**Thurrock Adults Autism Action Group**

**Friday 30th June 2017**

**2 – 3.30 pm, Thurrock Council, Civic Offices, Committee Room 1**

Attendees: Allison Hall – Thurrock Council (Interim Co-Chair)

Ian Evans – Thurrock Coalition

Karen Haltham – Thurrock Coalition (minutes)

David Drew – CDN

Tom Hichisson – Family Mosaic

Richard Priest – Family Mosaic

Ron Hull – Family Mosaic

Marco Tomasi – Foundation Architects

Andrea Walter – SAFE

David Myatt – Parent/Carer

Janet Cunliffe – Parent

Lisa Brodie-Jones – Thurrock Mind

Perola Sestini – Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions

Lesley Love – Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions/Love ABA Ltd

Apologies: Ashley Woodward – CaPa – Co-Chair

Wendy Robertson

Bill Clayton

Anita Griffiths

Zac Rezig – Family Mosaic

Maggie Argent

Mo James

Katrine Basso

Jane Flatt

Jennifer Hubbard

Insp. Kevin Whipps

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|  | **Discussion** | **ACTION** |
|  | **Welcome and Introductions**  Allison Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.  Insp Kevin Whipps sent a message to assure members of his ongoing interest on behalf of Essex Police and is looking forward to showing progress in meeting the needs of people with autism within the Criminal Justice Sector.  Allison Hall informed those present that the Thurrock Council Autism Action Group Co-Chair no longer works for the Authority and a replacement is in hand and that she will be the interim Co-Chair until the new person is in post.  Allison also stated this meeting is mainly to discuss the Medina Road Project and after today it is hoped the regular AAG meetings will be back on track. |  |
|  | **Family Mosaic Presentation – Medina Road Project**  Following a successful bid to Central Government, Family Mosaic will be building 6 one bedroom apartments for young people with Autism and or learning difficulties. There is a time limit on spending the funding which is why plans need to be submitted as soon as possible.  The purpose of the meeting today is to look at the plans and drawings before they are submitted to the Planning Department.  We will discuss:   * Design * Time table * Fixtures and Fittings   Richard Priest gave some background information about Family Mosaic.  A presentation was given, a copy is attached for your information. **ACTION: Richard to email a copy to Ian/Karen to attach to the minutes.** | Richard Priest/Ian/  Karen |
|  | **Questions, Answers and Next Steps**  .  The site is at the end of Media Road, Grays, the current building will be demolished.  Family Mosaic have spoken to Treetops Parents and students.  The apartments will be for:   * Thurrock Residents * Those approaching 18 and above with Autism/Learning Disability.   Architect has been involved since the beginning.  Design:   * 6 units – one bed apartments * 3 buildings (semi-detached) * 1 building for management and carer with overnight facilities * Parking for Units/Staff/Visitors, 11 parking spaces, including 6 disabled level 3 building code M * Trying to retain some trees from the site, general feel is to be ‘Green’ * Looked at guidance from people with Autism – including wheelchair users. Apartments are approximately 20% bigger than usual one bed apartments, and are to Happi Standards. * Living area with kitchen – large glazing to outside terrace. * One bedroom * Bathroom – bath and/or shower space for both at moment. * Opportunity to link unit, could change to 3 bed by adding two together * Style – contemporary interpretation of traditional housing. * Private outside space * Communal space – can be used to meet * Changes in level – trying to use change in levels to advantage * Trees have been evaluated for what value they give. * Very little overlooked. * Look on to allotments.   The front building – primarily for staff and waking night support, could also be used for:   * Sensory room * Community Room   Staffing:   * Staffed 24/7 * Each person will have own budget * If need 24 hours – night awake staff – a discussion was held around the possibility of opening up the store cupboards and making a bedroom for a staff member between two apartments. * Staff will always be on site * Sensors will be around * Can make two apartments into one to become a 3 bed for 2 customers and one carer * No sleep-in carer in one bedroom apartment   Who can move in – what criteria will be used?  Teams are doing planning work and running waiting lists.  Taking about 18 months to commission  How many people waiting?  Could fill 3 x over   * Housing benefit – if only one bedroom of a two bedroom apartment is used it will be subject to the Bedroom Tax, subletting is not permitted * Short hold tenancy – not assured, not for life, needs may change, may stay for transition, would like to see is as a home.   Security:   * Assorted technology, lighting comes on – gate electronically operated. * There will be assistive technology to alert staff to front doors opening etc.   Footpaths – would like to look and feel like a footpath, there is a need for vehicles to get up to front doors from time to time “resin garden-esque bound gravel”, (to be confirmed) with drop down bollards for easy access for emergency services, large deliveries etc. Cars to be in the car park and NOT parked on footpath area.  Family Mosaic have an idea that has worked in other places.  Apartments will be built to high specification.  Time table:   * Plans submitted in three weeks. Not sure if have to go to Scrutiny Committee – expecting response by November 2017 * Contractor to start December 2017 * Completion March 2019.   Fixtures and fittings, wants and desires:   * Door handles * Toilet fittings * Cooking facilities   Richard to email Allison on Monday with questionnaire regarding fixtures and fittings. **ACTION: Richard to email Allison.**  It was noted that not all people are able to use assistive tech.  There is a high need in Thurrock for this type of accommodation, at present people are being placed outside of borough which is not cost effective and this is a start to fulfilling the need. | Richard Priest |
|  | **Southend, Essex and Thurrock - Transforming Care Partnership Update**  Allison gave a very brief update, a copy of a flyer on “How to check up on your Transforming Care Partnership (TCP)” is attached for your information. **ACTION: Karen to attach flyer to minutes**  Any questions re transforming care can be addressed to Catherine Wilson | Karen Haltham |
|  | **Information on Adult Autism Action Group**  **Frequency of meetings**  It was agreed to hold the meetings quarterly, on the first Monday, future meetings:  Monday 4th September 2017  Monday 4th December 2017  Monday 5th March 2018  Monday 4th June 2018  Monday 3rd September 2018  Monday 3rd December 2018  Venue: I n the Main Hall at The Beehive, West Street, Grays RM17 6XP  Time: afternoon (time to be confirmed)  **Joining and getting involved**  If you know of a young person, carer or parents who would like to be added to the invite/circulation list can you please email Karen on [karen@thurrockcoalition.co.uk](mailto:karen@thurrockcoalition.co.uk). |  |
|  | **Any Other Business**  In February 2017 we held an event to showcase the equipment purchased with the Capital Funding, a list of the equipment available to hire from Thurrock Centre for Independent Living and Beacon Hill to be attached to the minutes. **ACTION: Karen to attach list to minutes**  **Next Meeting**  **Monday 18th September 2017**  **at The Beehive, West Street, Grays RM17 6XP**  **time to be confirmed.** | Karen Haltham |