

Hampshire Autism Partnership Board

MINUTES

Tuesday 17th March 2026 - 10.00 - 12.30 (via Teams)

Present:

Chairing meeting today: Cllr Fran Carpenter, County councillor

Michael White - Interim Co-chair of HAPB, Hampshire Autism Voice member
Jason Norum - Head of Commissioning young adults, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Physical Disability, HCC - Autism Lead
Alice Madden-Curtis - Deputy Autism Adult Lead & Commissioning Officer AHC, HCC
Matt Hunt – Commissioning Support Officer, AHC, HCC (assisting with minutes)
Adele Brand - Team Leader, VoiceAbility
Michelle Broughton - – Senior Delivery Manager, CYP Neurodiversity, HIOW ICB
Rachel Carter - Hampshire Autism Voice member
Cheryl Claxton - Head of Community Services, Autism Hampshire
Vanessa Cosby - Hampshire Autism Voice and Autism Ambassador administrator
Leigh Drury - Inclusion Team Leader (Services for Young Children), Early Years Autism Lead
Mark Hewer - District Manager (Children and Families) CSD, HCC
Andrew Lund - Area Director North West, CSD, HCC
Jeanette Mansbridge (DWP)
Paul Richardson - HPCN chair
Shereelea Fox - HPCN rep
Helen Toomer-Jones - Autism Specialist Lead, Hampshire Hospitals (HHFT)
Cerys Williams - HAV member

Present for input:

Phillipa Williams - Hampshire Neurodiversity & Wellbeing Service Lead, CSD, HCC

Apologies:

Zoë Beasley – Hampshire Autism Partnership project coordinator
Alyson Miller - Hampshire Autism Voice member
Julie Adicott (LDAP, NHS)
Ileana Cahill (Public Health)
Sarah Banholzer (Voiceability)
Diana Taphouse (HIOW ICB)
Sarah Power (CPS)
Katy Curtis
Catherine Robson
Elle Ayrton – Community advocacy and autistic individual.
Sgt Emma Pragnell - Criminal Justice liaison Sergeant, Hampshire & IOW Constabulary
Gemma LANGMAN (GP and clinical lead)
Maria Morell – Co-CEO, Havant and East Hants Mind
Jake Oakley – Community Nurse (adults) and autistic individual.

Agenda Item	Subject	Action
1.	Welcome and chairing today (Cllr Fran Carpenter)	
2.	<u>Introductions/ Minutes of last meeting and any matters arising/ HAPB actions</u> Introductions given by all No concerns or corrections arising from previous minutes Actions verbally updated	
3.	<u>Hampshire Autism Voice Briefing Paper (HAV member)</u>  HAV Briefing paper for the HAPB March 2 Note: 2026 Autism Ambassador Conference to be held online to allow wider attendance. Report presented by Michael White and Vanessa Cosby Question around Companion Bus passes: JN responded advising that costs incurred for transporting a carer can be considered as a disability related expense and should be recorded as such; financial assessments can then factor in these expenses.	
4.	<u>HCC Connect to Work update (Jason Norum)</u>  Connect to work slide JN Presented details of the new Connect to Work support service, including the community access route where people can self-refer. Discussion about ongoing procurement for a social care focussed offer to compliment this service is currently underway. Community access route will operate on a no-refusal policy for anyone who meets the criteria outlined in the slide. This will be a multi-year initiative. Cheryl C: Advises that Autism Hampshire (AH) have met with Connect to Work and are happy to promote the service and support referrals.	<i>Rob Nash contract manager from Hants 2050 team to be invited in the Autumn to provide reflection on the delivery of Connect to Work.</i> <i>The provider of Connect to Work to also be invited</i> <i>JN: to connect Cheryl/Autis</i>

	AH needs some support with a communications pack for social media etc.	<i>m Hants to Rob Nash</i>
5.	<u>Strategy updates overview updates (Alice Madden-Curtis)</u>  HAPB partner updates - March 2026 AMC presented summaries of the slides. Headlines from each area and requested that members review the detailed updates and escalate questions to the HAPB mailbox if required. CC – Gave a detailed update about the Community Hubs and new ICB Adults' Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Service launching April 2026. Unfortunately, the ICB funding has been transferred elsewhere for the Children's element meaning there will be a reduced offer for Children and Families. The children and family's element of the service will reduce, including the removal of face-to-face support, although ongoing support remains and will be provided via phone and email. AH will no longer offer post-diagnostic support or CAMHS support for children. If families are seeking support for their children, they should be signposted to the MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team) for Children and Young People website.	
6.	<u>MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team) for Children and Young People input</u>  HAPB MDT update FINAL version for boa Key points • Commissioned by Hampshire & IOW ICB • "Integrated MDT" is the important part • Co-produced with young people • Hampshire Parent and Carer Network (HPCN) is a key partner • Not just signpost enquirers to a website or telephone number • Evaluates need and support for an individual Questions: Cerys W: Reflection that the service sounds amazing but how will the new service avoid developing long wait times like those seen in CAMHS?	<i>Mark and Pip to return to future meetings to provide overview and updates on the MDT programme</i>

	Pip: As the service development and delivery will be introduced in a staggered way whilst working in collaboration with partners in Education and other areas, we hope to manage demand. This service won't be targeted specifically at Mental Health but will work in parallel and still refer to CAMHS as appropriate. One of the challenges in CAMHS is for those awaiting diagnosis so, this service will help with that by being needs-led and providing support during that phase. CW Follow-up Q: How big is the team supporting the service? Pip: Six primary and six secondary level workers plus the lead (Pip). However, the MDTs will expand the available resource by bringing in expertise from partner organisations and there maybe scope for additional posts when the service is further into implementation. Michael W: 1. How does the information sharing work, in line with the Caldicott principles? Do you have a protocol for sharing between partners? How can we ensure it's all linked together? 2. How will the service be evaluated? How will the valuable lessons learned through the programme be shared? Pip: Responding to question 2 first: We are focused on ensuring we capture measurable outcomes. At a later time, we may consider partnering with universities and academics. For now, we are ensuring outcomes measures are built into our electronic forms, pre- and post-measures of confidence for children and carers, practice tools and identifying key data from parents. We will be utilising modern analytics tools such as Power BI to ensure we can report measurable outcomes for the service. Pip: Response to MW Q1: One of the key outcomes of the service will be a timeline and inclusion passport, also the output from the NDPT. These can then be shared, working with informed consent and confidentiality embedded in our processes. We will also review whether updating Capita is appropriate or CHIE. Cllr FC Q: What if schools cannot cope with the additional demands and responsibilities? How will you upskill such a large workforce? How will this affect children with existing Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)? Pip: We know existing EHCPs are not always easy to deliver. Whether a child has one or not, we will look at the practical support they need and we will support existing needs defined in EHCPs but we will also add to that as led by their needs. Mark W: Responding to the training element of the Q: Our Principal Education Psychologist is undertaking an analysis of good practice and gaps. Auditing the current Continuing Professional Development (CPD) offered and identifying where development is required. We will work alongside complimentary workstreams such as, transforming Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and the school improvement team.	
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	We have been meeting with senior school leaders and Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs), helping staff to navigate existing offers and opportunities. We know there will be challenges but we will be working towards identifying gaps and finding solutions.	
	Break, refreshment and network	
7	<u>HAPB matters (Fran Carpenter/Jason Norum)</u> • It was noted that Hampshire's devolution bid has been accepted and is progressing through Parliament. Members recognised potential implications for areas including transport, employment and health services. The HAPB will need to think about how we reorganise the board moving forward. • Strategy review process – Deferred to be bought back • Minutes accessibility – Discussed briefly but to be scheduled for a future meeting as an agenda item. • Chair-ship & Terms of reference – deferred to be bought back in June's meeting.	
8.	<u>Autism Acceptance Week (Fran Carpenter)</u> Members discussed Autism Acceptance Week (30th March – 6th April 2026) and opportunities for partners to promote awareness and inclusive practice.	
9.	AOB – • Reminder - SEND Local Offer Discovery Days Hampshire • SEND Reform Consultation: Have your say • Newsletters of interest: ○ Words Matter News March 2026 ○ Connect to Support Hampshire March update ○ Autism Central - March newsletter ○ Skills for care are looking for speakers - Call for speakers and exhibitors to join "AI and the future of social work– a one day summit" • Events: ○ Kidz to Adultz South Tuesday 12 May at Farnborough International Exhibition & Conference Centre - register here	

- CAMHS Parent and Carer events - [Events – CAMHS](#)

Southampton Parent Carer Forum invites you to...

SEND Family Fun Day 2026

Tuesday 31st March - 10am to 2pm

For Children and Young People:
Bouncy Castles, face painters
Unicorn, bubbles and lots more ...

For Parent Carers:
Range of **Local offer Service providers** for
advice, ideas and support

Refreshments for all (drinks, fruit, biscuits and ice
cream are all free, there will be a food van with
food for sale)

To register



Oasis Academy Mayfield, Ashley Crescent,
SO19 9NA - Free Parking

 **For more information**
follow us on Facebook






Next meeting: 16th June - In person at Ell Winchester