out levels of traffic to WCC autism website and Autism West Midlands webpages – working progress</p> <p>ACTION: Group to email autismgroups@worcestershire.gov.uk to put suggestions forward and share any good resources that you have found and would recommend others to look at – completed</p> <p>ACTION: Have a remote panel to review one another's recommendations – the list of recommendations have been circulated to the group for feedback, if there are any reasons why the suggested recommendations should not be promoted wider, email: autismgroups@worcestershire.gov.uk by the 18th June 2025.</p>
3.	<p>Autism Strategy: Priority 4 “Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people” – Jack Caine, Senior Programme Lead – Learning Disability and Autism, NHS Herefordshire, and Worcestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jack went through a power point presentation giving an overview of what is included in the autism strategy's health priority and people had the opportunity to ask questions.

Item	Notes
4.	<p>Questions to Jack from the Reference Group – All</p> <p>Jack answered the questions from the group during the presentation.</p>
5.	<p>Discussion – All</p> <p>The following questions were discussed amongst the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are your recent experiences of using a health service as an Autistic person? What was positive or challenging about the experience? <p>Positive and challenging experiences shared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How helpful (or not) has diagnosis been in helping you understand or access the help you need as an Autistic person? <p>General consensus that diagnosis was fundamentally important for autistic people to understand themselves and be able to advocate for themselves. Before diagnosis people did not know what was out there because they did not understand what the issues were and what support was needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What message would you share with all health professionals about autism and why? <p>Key messages for professionals discussed.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share examples of reasonable adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Draft Reasonable Adjustment policy developed by Reasonable Adjustments Digital Flag project. o Sensory Friendly Environment Projects examples of common recommendations. o 10 most common reasonable adjustments – document from Worcestershire Royal Hospital. - Share feedback about issues around accessing GP appointments – phone, web forms etc. with Marie Gibson.
6.	<p>Next steps and feedback to the Autism Partnership Board</p>

Item	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reasonable adjustments digital flag - agreed would be useful to have some more examples of what those reasonable adjustments could be. Jack Caine agreed to provide examples. - Ensure people understand the mechanism to feedback comments/complaints re diagnostic assessments and other commissioned services. - Different experiences given using G.P online booking systems and discussed whether this can be incorporated into GP Sensory friendly environment work. - Someone's positive experience of using the sunflower lanyard and Access Card – feed this into the priority one's autism strategy action plan.
	Next Meeting: TBC