**Thurrock Adults Autism Action Group**

**Monday 18th September 2017**

**11.30 am to 1 pm, The Training Room in The Beehive**

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

Ashley Woodward – CaPa, (Co-Chair)

Ian Evans – Thurrock Coalition

Karen Haltham – Thurrock Coalition (minutes)

Catherine Wilson – Thurrock Council

Christine Ludlow – World of Work and TCIL

Wendy Robertson – Thurrock Mind

Janet Cunliffe – Parent

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Discussion** | **ACTION** |
|  | **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**  Ashley welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.  Allison stated she is acting Co-Chair at present until an Autism Lead is appointed.  Wendy will feedback to Cariads via Thurrock Mind.  Apologies: Sharon Allison – Health  Andrea Walter - SAFE |  |
|  | **Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising.**  The minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed as a true record.  Matters Arising:  Family Mosaic, Medina Road Project – the link was circulated but not everyone was able to access it. It was be accessed on the Thurrock Council Website. |  |
|  | **Autism Hour – Monday 2nd October 2017**  An initiative by the National Autism Society to raise awareness and introduce Autism Friendly times at Shopping Centres whereby music, children’s rides, hand dryers in toilets (hand towels available in toilets) etc will be turned off to make the shopping experience more Autism Friendly. This will take place on Monday 2nd October 2017 between 10 and 11 am in shopping centres around the country. At the time of the meeting Intu at Lakeside was not taking part and a letter/email was to be sent to them. Following this meeting and prior to 2nd October 2017 it was seen in the local press they were to take part.  Clarke’s Shoes have been pro-active in training staff and making their stores and footwear autism friendly.  Grays Town Centre have a ‘Welcome Wednesday’ for an hour in the afternoon of the last Wednesday of the month, whereby they also turn off music, children’s rides, hand dryers etc.  Wendy advised the Thurrock Mind shop in Clarence Road has ‘Quiet Room’ for if anyone needs it as a space to calm and can be used when the shop is open. Grays Shopping Centre are aware of this. |  |
|  | **Southend, Essex and Thurrock - Transforming Care Partnership Update**  Catherine Wilson went through the presentation, see copy attached **ACTION:** Karen Haltham to circulate with the minutes. Discussion took place and the following comments were made:   * Autism and Transforming Care – Autism touches lives although not all are diagnosed. * How many people are not diagnosed? Taking two years to be diagnosed! * Lack of support and services | Karen Haltham |
|  | **Transforming Care Partnership, Experts by Experience Group update from meeting held in Chelmsford on 15.9.17**  Unfortunately this meeting was cancelled. It is hoped a meeting will take place in October 2017, feedback will be given at the next meeting. |  |
|  | **Family Mosaic – Medina Road Project Update**  Plans have been submitted. So far, there has been negative response from local residents and they have clearly formed a collective. Les Billingham is happy to facilitate an open meeting with local residents. Allison will email Christopher to obtain relevant dates regarding planning and build.  *Email received from Allison Hall on 22.9.17, Relevant dates so far:*   * *Planning Submitted – Tuesday 8th August 2017* * *Notice expected – by Wednesday 11th October 2017* * *Issue of Tender Documents – Monday 25th September 2017* * *Tender Return – Monday 6th November 2017* * *Signing of Contract Documents – by Friday 15th December 2017* * *Site Possession – Monday 18th December 2017* * *Construction Commencement – Monday 6th January 2018 (including demolition)* * *Proposed Completion date – 60 weeks after construction commencement (contractor to be given the option to provide their own programme)* | Allison Hall |
|  | **Any Other Business**  **Task and Finish Group**  - Autism Action Group could take the lead on this, to be taken to the Thurrock Disability Partnership Board meeting on Thursday 21st September 2017.  **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).  **Next Meeting**  **Monday 4th December 2017**  **at The Beehive, West Street, Grays RM17 6XP**  **1.30 – 3 pm in the Main Hall (near the kitchen)** | Karen Haltham |