**Thurrock Adults Autism Action Group**

**Monday 33rd December 2018**

**1.30 – 3 pm at the Beehive, Grays**

 **Attendees:** Ashley Woodward – CaPa, (Co-Chair)

 Ian Evans – Thurrock Coalition

 Steph Vallis – Thurrock Coalition (minutes)

 Zerina Hanif – Strategic Commissioner for Mental Health, Dementia

 And Autism

 Christine Ludlow – TCIL WOW

 Barbara Rice – Healthwatch (Interim Manager)

Ruby Summers - Healthwatch

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|  | **Discussion** | **ACTION** |
|  | **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**Ashley welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.* Zerina Hanif introduced herself as the new in post Strategic Commissioner for Mental Health, Dementia and Autism.
* Preparing for Adulthood Report - Steph to attach a copy of the report to the minutes.

Apologies: Mo White (PATT) Emma White (Project Officer for Peabody)  Katrine (Individual Service User)  |  |
|  | **Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising.**The minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed as a true record with the following comments:* Zerina asked if there had been any input from the CCG or Primary Care.
* **Action** Steph to attach Preparing for Adulthood to the minutes
* Medina Road Project update – Zerina to ask Emma White
* Ashley asked if Thurrock had participated in Transforming Care Partnership, Zerina will ask and update Ashley

Brenda asked how many ATU there are in Thurrock, Ashley knew of 1. Would be good to know how to plan to bring people back in to the borough.Minutes proposed by: Ashley WoodwardMinutes seconded by: Ian Evans**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising. | StephZerinaAshleyZerina |
| **3.** | **Local Account Co-Production Update**Ian updated the group on the Local account. The Workshops were facilitated by [Community Catalysts CIC](https://www.communitycatalysts.co.uk/) with operational and content support from [Thurrock Coalition](http://www.thurrockcoalition.co.uk/). There were 3 separate workshops, each lasting approximately 3 hours, each aimed at a specific audience, a mix of individuals, family members, carers, Adult Social Care and third sector professionals. 1. **Making the most of every contact - Tell Us/Ask Us Once**
2. **Join up mental health and physical health services and social care**
3. **Public Health & Wellbeing - Focus upon Prevention**
4. **Direct Payments - Greater clarity for service users contemplating Direct Payments**
5. **Training – Co-produce a community, Third sector-led as well as a statutory offer**
6. **Develop a Marketing Strategy for Adult Social Care**
7. **Home Care, Respite and Carers Support**
8. **Build upon community resilience**
9. **Expansion of services for people on the autistic spectrum**
10. **Safeguarding and keeping vulnerable people safe**

The Report & Recommendations for Local Accounts in Thurrock following the workshops can be found on the Thurrock Coalition website here:<http://www.thurrockcoalition.co.uk/?p=351>* Barbara stated that TLS have helped with Healthchecks, they worked closely with College Health. Figures went from 12% to 68%, although it would be good to have actual numbers of people.
* Ashley said the last Healthcheck her son had was very good.
* If the GP cannot carry out a Healthcheck the Practice Nurse can.
* Barbara asked how the priorities will be monitored, Ian said Les and Ann will keep the Disability Partnership Board updated.
* Barbara asked what the improvement of services will be measured against? Ian said that Baselines will have to be decided by the Council.

Ian went through the Direct Payment Engagement Group and that they are trying to get an information leaflet drawn up available in different formats. Zerina asked if there is going to be any training for Social Workers for Direct Payment, Ian informed Zerina of the Direct Payment workshops. |  |
| **4.** | **Thurrock Council – Autism Self-Assessment questionnaire** Zerina gave a presentation on the Autism Self-Assessment Framework for Autism 2018, The overview and purpose of the Autism local self-assessment is undertaken partly to assist local planning and partly to support the government in its duty to monitor progress in implementation of the Autism Strategy. We complete the SAF every two years in Thurrock to understand the extent to which we are upholding our statutory duty in regards to people with lived experience of Autism.Zerina went through the RAG rating system, and areas that need improving and asked the group if they had any ideas in which they thought the Self-Assessment could use improvement and they suggested:* Education for more complex Autism.
* Home schooling needs to be looked at more.
* Training for care front line staff.

National Self-Assessment Framework for Autism 2018 Presentation attached to minutes. |  |
| **5** | **Peabody (Family Mosaic) – Medina Road Project Update*** No further Updates apart from ground has been broken on the project.
* Planned completion now moved to August 2019.

**ACTION** Zerina will contact Allison and update the group by email.  | Zerina |
| **6** | **International Day of Disabled People 2018**Ian gave a short presentation on International Day of Disabled People.The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. It aims to promote the rights and well-being of disabled people in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of disabled people in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.* Barbara said that using the term difference as opposed to disability could cause a problem. Ian stated that it depends which statutory organization, The DWP requires more of a deficit based approach, requiring an official diagnosis. The term difference can be used to break barriers.
* People can be penalized for being Disabled
* More of a holistic approach
* Ian reported that there is a new service called AccessAble (the new name for DisableGo) an online Website making it easier for disabled people to go out. To give the detailed information needed to work out if a place is going to be accessible or not. There is also an App available to download on google play and the App store.
* There is also an equipment/Tech Hire Service at TCIL where you can hire weighted Jackets and try out apps available on their iPad. Please contact TCIL for more information.
* There is a Hire service at Beacon Hill Academy where you can hire Sound Beams Bubble Tubes Projection Equipment Portable Ball Pools Musical Instruments Fibre Optics Switch Accessible Toys Sensory Kits Story Sacks and more.

http://www.beaconhill.thurrock.sch.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2016/10/Aladdins-Cave-Application-Form.pdf* Zerina reported that there is also a very useful website with App called Braininhand, Brain in Hand is an on demand support system that gives people access to detailed personalised support from their smartphone, putting the individual more in control of their own support. Always available, it gives easy access to reminders, notes, coping strategies and a team of trained professionals to give help when and where it’s needed.

http://braininhand.co.uk/* More shopping centres should have Autism friendly days.
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| **7** | **Survey on how the Partnership Boards, Groups and Forums are working for people in Thurrock.**Ian gave a presentation on The Partnership Boards, Groups and Forums and how they are working for people in Thurrock.Thurrock Coalition wants hear about peoples’ experiences and views on how they currently find out about what's happening with Health and Social Care in Thurrock and how they take part and make their voices heard. We hope that by sharing experiences and views we can influence the improvement of services in the future. The answers will help us to identify issues and to help increase the numbers and range of people taking part and feeling able to speak up about important local topics in consultations and events by visiting new and existing groups.* Barbara said she doesn’t think people are well informed and not aware of initiatives.
* Zerina asked how this will be published, Ian stated that it is in co-production with the Thurrock Council and outreach work done by Thurrock Coalition
* Healthwatch are running a survey on Adult Dental Health in particular for people with Learning difficulties. Barbara handed out surveys for the group to fill out.
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| **8** | **Any Other Business**No other business  |  |
|  | **Next Meeting 4th March 2019****at The Beehive, West Street, Grays RM17 6XP****1.30 – 3 pm**  |  |