

Hampshire Autism Partnership Board

MINUTES

Tuesday 25th June - 10.00 - 12.30 (via Teams)

Present:

Margaret White - Hampshire Autism Voice member – Chairing today
Cllr Lesley Meenaghan - Co-chair of HAPB, County Councillor
Jason Norum - Head of Commissioning young adults, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Physical Disability, HCC - Autism Lead
Michael White – General Practitioner, Hampshire Autism Voice member
Rachel Carter - Hampshire Autism Voice member & Vice chair of NAS South Hampshire
Tina Woodcock - Lead for Keyworker programme, HIOW ICB
Catherine Barnard - Transformation Lead, Hampshire Adult Mental Health/All Age Autism and ADHD, HIOW ICB
Leigh Drury – Early Years inclusion manager and Autism lead 0-5year CSD, HCC
Robyn Kohler – Citizens Advice Bureau
Maria Hayward - Learning and Development service manager, AHC, HCC
Gemma Langman - GP and Clinical Champion for Learning Disabilities and Autism
Sgt Emma Pragnell - Out of Court Resolutions and Restorative Justice Force Lead, Hampshire Constabulary
Vanessa Cosby – HAV member
Linda Moon – Disability Employment Adviser (DEA), Cosham, DWP
Ashleigh Spice – Specialist Mentoring Service Lead, Autism Hampshire
Katie Board – Service Manager, Autism Hampshire
Denise Long - Hampshire Autism Voice member
Su Seymour - Hampshire Autism Voice member
Zoë Beasley – Hampshire Autism Partnership coordinator (& Minute taker)

Tentative:

Rosemary Goodrich - Hampshire Autism Voice member
Julian Radcliffe - County Education Manager, Early Intervention & Vulnerable Learners, HCC

Apologies:


Amanda Kent – Speakeasy Advocacy
Karina Hourd - Group Director of Business Development, Avenues Trust Group
Mark Hewer - District Manager (Children and Families), CSD
Alison Dyer – Disability Employment Adviser lead for Solent and IOW, DWP
Maxine Gibson - Head of Community Services, Avenues Group
Andew Lund – Area Director (NW), CSD, HCC
Alice Madden-Curtis - Deputy Autism Adult Lead & Commissioning Officer AHC, HCC
David Carter – Hampshire Autism Voice member, Chair of NAS South Hampshire branch
Alie Chartier – Community Engagement & Inclusion Officer, Hampshire FA
Paul Richardson - Chair of Hampshire Parent Carer Network
Alyson Miller - Hampshire Autism Voice member


Agenda items:

1. Welcome
2. [Minutes of last meeting: Actions & any matters arising](#)
3. [Welcome to new members](#)
4. [Terms of Reference & Governance](#)
5. [Hampshire Autism Voice Briefing Paper](#)


6. [Autism Hampshire update](#)
7. [HCC updates](#)
8. [Mental Health Charter update](#)
9. [Health Neurodiverse Pathway update](#)
10. [Strategy update – action plans](#)
11. [Any other business](#)

Agenda Item	Subject	Action
1.	<p><u>Welcome and chairing today (Margaret White)</u></p> <p>Members welcomed</p>	
2.	<p><u>Introductions/ Minutes of last meeting and any matters arising/ HAPB actions</u></p> <p>Introductions given by all. No concerns or corrections arising from previous minutes</p> <p>Action log updates from March’s outstanding actions given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denise Long – has spoken with Amanda Kent about a young man and his family being supported by Denise. The service would not be appropriate for him. This is still ongoing to find the right support for the gentleman. • Alison Dyer updated via email with contact details for her counterparts in other areas (will be shared separate to minutes) • Outstanding action for Jason to link Dr Gemma Langman with Public Health – <i>Zoë will send reminder.</i> • Outstanding action about HAPB’s population health data request– <i>Tina explained that she and Gemma Langman wrote to 73 general practices requesting autism data. Response rate is around 50% after four weeks. The autism data can be broken into different age cohorts, all ages and percentage for each practice.</i> 	<p>ACTION: 1.Population health data to be Sept HAPB agenda item (ZB & TW)</p>
3.	<p><u>Welcome to new members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Alienor Chartier was unable to attend the meeting. Zoë explained that Alie is the Community Engagement & Inclusion Officer for Hampshire Football Association. Zoë attended an event that they hosted about how to build inclusion into football and have done some work together since to build autism awareness. Alie is really keen to be part of the strategy work in the community area.</i> ➤ Sergeant Emma Pragnell has taken over as the HAPB representative from Emma Hart who previously chaired the Criminal Justice task group and will be the contact for the strategy work going forward. <p>Emma Pragnell introduced her role explaining that she is an Out of Court Resolution Sergeant for Hampshire and IOW Constabulary, with an additional role working with custody as the Equality & Inclusion case worker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Robyn Kohler represents CAB (Citizens Advice) and runs the Hampshire consortium which has 15 local offices. Robyn cascades information from partnerships, such as the HAPB, to the consortium. Robyn explained her background was within Further Education as a Principal and has worked 	

	<p>within equality and diversity and additional learning needs.</p> <p>➤ Linda Moon represents the DWP on the HAPB on behalf of Alison Dyer. Linda explained she has worked in the employment sector for her whole career and is a current Autism Ambassador.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Terms of Reference sign off & Governance for HAPB (Zoë Beasley)</u></p> <p>Terms of Reference - Zoë detailed that the Terms of Reference (ToR) have been reviewed and updated with some changes mainly to language. Additionally, there are elements to aid with keeping accountability in place, to update on the strategy, and ensure partners are engaged with the HAPB.</p> <p>The Autism Steering Group's terms of reference (ToR) have been confirmed. HAPB terms are agreed in terms of main content. The updated version of ToRs will be recirculated to be finalised.</p> <p>Governance – A quick overview of the HAPB webpage creation was given including agreement for minutes to be added to the new webpage. Zoë explained that it was discussed during supervision, that we need to ensure that the minutes comply with Hampshire County Council's (HCC) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) protocols. Within the meetings, if personal experiences, family experiences, and examples of residents of Hampshire have been discussed, it is necessary to ensure that no identifiable data is shared, to comply with GDPR. This may require redaction of certain items in the minutes. If there is a personal discussion, this would need to be part of a confidential agenda item which won't necessarily be minuted. <i>No concerns presented and the Board agreed to proceed.</i></p>	<p>ACTION: 2. Re-circulate HAPB ToRs for final sign off then load to HAPB webpage (ZB)</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Hampshire Autism Voice Briefing Paper (Michael White)</u></p> <p> HAV Briefing paper for the HAPB June 21</p> <p>Overview of report provided.</p> <p>Forthcoming HAV membership changes discussed –David Carter will be stepping down in September from HAV. David will continue to attend the HAPB quarterly meeting with his NAS and Ambassadors roles and will no longer attend the Autism Steering Group. Rachel will attend the ASG, and HAV meetings.</p> <p>It was also discussed that some other members of HAV will be looking to stand down over the coming year or two. HAV are keen to recruit new members.</p> <p><u>Questions/comments:</u></p> <p>Gemma echoed concerns about the Oliver McGowan Training. It is seen as having an impact, although not giving practical solutions for clinicians. Tina and Gemma are working on how to tackle this conundrum of “Good at the Why? And less good at the How?”</p>	

<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Autism Hampshire update (Ashleigh and Katie)</u></p>  <p>Community-Services -Presentation-06-24</p> <p>Ashleigh and Katie introduced themselves and explained about their current roles within Autism Hampshire, including an outline about the recent merger with Avenues. It is hoped that Autism Hampshire will be fully integrated with Avenues by October although public facing services will remain unchanged. Four main community services detailed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The service covers all of Hampshire and is open to individuals, families, professionals across all age ranges. Three tiered support service – each tier detailed. There is a complex group of adults who do not meet the eligibility criteria of either HCC Adult Health Care or the local mental health services • Serendipity groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These are peer led support groups across Hampshire for autistic (non-diagnosis led) adults 18+ both online and in person. The idea is to create a safe space for autistic adults. There are three new groups planned for this year. • External Training & Consultancy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Offer Continuing Professional Development (CPD) accredited training and is about empowering people. All trainers are autistic. Three levels of training sessions were described. ○ Consultancy offers one-to-one interviews with an autistic individual to support their employment and advise what adjustments may benefit them. They can write recommendations for the individual or for their employer. • Specialist mentoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This service is only available for university students with personalised one-to-one support. <p>Autism Hampshire’s CQC Regulated services also discussed. Autism Hampshire currently have 20 homes across Hampshire and some domiciliary care which is commissioned by the Local Authority. There is a range of properties for which there is a referral process.</p> <p><u>Questions/comments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Zoë asked if they had looked at widening the age ranges of the serendipity groups; looking at possibility of under 18’s? <p><i>Ashleigh stated quite few that attend are in the 18-25 years cohort. Under 18’s is an area looking at for possible future plans, although more would need to be done to ensure safeguarding in place etc. Autism Hampshire specialises in working with individuals aged 18 years and above and do feel that it is important to keep it as a focus area as less is in place for autistic adults.</i></p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>HCC updates (Zoë Beasley)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Jan Warwick is now also Deputy Leader of The Council. • Graham Allen will be retiring in the end of the summer, and Jess Hutchinson will be stepping into his role as Director of Adult Services from September. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason Brandon is returning from secondment and will take up the role of Assistant Director for Adult Services. • HCC Consultation decisions have been delayed until September to allow for the general election to conclude. • Richard Hadley has been appointed to the South West Area Director post for Children Services Department (CSD) • Details of some Children Services elements also updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Area Partnership ○ SEND Youth forum ○ Local offer • Co-production week in early July with focus on 'What's missing?' - there has been an invitation for HAPB to present within the coffee break session to list what co-production took place within the Autism Strategy. If anyone wishes to feedback their thoughts, please email Zoë directly. <p><u>Questions/comments:</u></p> <p>Members discussed the positive news about Jess Hutchinson and Jason Brandon's newly appointed positions including their awareness and positive support for the HAPB and the Autism and Mental Health Charter.</p>	
	<p><u>Break, refreshment and network</u></p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Mental Health Charter update (Rachel Carter)</u></p> <p>Rachel presented an overview of the Mental Health Charter and its background from 2016 until its formal launch in February 2020, following which the focus moved away towards Covid.</p> <p>A recent meeting discussed how we can relaunch the charter as we feel that this is now the right time.</p> <p>There was a discussion about how to move things forward including the current health focus being more around the Neurodiversity pathway. Some concern about how we get traction if the Charter has just an autism focus. Although there are overlaps within neurodiversity, there are some specific elements of how autism affects individuals where mental health issues arise., so we are keen to ensure the message doesn't get diluted.</p> <p>There are new Hampshire based organisations in place since the Charter was last promoted. Current and new partners and relevant stakeholders need to sign or re-sign up to the charter to assist in its re-invigoration. This could include an event to relaunch the charter and promote the message out there.</p> <p>A key area is looking at how to monitor and report on Charter's impact and ensuring that it becomes standard practice.</p> <p><u>Questions/comments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Zoë and Catherine discussed the Project Fusion merger, as this is a key time to put the Charter in place and capitalise on the work that went into the development of the Charter. It is not necessary to wait for the Fusion merger to be completed before a relaunch. Catherine advised that in terms of Neurodiversity, the conversation is mainly around Autism and ADHD. She does not see any issue with 	

	<p>autism being the focus given some of the specific inequalities and statistics around mental health and autism . Catherine is having a meeting with Nina Davies from Southern Health soon, as looking at upskilling the workforce, and will liaise with Paul Turner about it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gemma asked if the charter is included in the new contracts for assessment providers? <i>Catherine responded that reference has been made to it, but not specifically embedded. The assessment providers are not all specifically Mental Health providers, so the Charter may be less applicable for them.</i> ➤ Michael stated, from a GP perspective, that when individuals with experiencing suicidal thoughts present there may be undiagnosed neurodiverse diagnoses, so welcomes the Charter. The CQC is inspecting both Local Authorities and ICBs . Combined autism and mental health issues may be an area of the CQC's focus, particularly around patient experience. The Charter could be used to monitor progress and inform the CQC during inspections. 	
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>Health ND Pathway update (Catherine Barnard)</u></p>  <p>Highlight Report HIOW All Age Autisr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment updates: The HIOW Integrated Care Board (ICB) has been focusing on the procurement of assessment services for autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), which are now in place. There have been some challenges regarding transferring referrals. About 6000 unsorted past referrals from previously contracted providers are being manually cleansed, including both Autism and ADHD. <p>The Owl Centre will be delivering the autism assessments where there is no mental health co-morbidity. CAMHS will still manage referrals with mental health co-morbidities. Families and adults have expressed numerous concerns about the lack of contact from Owl Centre. Catherine has checked and complaints have now reduced. The Owl Centre is working to increase capacity as much as possible.</p> <p>Catherine explained shared care is not consistent across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. It is necessary to ensure that anybody who is in receipt of medication is clinically safe and able to access medication and reviews. There is a two-year holding period while undertaking the re-design process. This means that the adult autism service is not yet at a desired level. There has been an increase for the children and young people offer, which should minimise the knock on effect to adults. Public Health are also providing funding for adults 16-25yr olds until September 2024.</p> <p>Southern Health have applied for funding for 120 places to enable mental health staff to be trained to complete Autism and ADHD assessments, which will improve waiting lists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to Choose (RTC): 	<p>ACTION: 3. Follow up concerns about CAMHS example (ZB & CB)</p>

There has been a change to policy for RTC which now allows any provider, who meets the agreed criteria, to apply for accreditation to be part of the RTC list and be locally commissioned. The waiting list times are a significant drive for additional RTC providers.

Although it does give more choice to patients, there is a lot of work needing to be completed by the ICB to verify that all such referrals are compliant with service specifications. A RTC Accreditation process is being established currently.

- ICB redesign work:

The Improvement group is progressing well and has sub-groups in place. Attendance was very narrow initially (due to the procurement process being live) but expanding it to wider audience now and welcomes HAPB members' input. Details of the five subgroups discussed.

A pilot will be in place focusing on multidisciplinary interventions for children and young people, and community hubs for adults, which Tina Woodcock is coordinating.

Questions/comments:

- Su - (Question in chat) Why is the new provider for adult diagnoses not autism specific clinical psychologists instead of mental health psychiatrists, who focus so much on depression, anxiety, etc?
Catherine responded that this is driven by a workforce and skill set issue. NICE guidelines do have variation in who can diagnose autism, who can diagnose an ADHD and who can prescribe as well. As long as there is a multidisciplinary team around that assessment and the right senior oversight, it doesn't mean that we necessarily have to have a particular skill set or qualification as part of the direct assessment every single time.
- Zoë expressed concern that there still seems to be a lack of understanding by GP's around the Right to Choose process. Will the new policy make it clearer for GPs?
Catherine stated that the accreditation of new providers will be a huge piece of work, and once done, obligatory to put systems in place for use by GP's. In the long run eligibility for and control of shared care protocols will be more effective and clearer for GPs. CAMHS have expressed concerns about the quality of some of the RTC providers' post-diagnostic reports which should improve once accredited, as ICB will have more oversight. Accreditation will help improve compliance with NICE guidelines and safeguarding.
- Zoë also expressed concerns from some parents that have referred their children to CAMHS for assessments feel that they are being fobbed off to manage waiting lists, rather than looking at the presenting need (specific example given).
Catherine is willing to discuss this specific case offline.
- Gemma stated that even with increase in RTC, the system is overwhelmed and some providers are restricting referrals.
- Michael asked if the NHS England national guidance is helping or hindering the development of local guidelines?

	<p><i>Catherine stated guidance is not up to date so not helping really. The ICB is relying on contacts in other ICBs to help develop local contracts. Often charities have most up to date information.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Michael also asked about entitlement to a second opinion, for example, if diagnosis not confirmed. <i>Catherine responded that initially the ICB would ask the provider to do an independent review, but someone is entitled to seek a 2nd opinion. It is appreciated that presentation at the time and diagnosis is subjective. This needs to be managed responsibly and understand that need is the main reason for accessing support.</i> ➤ Michael asked if the ICB is still contracted with Ardens (template for assessment requests)? <i>Catherine responded that they do work with them but won't put access in for every contract as currently too complicated; they will use the templates once providers are accredited.</i> 	
10.	<p><u>Strategy update – action plans</u></p> <p>Variations of a strategy update report were previously shared to gain views on what format was most suitable going forward. There has not been much response or feedback.</p> <p>Zoë will recirculate and touch base with all the Task Group members from the strategy work to look at gaining updates. Need to have elements confirmed by September for the Board to capture progress.</p> <p>The Plan is that partners will send in reports in advance of each Board meeting which the co-chairs will review and then focus on key points at the meeting to track progress.</p>	<p>ACTION: 4. recirculate report formats and confirm reporting process with partners (ZB)</p>
11.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine updated the group that the ICB is developing a LDA (learning disabilities and autism) strategy. Only just beginning it, so will send out details to stakeholders when possible. <p>Zoë provided various updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide prevent app - StayAlive - Essential suicide prevention for everyday life • Implementing reasonable adjustments for people with a learning disability NHS England Events 8 September 2024 12:30pm – 1:30pm • Skills for Care updates inc. employment support and parent/carer wellbeing resources - Workforce update for services that support people with a learning disability and/or autistic people - June 2024 (marketingusercontent.com) • 'Inequalities in healthcare and employment for people with a learning disability and autistic people' paper was been published on 21 May 2024 and well worth a read - National Disability Strategy (parliament.uk) 	
Next meeting: Tuesday 17th September		



Hampshire Autism Voice (HAV) Update Brief to Hampshire Autism Partnership Board (HAPB)

Tuesday 25th June 2024

The following update from HAV covers their activities since March 2024.

1	Autism Ambassadors	1
2	HAPB Terms of Reference and Funding	1
3	HAV Membership	1
4	Hampshire Carer’s Partnership (HCP) & Board	1
5	Personalisation Expert Panel (PEP).....	2
6	HCC AHC Learning & Development (L&D) Co-production update.....	3
7	HIOW Autism and ADHD Referral and Assessment Pathway Patient Experience Survey Update	3
8	Tori Rist, Koala Community Hub	3
9	Mental Health Charter	3
10	Hampshire and IOW social prescribing network.....	4
11	Adults Health & Care - Front Door Service User Steering Group.....	4
12	Local Groups feedback	4

1 Autism Ambassadors

HAV is a partner in this scheme along with Hampshire County Council (HCC), Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council, Isle of Wight Council, Autism Hampshire and NAS South Hampshire branch.

- Two training sessions have been delivered since the March HAPB meeting, one online and one face-to-face. A further 34 people have been appointed as Ambassadors, bringing the total to 1240. Another online training session is scheduled in early July, and a face-to-face session in September.
- Our new trainer, Alison Vasey, Head of Clinical Services – CAMHS (Specialist Services), Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust co-delivered her first training with the scheme in June, as a volunteer with the scheme.
- The 2024 annual conference is being planned and will take place on 14 November at Ashburton Hall. Two autistic speakers are already booked, and there will be a sensory workshop delivered by Alison Vasey.
- Membership renewal is continuing, with 134 Ambassadors renewed so far, raising £925 for the scheme.

2 HAPB Terms of Reference and Funding

HAV have been actively involved in reviewing the HAPB Terms of Reference and have submitted suggestions for changes to Zoë Beasley.

HAV have also been consulted on how HAPB is to be funded. The HAPB website to be part of the Hampshire County Council website.

3 HAV Membership

One long term HAV member will be stepping down at the end of September and some others will follow in the not too distant future. HAV have discussed potential sources for finding new members, such as making informal enquires with other autism groups and individuals. A role description is currently being written.

HAV will also invite regular guests to their meetings to increase networking and keep up to date.

4 Hampshire Carer’s Partnership (HCP) & Board

Four HAV members represent us on this Partnership, including its Partnership Board. During the March and June Boards 2024, the topics discussed have included:

- Two Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs):
 - i. “Gillian” highlights very strongly that carers need to be asked if they want to “care,” it can’t be assumed that they want to. In this case the son didn’t know he was the identified carer.

- ii. “Alex” Alex is an adult with complex disabilities lived at home and was supported by her parent as her main carer. There were several issues including different agencies working with these complex cases.
- At the HCP Board meeting on the 19th June the board discussed the CQC Regulation 9A. This regulation aims to make sure:
 - people staying in a care home, hospital or hospice can receive visits from people they want to see
 - people living in a care home are not discouraged from taking visits outside the home
 - people attending appointments in a hospital or hospice, that do not require an overnight stay, can be accompanied by a family member, friend or advocate if they want someone with them
- Also the various committees reported back to the board. The Carers Strategy is being updated.

4.1 Carer’s sub-group update

Items discussed:

- Cecilia Agbaje and Anne Woodhouse gave a presentation on Virtual Wallets which links with Direct Payments
- Alice Madden-Curtis talked about the switch from Enham to in-house HCC Adult Health and Care (AHC) regarding administration of Direct Payments and dealing directly with certain individuals and their accounts
- Councillor Bill Withers is now the Councillor Co-Chair of the Learning Disability Partnership
- Vikki Altham spoke about the Live Longer Better national programme for helping people (65+) stay well and remain fit and active

4.2 Carers LD working group

Items discussed:

- Donna Harrison and Ann Woodhouse attended to speak about out of county placements, ordinary residence and direct payments.
- Update on Adults Social Care from Jason Norum and Donna Harrison
- Updates from groups complex needs, communications, older person’s partnership, carer’s strategy and charter review groups

4.3 Carers strategy group action plan

- The next step in following the strategy’s publication is to develop an action plan.
- This includes identifying short-term priorities (1-2 years), medium-term priorities (3-4 years) and long-term priorities (5 years).
- This overlaps with the Joint Implementation Group (JIG)

5 Personalisation Expert Panel (PEP)

Our HAV representatives regularly attend PEP meetings. At a meeting with Jess Hutchison and Graham Allen in April, the following topics were discussed:

- The importance of work on the equality, inclusion and diversity agenda
- The forthcoming Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection requires a prior self-assessment, which has generated hundreds of pages.
- Another area for improvement is how to join together the co-production work, and hearing from “seldom heard groups.”
- Proposed changes to social care charges: Hampshire is proposing to increase the amount of income it takes from 95% to 100%, bringing it in line with other local authorities.
- A huge proportion of the Hampshire budget is spent on home-to-school transport, which is a statutory duty and is not currently means tested. Large rural counties such as Hampshire and Kent are disproportionately affected compared with small geographically compact authorities such as Portsmouth and Southampton.

- Graham Allen, Director of Adults' Health & Care, is retiring in August, and will be succeeded by Jess Hutchinson. Jess is well known to us as she is currently AHC Assistant Director Younger Adults and Principal Social Worker and a past Chair of the HAPB.
- The Personalization Expert Panel will possibly become the Personalization Expert Partnership

6 HCC AHC Learning & Development (L&D) Co-production update

This is a sub-group of PEP that advises and about helps co-produce training for HCC AHC staff, including during their induction programme. One HAV member has presented during a 20 minute slot in the induction programme to explain how co-production works, on three separate occasions. The Autism & Mental Health Charter, HAV Network and Autism Ambassadors have been highlighted as good examples of co-production. Others members of PEP will join in with future 20 minute slots.

7 HIOW Autism and ADHD Referral and Assessment Pathway Patient Experience Survey Update

Three HAV members are involved with this survey organised by Nicky Adams, Senior Project Manager All Age Autism and ADHD, Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight ICB. Beth Ford, User Involvement Manager at Southern Health Foundation Trust, has been appointed as co-chair. The participants, from a range of local autism charities and support organisations/groups are now meeting fortnightly. Most of the people involved are autistic and/or ADHD, or other experts by experience. A new Autism and ADHD pathway is being developed. It was decided that the survey will need to be a mix of online survey and face-to-face opportunities for feedback. They will then analyse the feedback and develop services via development groups. A HAV member has sent in detailed information and feedback based on HAV's experience of previous Hampshire based surveys. Contributors have been divided into sub-groups, and meetings are taking place:

1. Referral and assessment sub-group
2. Whole pathway sub-group
3. Parent/carer/support sub-group

8 Tori Rist, Koala Community Hub

Tori attended the April HAV meeting as an invited guest. Tori is CEO of Koala, the brand name, while More Education is the charity name, which started five years ago as a school. They are creating a school for children with a Neurodivergent profile including those with a Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) profile.

Koala opened a community hub on the side which has grown steadily over the years. They support people all over Hampshire, including weekly online adult support groups and peer support groups from toddlers to teens. They have been making connections with other organisations including collaborative projects.

Tori was introduced to HAV members who explained what the group does. Key points of the subsequent discussion:

- Self-advocacy is important, as autistic people need to be encouraged to self-advocate as much as possible
- Advocacy practitioners need to be more confident about encouraging their clients to self-advocate
- Peer support needs to be formalised including commissioning for pre-diagnostic and post-diagnostic support ideally involving autistic experts-by experience to provide such support
- Local Autism Directory (LAD) may need updating particularly in the areas that Koala and its hubs are identifying as challenges
- Statutory Oliver-McGowan training is perceived as too LD oriented and not enough about practical issues for GPs including masking and diagnosing autism in women
- The Portsmouth Neurodiversity Profiling Tool has been in place for several years so it would be beneficial to ask someone from Portsmouth to meet with the ASG or the Board to give an update

9 Mental Health Charter

A meeting, including 2 HAV members, to discuss a re-launch of the Mental Health Charter, was planned for 24 June.

10 Hampshire and IOW social prescribing network

Their 5th June webinar was about Meeting the Needs of Neurodivergent People. Speakers included Katie Board from Autism Hampshire, Zoë Beasley and Debbie Martin from Barnardo's.

11 Adults Health & Care - Front Door Service User Steering Group

Two HAV members have volunteered to be part of this new steering group to work on Contact Assessment and

Resolution Team (CART) and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) processes and practice developments to help manage demand and improve the customer experience.

12 Local Groups feedback

HAV members continue to be involved or in touch with many autism support groups across the county. The latest information includes:

National Autistic Society South Hampshire Branch (www.shantsnas.org.uk)

The Branch's 20th Anniversary AGM was held in May, where Naomi Pearson from Speaking Space delivered an excellent talk about communication. A recent trip to Marwell Zoo was well attended, and further trips with WetWheels (on the River Hamble), Watercross Line and Winchester Science Centre are planned. Regular monthly and fortnightly groups are going well.

Autism Support Group in Totton

This group, run by Youth and Families Matter (YFM), a community project of Testwood Baptist Church, is being well attended.

Friends of In Touch (www.friendsofintouch.org.uk)

Continue to support children and young people in their weekly youth clubs, and a young adults' social group. This is the organisation's 20th year and currently has funding from the National Lottery for another 4 years.

The Zone, Farnborough

Zone In sessions for children and their families, once per month and in the school holidays.

Supportive Parents of Asperger Children Everywhere (SPACE) (Havant)

Monthly group that meets at the Heron pub in Leigh Park.

June 2024



Autism
Hampshire
part of Avenues Group



avenues
brighter futures, better lives

Autism Hampshire meets Avenues Group!

Are you still called Autism Hampshire?

Autism Hampshire are a subsidiary of Avenues, but our name remains the same, although you'll see a new addition at the bottom of our logo!

Who are Avenues Group?

Avenues are a specialist provider of support services for autistic people, people with a learning disability and/or acquired brain injury. We have services across London, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Shropshire and now Hampshire. These are divided into four main areas: London, East, South and South East.

Why did we merge?

Autism Hampshire want to ensure the continuation of our valuable services and see growth in the support we are able to offer. We mutually chose each other to merge with as our values align and we have areas of expertise we can teach each other.

How is the merge going?

We have a Community Services Special Interest Group meeting monthly to support our teams with development and strategy. We aim to be fully integrated by October 2024.

Leadership Team



Jo Land
Group Chief Executive of
Avenues Group



Dan Gower-Smith
Group Director of
Operations for Avenues
Group



Karina Hourd
Group Business
Development Director for
Avenues Group -
overseeing Community
Services



Kay Rothwell
Autism Hampshire's Head
of Finance



Cheryl Claxton
Autism Hampshire's Head
of Community Services
(currently on maternity
leave)



Maxine Gibson
Autism Hampshire's Head
of Community Services
(maternity cover)

Service Managers



Danielle Baird
Regulated Services - Area
Manager



Janice Mihell
Regulated Services - Area
Manager



**Ben Caufield-
Lawrence**
Regulated Services - Area
Manager



Ashleigh Spice
Service Manager
(Serendipity & Mentoring)



Katie Board
Service Manager (IAG &
External Training)

Community Services

- **Information, Advice and Guidance**
- **Serendipity Community Groups**
- **External Training and Consultancy**
- **Specialist Mentoring Service**

Information, Advice, Guidance

- Our Information, Advice and Guidance team offers a wide range of free services to support individuals, families, and professionals as well as raising autism awareness within the local community.
- This service is available pre, during and post diagnosis via the telephone, by email or by appointment at our Hampshire-based office or community venues.
- We are available on the telephone (Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm) and by email. Autism Hampshire offers an information, advice, and guidance service for autistic people, their parents, carer's and professionals. The service is available free of charge for people in Hampshire including Southampton and Portsmouth.



IAG Support

Between April 2023 and March 2024 IAG dealt with **5159** enquiries.

IAG offers 3 tiered levels of support:

- Tier 1- When a question can be answered through an email or call.
- Tier 2- When an appointment is needed or further research and guidance is required.
- Tier 3- Ongoing regular contacts with an IAG Officer

Alert Programme

Our Autism Alert programme supports autistic people, should they find themselves in any type of contact with the police or other emergency services.



ATTENTION

**POLICE/EMERGENCY SERVICES
AM ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM**

Autism
Hampshire

www.autismhampshire.org.uk

Client Feedback

- Such a wealth of information I cannot thank you enough for the help and support your friendly helpful staff gave me.
- Was nice to have someone to listen and just not judge and also help me with things to help my child
- You were very helpful to me as both myself and my daughter are trying to navigate the extremely complicated and stressful process of ensuring my grandson has an education.
- I am supported by IAG and I find the meetings with the officer extremely helpful. This has made my acceptance of my autism much easier.
- I really appreciate the kindness, understanding and support I am been shown through this service.
- I feel more empowered to move forward in a positive way with our lives having being given so much valuable information surrounding autism. I feel like I understand my daughter even more now and how/why she behaves how she does.

Serendipity Community Groups

Our Serendipity groups are a great way for autistic adults to meet in a supportive and non-judgmental setting.

- Free online and in-person groups across Hampshire
- Facilitated by our coordinators and trained volunteers.
- For autistic adults aged 18+.
- No diagnosis needed
- Attend independently or with support if needed.
- Most groups meet one to two times per month in a regular venue.



What groups are running?

- We currently have **16 regular groups** in
 - Portsmouth,
 - Basingstoke,
 - Solent(Titchfield),
 - Fareham,
 - Winchester,
 - Havant,
 - New Milton,
 - Bordon,
 - Swanmore,
 - New Forest (walk and talk)
 - Southampton (City Art Gallery and MAST Drama, Shirley),
 - Eastleigh (in-person and online),
 - Women's only (online)
- We also run a variety of **workshops** based on member feedback and requests such as yoga, Understanding Autism training, mental health workshops



How members join a group

- Prospective members sign up and fill in an online form
- They get invited to a taster session where they can come along, with someone supporting them if required/desired, to get a sense of the environment and how a session works
- They will meet a coordinator or volunteer
- There is no expectation to stay for the full session time
- Members can provide us with monthly feedback which helps us ensure this process is clear

Want to run a workshop?

If you have a skillset, project or information that you think would help our members, please contact us to consider attending our sessions and running a workshop! We love working with local contacts in the community. Ideas could include: cooking, gardening, social prescribing, disability assessments, accessing healthcare, animal support

Volunteers

- Volunteers are a big part of Serendipity and Community Services.
- We currently have 25 volunteers with 3 more in recruitment.
- Serendipity Volunteers donate approximately 1060 hours of their time per year.
- Prospective volunteers fill in an application form



Member statistics

- We currently have an average of **198** members attending per month across all groups
- 97% of members would **recommend** the groups to their friends and family members
- 72% of members state that they have access to **more opportunities** than they would have done before becoming a member
- 90% of members state that they feel **less isolated** since joining the groups
- 90% of members state that they feel **more confident** since joining the groups

Member Feedback

"Please keep up the work you do for Serendipity. It is incredible the services you create, and I hope you continue to do this forever for the long-term run."

"I fit in, and I am accepted the staff are really caring and supportive and understanding and trustworthy."

"Being around other autistic people and the facilitators are really caring and make me feel safe."

"It encourages me to get out of the house since I retired. It is nice meeting the friendly members and volunteers at the Serendipity groups,"

"Being with people who are like me, and I am able to be my authentic self without having to mask."



External Training & Consultancy

- Our service aims to empower autistic people, their families and professionals by learning more about neurodiversity in an interactive way, using first-hand experience. We want to make all aspects of life, organisations and services more accessible to autistic people.
- We offer high-quality, CPD-accredited training and consultancy which is created, designed and, wherever possible, delivered by autistic people themselves using innovative and immersive exercises. We also give priority to the work of autistic authors and academics, and only cite mainstream research if it has been coproduced and/or accurately reflects the lived experience of autistic people.



Training Courses

We deliver training to parents, schools, autistic adults and companies. We have different course options available and the content is tweaked for each audience to ensure it is relevant.

- **Being with Autistic People** (3 hrs): An entry-level course
- **Towards Understanding Autistic People** (6 hrs): An intermediate-level course
- **Understanding, Accepting & Accommodating Autistic People** (6 x 3 hrs): A longer course for parents, professionals, and anyone else who has frequent contact and interaction with autistic people.

Consultancy Options

1:1 Interview with an autistic individual: This offers an opportunity for the autistic person to share their experience of the workplace or service, and how they feel their differences are currently understood and accommodated.

Workplace or environmental assessment: The consultant will assess the target environment and identify elements that may help or hinder autistic people. Then written recommendations will be provided for improving the experience of autistic people visiting, working, or receiving services there.

Attendee Feedback

We collate feedback through our online survey at the end of each training course or consultancy session.

“This has genuinely been one of the most informative, enjoyable and relevant courses I have ever participated in, both personally (as the mother of autistic children) and professionally (I work as a SENCo in a special school). The trainer has been outstanding; enthusiastic, empathetic and so knowledgeable! I'd thoroughly recommend this course to anyone. Thank you.”

“I have a better understanding of the challenges my daughter faces and the support strategies needed to help her. I wish that I attended the course 10 years ago!”

It has opened my eyes to the everyday struggles that my pupils must go through, hopefully I can try and understand them better now, try and listen and help them through it.”

Training Delivered

How many people received our training last year through existing contracts only?

Course type

Parents

599 Attendees

Schools

181 Attendees

Adults

22 Attendees

802 new people with a learning of Autism Awareness in Hampshire last year alone

Development Plans

- We are planning to undertake a cost analysis of the service as part of the 2024-25 budget setting process, to ensure the team have a clear target income to generate from paid training and consultancy next financial year. Currently contracted income does not cover the costs of running the service.
- Work with the marketing and comms team to promote employment training to local businesses. We generate a large amount of enquiries and work with minimal promotion currently. This is a clear market area to develop.
- Development and promotion of other training and consultancy courses, in conjunction with strategy development through the Community Services SIG.

Specialist Mentoring Service

Our service aims to **empower university students** using specific strategies to help manage barriers to learning and life and encourage successful and independent management of lifestyle and studies.

- For students who are: autistic, have other neurodivergences or specific learning differences and/or mental health conditions.
- Private 1-1 sessions, online or in person
- Funded by universities or Department For Education based on needs assessments.
- Specialist mentors need extensive training

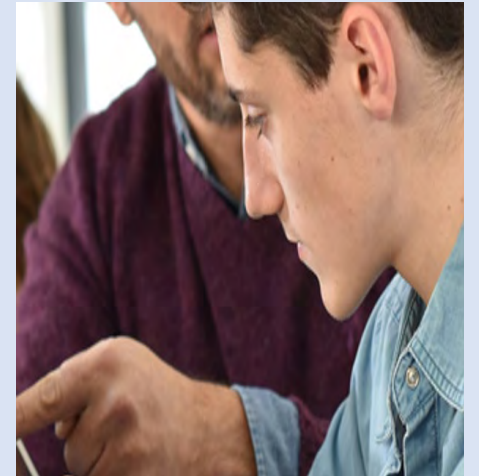


How can mentoring support students?

- ✓ Develop a better **understanding and acceptance of any challenges** and how they may impact university life and academic study.
- ✓ Develop **relevant strategies** that encourage successful and **independent management** of lifestyle and studies.
- ✓ Have dedicated time to **set goals** that help with challenges, **reflect** on their experience of university and **celebrate** achievements.
- ✓ Monitor **progress** throughout the academic year and review any goals set during sessions.
- ✓ **Manage time** effectively, **prioritise** tasks and improve organisational and planning **skills**.
- ✓ Develop skills that can be used after university and applied in **other areas** of life.
- ✓ Have good **communication** with university staff and support services and ensure students know where to **access wider support**.

Mentoring Service Feedback

“At the beginning of my sessions I was struggling with the social aspects of starting university and had quite a pessimistic outlook on my experiences. Throughout mentoring sessions I have improved social skills which have allowed me to make friends, as well as given me a positive viewpoint on experiences I have had at university. The sessions have been a good time to reflect, take stock and plan in response to a variety of challenges throughout each year. Mainly, I’ve learnt problem solving skills and how to cope more especially on difficult days.” – *Third year student, UOP*



Current Statistics

- **158** students being supported this year.
- **2026** hours of mentoring delivered year to date
- 2023-2024 academic year – **107 referrals**, of which 78 have so far accessed, meaning a 78% access rate.
- We contact students 3-4 times to ensure they have the best chance of accessing the service.

Regulated Services



- Autism Hampshire has over 20 homes across Hampshire, including Gosport, Fareham, Liss, Petersfield, Alton and Southampton, regulated by CQC
- Accommodation varies from self-contained flats to shared houses
- Autism Hampshire also provides support teams to people living in their own homes. Support varies dependent on individual needs, but can include support with personal care, leisure activities, cooking, cleaning and household chores.
- Referrals into regulated services need to go through commissioners and local authorities. Our referrals manager disperses new referrals to suitable services depending on level of support needed. We do not accept direct referrals.
- People we support include autistic people, people with learning disabilities, mental health problems and physical disabilities.

Thank you for listening

Any questions?

info@autismhampshire.org.uk

01489 880 881

www.autismhampshire.org.uk

HIGHLIGHT REPORT – HIOW ALL Age Autism and ADHD Improvement

PROGRAMME LEAD	Anthony Harper
PROJECT LEAD	Catherine Barnard
REPORTING PERIOD	June 2024

SUMMARY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the previous procurement of assessment services, the providers have received additional funding to top up which should see an increase in patient flow. No new funding attached – existing assessment budget only. Right to Choose Accreditation process being established Training for Adult MH staff to be funded (HIOW) PHL still experiencing challenges due to patient data transfer from SaBP Clinical partners delivering additional capacity in Southampton for SHFT and Solent Psicon delivering additional capacity on the Isle of Wight Non GP referral form revised for the Owl Centre – to be shared Emma Nash now representing ADHD as clinical lead for the ICB Challenges surrounding shared care Potential opportunity to work with Portsmouth university research project re ADHD Decisions proposed for procurement group re extension for current Autism Hampshire contracts – HIOW RoomeOne – Portsmouth and New Forest Parenting, Southampton Improvement Group membership to expand LDAA Strategy being drafted 	

Subgroup Updates	
Clinical Reference Group	This group is now established. Following a healthy debate to help inform the testing of community/MDT hubs, this group will now be asked to focus on pathway design for longer term services.
Childrens Group	Subgroup still to be set up. Pilots underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CYP MDT ND Hub - IOW Expansion of profiling tool - Southampton PINS – Hampshire Autism in Schools - HIOW Service mapping – Hampshire
Adults Group	Group now set up – membership to be expanded. Group to focus on service mapping and impact of the adult community hub being introduced into IOW and Hampshire
Transition Group	Group still to be set up
Experts By Experience Group	This group is now established. Representation from all four places Group designing a survey for wider response Beth Ford (chair) to attend Improvement group

KEY ISSUES – RED ONLY		
Issue Description	Mitigation	
ADHD adult patient records transferred from previous providers are inaccurate and difficult to interpret resulting in new providers having to focus for longer than anticipated – reducing capacity for new activity.	PHL Awarded funding to increase workforce	

No new funding has been allocated to this project – any funding used to invest into pilots etc has been transferred from existing assessment service, resulting in lesser activity numbers.	Assessments have been procured at competitive rates. Some services (CYP Autism) have seen an increase as a result.	
---	--	--

KEY RISKS – RED ONLY		
Risk Description	Mitigation	
RTC Accreditation may incur additional costs which may need to be taken out of existing services/budgets	Accreditation services specification being designed to be as robust as possible.	
Team Capacity – due to demand for updates, complaint responses, stakeholder meetings, procurement and statutory obligations, commissioners are struggling to move the project forward and meet the March 2026 timeline.	Review the meetings that are business critical only.	