**Thurrock Adults Autism Action Group   
Wednesday 3rd February 2016**

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Agreed Action Points** |
| 1. **Welcome, introductions** | **Attendees:**  Ashley Woodward, CaPa/Parent/Carer – Co Chair  Kelly Redston, Integrated Commissioner – Co Chair  Andrea Walter – SAFE  Jill Bacon – Parent  Bill Clayton – Thurrock Council  Inspector Kevin Whipps – Essex Police  Mo James – PATT  Ian Evans – Thurrock Coalition  Neil Woodbridge – Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions  Rima Fletcher – Minutes  **Apologies** Allison Hall, Leigh Norris  **Welcome** By Ashley Woodward  Ashley Woodward welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made. |  |
| 1. **Action points from November meeting** | Ian Evans has sent questionnaire to Gwyneth and Andrea  A point was raised by Andrea Walter re: terminology in minutes, to apply to people with Autism and Asperger’s  Re: Capital Grant - The monies to be spent on assistive technology as identified from the survey and to look at a range of equipment and assistive solutions.  Neil gave an update on the music group. 6 people attended the pilot which was funded by TLS, they are now on session 4 - The music space in Grays, (Orsett Road) is now up and running, supported by TLS. The possibility of allocating some of the funding to purchase equipment for and to re-furbish the accessible music room and studio was also discussed, the group agreed that this would be a good idea and opportunity for young people with autism in Thurrock to make use of and that part of the Capital Funding could be allocated to this.  Gwyneth happy to await next steps re: monies and how they will be spent/allocated. | Andrea still to email Kelly Redston with suggestions on this issue from the President of SAFE  NW to speak to Michelle Lucas to take this forward  NW to arrange board visit to the studio through Lyndsey McHale |
| 1. **Speaker & discussion – Thurrock Council – workforce planning – Bill Clayton** | Bill provided a short report on training held last year, Understanding autism and the Spell Communication Framework. Additional training was provided for the transition team, this received positive feedback, and they advised the training was good with the exception that it didn’t highlight the local services, the training was provided by the NAS. The Council is subscribing to this for 3 years, it will provide access to subject matter experts and information, and example of one of the courses provided is hording training to support people who horde.  Bill happy to share report  Resources – skills and ills training, delivered by subject matter experts. It is aimed at individuals and groups and is available in pdf format.  Thurrock Council Mental Health Staff forum – some individuals on the spectrum.  SAFE in Southend – are involved in some aspects of the training with Southend.  Thurrock: Observation of Training based upon the ”6 Outcomes” via co-production with Thurrock Coalition – could do more of this  Autism Champions – The Cornwall example was discussed  Could adopt the “Dementia Friends” model and use real life stories.  Bill has spoken to NAS who are willing to support and have Thurrock as the pilot program.  Bill asked for a discussion as to what the group expected the Autism Champions role to be. He highlighted an example of a Dementia Champion. The following link will provide further information www.dementiafriends.org.uk  Kelly advised that she thought the Dementia Friends was a good model.  Ian suggested the hate crime model which his bases in local hubs throughout the borough.  The skills, knowledge and requirements discussed were   * Learning through experience * Someone with anecdotal experience of how they coped with having autism and how they dealt with issues they came up against. * Would the role be a coordinator role. * Some who will work with families and volunteers to raise awareness with the police and Health depts, attending forums and giving talks * The first outcome would be to deliver information and education to services regarding pathways help and support housing, employability * The second outcome would be to deliver awareness to schools * The Champion will feed back what the barriers are while promoting understanding and awareness of opportunity and rights. * Think about 10 things which people with autism would like, the champion can then base their job on this.   Neil suggested that the title could be changed to Autism Ambassadors (AA) he also said that they could buddy up with someone with Autism to deliver training/understanding.  Kelly – we need to test what we can do with this, maybe with the community sector, rather than get someone doing this as a role. It will be more achievable and we will be able to evaluate.  Bill – the role can develop within each organisation  Mo – there are many organisations in Thurrock supporting autism but there are gaps in the information they are providing, re tree tops, NAS.  A discussion then took place as to how to engage other organisation to attend the AAG.  For future meetings, relevant stakeholders will be invited where specific topics will be discussed.  Kelly chasing CCG to come to the group, the piece of work is being escalated through the quality team. | Bill to send links to these resources and types of training available E.g. hording training  KR and BC to draft a project outline looking at each of the above considerations.  To include community and organisational mapping |
| 1. **Speaker & discussion – Essex Police – inspector Kevin Whipps Essex Police (including Q&A)** | Essex police supporting the most vulnerable people. If for someone is assaulted and they are non verbal, they can’t make a complaint.  Essex Police has a Diversity page (intranet)   * Creating the conversation * PNC “wanted/missing” – markers to input this – possible, local * Sensory numbers – sounds, colours   Kevin explained what Essex police are doing in regard to the i.e. looking at who are the most vulnerable.  Issues such as how someone with non-verbal and non-writing skills can make a statement or complaint.  At present police officers undergo training on dealing with people with mental health issues and learning difficulties. This does include an element of autism training, but it may not be enough, this is something which Kevin is looking at.  The Police National Computer records everyone who has been arrested, on this there are some spare fields which could be used to record any disabilities which could have an effect if that person were to be picked in the future.  Kevin asked for the groups opinion on how the police could do better for people with Autism  Key issues for development highlighted by Kevin were.   * Custody officers need to be able to identify the markers of someone with Autism. * Would a person with Autism identify themselves as such? * Can we put an assessment in place which can trigger a question mark which could then lead to the family being informed? * Are advocates available to support people with Autism – Kevin responded that advocates generally only supported children and vulnerable adults   Neil asked if Kevin had seen the 999 cards, anyone who has a 999 would need extra help, it would prompt the custody sergeant to make a judgement.  The issue of arrest was discussed, with Kevin explaining how some parents used this as a deterrent to stop children from taking the wrong path, but he advised that being arrested is now much more serious than it was 10 years ago, now this would be a permanent record which could affect that child’s future.  Training was discussed, with Kevin agreeing that there was room for training and as Thurrock is a small area it would be an ideal pilot for training which could then be rolled country wide.  Kelly advised that people should be targeted so that they could cascade the information to other areas of the police force.  Neil said the benefits of this training could lead to police champions; he referred to training held for Aspergers which ‘opened a lot of eyes’ and raised the awareness of this condition.  Kevin then talked about Iterations which is part of the Athena system, this brings together every interaction with the people they deal with, it could be an opportunity to collate any relevant information.  Kevin will continue to attend the Group representing Essex Police. |  |
| 1. **£18.5k capital funding update** | The responses to the survey regarding the use of funding, asked what types of equipment would enable you to live the lifestyle of your choice, following were identified.   * Computers * Books * Lego * Tablets * I Pad * I Phone * Weighted Blanket * Barry Ellis (Accessible I.T. specialist) could be stationed for ½ a day per week, at the Beehive to offer practical advice and support re: the Assistive Technology/Equipment once purchased. | IE and AW to meet with Barrie and to put together a Report containing suggested equipment |
| 1. **Date of Next meeting** | * Wednesday 4th May 10am to 12 noon – CR 1 – Civic Offices, Grays   Kelly advised she would confirm the dates for the next 3 meetings and forward them onto the group. | Health Pathways (CCG) to be main topic |