**Thurrock Adults Autism Action Group**

**Monday 5th March 2018**

**1.30 – 3 pm at the Beehive, Grays**

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

 Catherine Wilson – Thurrock Council (Acting Co-Chair)

 Ian Evans – Thurrock Coalition

 Karen Haltham – Thurrock Coalition (minutes)

 Perola Sestini – Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions - TACT

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|  | **Discussion** | **ACTION** |
|  | **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**Ashley welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.As Allison Hall, Interim Co-Chair is unable to attend Catherine Wilson acted at Co-Chair.Apologies: Allison Hall – Interim Co-Chair, Thurrock Council Mo James – PATT Andrea Walter – SAFE Wendy Robertson – Thurrock Mind |  |
|  | **Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising.**The minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed as a true record.**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising. |  |
| **3.** | **Presentation and Q&A on the TACT Programme – Perola Sestine**Perola gave a very informative presentation on the work of the Thurrock Autistic Community Together (TACT) Programme. A copy to be sent with the minutes, ACTION Karen Haltham. TACT is a two-year **person-centred** education programme based on **Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)** to:* **Increase functional skills**: daily living skills, academic skills, social skills, communication skills
* **Decrease behaviours**: challenge behaviours that stop the individual from accessing the community and having a good Quality of Life (QoL)

**How do we get there?*** **Personalised assessments**: family interviews, observation on natural environments, preference assessments, health assessments, behaviour assessments

 * **Pairing:** Pair the environment and the people with fun exploring the individual’s favourite activities.
* Further skills assessments **(AFLS/ABLLS/ Essentials for Living):**

**Individual Educational and Lifestyle Plan** **(IELP):** target skills selected from the assessments/ objective/ achievement criteria**Communication skills:** Example: Requesting / will request for items when the item is present / 10 items **Academic targets**: Example: Copy typing/ will copy letters to the keyboard / copy 3 words **Independence and self-help skills:** Example: Dress the right way around/ will correct identify clothes and dress the right way/ 2 clothes items **Health:** Example: Cooperate with health examinations/will tolerate a blood test/cooperate with blood test**Involvement in the community:** Example: Tap his bus pass when using a bus/ will enter the bus and tap his bus pass/independently **Relationships:** Example: Participate with others in shared leisure / will participate in shared activities/2 or more activities **Careers:** Example: Clean tables/ will be able to clean the tables / independently **Weekly time table:** Daily living skills: break down tasks in a chain of small stepsIntensive teaching: remove a skill from the environment and teach more intensively* Natural environment teaching: shopping, community opportunities
* Community and social opportunities: work experience, shared activities
* Behaviour plan to increase appropriate behaviour and decrease Challenging Behaviour (CB)

**Natural environmental teaching and community opportunities:*** Bike ride at Thames Chase Park
* Work experience at Jump Giants
* Work Experience at Hardy Park
* Watching Grease live at Cliffs Pavillion
* Waiting for the bus
* Attending Blackshots Gym
* Shopping at local stores
* Cooking lunch
* Practicing to have a blood test
* Leisure and sensory activities
 | Karen Haltham |
| **4.** | **Making Community Areas more Autism Friendly – Discussion on allocating the remaining Grant Funding**All local authorities were able to apply for funding to make community areas more autism-friendly. The £18,500 grant could be used to but electronic equipment such as iPads to improve services for people with autism, in partnership with Thurrock Coalition and Beacon Hill Academy an Autism Friendly Equipment Hire Service was set up. There are monies still remaining to spend on make community areas more autism-friendly, or purchasing more equipment. A discussion took place around the possibility of setting up an Autism Friendly outdoor/drive in Cinema event or events. Could be a good project for the AAG to undertake. Similar to the "A Beautiful Mind" Cinema Project that runs for people with Dementia in Thurrock at the Thameside Theatre.ACTION: AAG to identify attendees who would be interested in taking the idea forward and developing it. | All |
| **5** | **Family Mosaic – Medina Road Project Update**Catherine reported there has been some issues with the planning with regards:* More trees to remain
* Building not blending in with the rest of the road

The office building will now be two story with an accessible apartment on the top floor.There is a meeting at 10am tomorrow, 6th March 2018. **ACTION:**  Catherine to email Karen with update for the minutes.Catherine’s update re: Medina Road *– Planning permission has now been agreed with the slight amendments regarding the office building and additional trees. A project plan is now being developed to deliver the build. Family Mosaic have asked if they can come back to the Autism Action group to give an update later in the year (September/October )  also that they would like to invite members of the Board to a site visit as the work starts and to have regular visits as the work progresses. Family Mosaic will produce a draft leaflet about Medina Road which they would welcome the Autism Action Group’s contribution to. The draft will be provided once it has been written.* Planned completion by March 2019 prior to the Housing Benefit Changes in April 2019.Flat in Poley Road, Stanford-Le-Hope will be opening on 20th March 2018. | Catherine Wilson |
| **6** | **Transforming Care Partnership, Experts by Experience Group Update**There have been a number of meetings cancelled.Specification for Specialist Health Services is being written and how the services are going to be delivered.There is a Transforming Care meeting tomorrow, **ACTION**: Catherine to give feedback for the next meeting.Catherine’s feedback - *The specification for specialist health services has been competed the next phase is to ensure that it will deliver the local services that are required in Thurrock making sure that services are accessible and responsive to need. Catherine is having a meeting on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 to discuss this with the Transforming Care Lead for Essex Southend and Thurrock*.  | Catherine Wilson |
| **7** | **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)****Ian gave a brief update and in summary as follows:**The High Court has found that part of the rules governing Personal Independence Payments (PIP) are unlawful and discriminate against people with mental health impairments.  The full judgment can be read [here](http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2017/3375.html).**Background**From 16 March 2017, new PIP regulations prevented an award of the enhanced PIP mobility rate in cases where someone cannot follow the route of a familiar journey without another person unless it is “for reasons other than psychological distress”.This meant that those with serious mental health conditions, who are unable to plan or undertake a journey because of overwhelming psychological distress were only entitled to a lower level of support, if any.**The High Court Judge:*** quashed the new regulations because they discriminate against those with disabilities in breach of Human Rights Act 1998 obligations
* declared that the Secretary of State did not have lawful power to make the regulations (i.e. they were ‘ultra vires’) and should have consulted before making them
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| **8** | **Any Other Business**Catherine reported the Thurrock Council Lead for Autism/Mental Health and Dementia post was not filled when last advertised, there were four applicants who were interviewed but unfortunately Thurrock Council were unable to appoint. Will be re-advertising. |  |
|  | **Next Meeting****Monday 4th June 2018** **at The Beehive, West Street, Grays RM17 6XP****1.30 – 3 pm**  |  |