**Thurrock Autism Action Group   
4th November 2015 – 10am – 12 noon, Committee Room 1 -   
Civic Offices**

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| **Topic** | **Discussion & Agreed Action Points** |
| 1. **Welcome,**   **Introductions, Background** | **Attendees:** Ian Evans, Ashley Woodward, Mo James, Gwyneth Terrell, Andrea Walter, Anita Griffiths, Wendy Robertson, Neil Woodbridge  **Apologies** Allison Hall, Leigh Norris  **Welcome** By Ashley Woodward |
| 1. **Speaker, Presentation – Essex Police - Leigh Norris, District Commander, Essex Police (including Q&A)** | Leigh unable to attend |
| 1. **Action Points from 5th August meeting** | **IE to send questionnaire to Glynis and Andrea**  Point raised by AW re: terminology in minutes, to apply to people with Autism and Asperger’s  **Andrea to email Allison Hall with suggestions on this issue from the President of SAFE.** |
| 1. **Discussion around Autism Action Plan & Consolidated Joint Action Programme** | After some discussion it was agreed that the group is a Partnership Board and in order to get a range of stakeholders around the table including the Local Authority, Health, CCH, The Police, Housing, Workforce Development we should consider changing the name to that of a Partnership Board.  Bill Clayton to be invited in February 2016 to discuss the Workforce Training element of the Action Programme and “Autism Champions”  The Group, as a Partnership Board needs to be multi-stakeholder – partners need to appreciate the statutory basis of the Autism Partnership Board and the basis of accountability for partners to achieve the aims in the Autism Strategy.    We need to know who will be the TBC Co-chair as soon as possible. The Board will then together be able to address key strategic aims from the Autism Strategy. |
| 1. **£18.5k Capital Funding update, including:** 2. **Survey update** 3. **Event Planning ideas and task distribution** | The Capital funding was discussed and it was agreed that it would be a good idea to offer the equipment loan service out of Thurrock Centre for Independent Living. Rather than Beacon Hill.  Thurrock Centre for Independent Living (TCIL) offers support and advice on a variety of issues which affect disabled people. The TCIL team can assist people with the majority of disability related issues – from providing information or advising about a situation that simply requires completing an application form to a more complex situation that needs a formal advocate or complaint to be made, and many matters in between of concern to disabled individuals and their carers. It is primarily aimed at Adults and The Beehive is a community resource centre. Some parents and adults with Autism may not want to visit an education environment to hire the equipment (once in place) on the misconception that it is available only to children.  **Equipment Survey** – Link to be sent out again to include Harris Academy and the SENCOs  **Equipment Event** – to showcase equipment (once bought). IE to look at booking the Beehive for January.  Invite Barry Ellis from One Switch  **Southend Council** have used the innovation fund to create a one space container classroom for schools and groups to use.  **Essex County Council** have developed an Autism online portal with the funding  **Possible options in Thurrock** were then discussed, particularly around Music Therapy and its wide application for people on the Autistic Spectrum.  **Music Technology Courses & Provision**  There is a recording studio in the inspire building on Orsett Road in Grays. It is accessible and there is a lift. We could use some of the innovation fund money to buy equipment to then provide music therapy, lessons, and provision of courses in Music Technology (Level 1), that would increase the options available to people with Autism who would otherwise have to travel to Southend.  It was agreed that a percentage of the monies from the Innovation Fund be used to buy equipment and get the Music Technology initiative up and running. E.g. £5,000. And identify 6 people at least who would be interested in participating/utilising the space.  Examples of Music Therapy provision: <http://www.nordoff-robbins.org.uk/>  The rest of the monies to be spent on Assistive technology as identified from the survey.  **NW to speak to Michelle Lucas to take this forward.**  Good to involve Alison McLeavy around Education and higher needs (Funding officer)  Glynis happy to await next steps re: Monies and how they will be spent/allocated  **NW to arrange Board visit to the Studio through Lyndsey McHale.** |
| 1. **A.O.B.**   **(Including next meeting date)** | We Need to refresh membership once new TBC (Co-chair) rep starts. Should write to all potential partners emphasising their accountability to the Autism Partnership Board.  Next Meeting date: Wednesday 3rd Feb 2016, 10am -12 midday, in Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays. |