



Notes of the Autism Norfolk Forum (ANF) Meeting

Held on: 5th March 2024 13:00-14:00

Venue: Online via Zoom

Please note: These notes represent an overview summary of this meeting rather than a verbatim transcript.

Name of Attendee	Organisation and/or Role
Lee Gibbons	ASD Helping Hands, Norfolk Autism Partnership Co-ordinator
Members of the public (12)	

Agenda Item 1	Welcome and Introduction
1.1	Welcome and introductions made: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This Forum was held using Zoom• Communication prompts and their use explained.• Acknowledged a note taker is provided.• Norfolk Autism Partnership Board's (NAPB) Code of Conduct and Coproduction principles introduced and explained.

Agenda Item 2	Update from the Board
2.1	Last Norfolk Autism Partnership Board meeting held on the 31 st January 2024
2.2	Continue to be concerned about the waiting times for both Adults and Children's diagnostic assessments. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The partnership are looking at ways to secure additional funding (possibly from central government)• Working with Children and Young People team on the transition period between services

2.2	<p>LeDeR (Learning Disability Mortality Review) is also now looking into the causes of death for autistic people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the inclusion of any autistic person to have an initial review after premature death
2.3	<p>Form a Task and Finish group to begin putting together the Norfolk Autism Directory</p>
2.4	<p>Full meeting minutes can be read on the Norfolk Autism Partnership website</p>
2.5	<p>Social and Support Groups</p> <p>Working in partnership with the Norfolk Library service we now have 27 'Autism friendly' library groups across Norfolk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 in North Norfolk 7 in Norwich 4 in Great Yarmouth and Waveney 7 in South Norfolk 4 West Norfolk 12 Groups for Adults 5 Family Groups 10 for All ages <p>The Norfolk Autism Partnership Board is aware of 41 groups in Norfolk. Details can be found on the Norfolk Autism Partnership website</p>
2.6	<p>Autism Acceptance Week (2nd April -8th April 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with partners to develop a range of resources for schools Speaking at the Making Sense of SEND Event in North Walsham Supporting ASD Helping Hands in their 'One Thing...' Project Online campaign sharing resources and information throughout the week.
2.7	<p>Norfolk Autism Directory</p> <p>The Norfolk Autism Partnership is working in co-production with partners and autistic people to develop a Norfolk specific Autism Directory.</p> <p>Objectives achieved to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Programmed the functionality of the website -Agreed and implemented the categories and information gathered for each listing -Ongoing user testing

	<p>We hope to:</p> <p>Soft launch on the 18th March 2024</p> <p>Full Launch on the 2nd April 2024</p>
2.8	<p>Photo Contest</p> <p>The Norfolk Autism Partnership Board is seeking photos for the directory. People can submit these online at: https://www.norfolkautismpartnership.org.uk/photo-contest/</p>

Agenda Item 3	Update on the work carried out on the Norfolk Autism Strategy Refresh
3.1	An update was provided on the work carried out o refresh the Autism strategy.
3.2	<p>Focus Groups</p> <p>8 in person focus groups were held with 20 autistic people and parents/carers attended library sessions.</p> <p>6 online focus groups were held 35 autistic people, parents/carers and professionals attended an online session.</p> <p>Autism Norfolk Forum (Dec 23) 24 autistic people, parents/carers and professionals attended.</p> <p>6 autistic prisoners attended a workshop at Norwich Prison <i>please note, these are the number of different people who attended at least one session (ie not double counting those who attended more than one session)</i></p>
3.3	<p>Road map of the writing and sign of the Autism Strategy was provided. These are provisional dates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20th March – Strategy Reference group will agree key themes and format • 28th March – Share first draft of the refreshed strategy with the strategy Reference Group • 10th/11th April – Strategy Reference group to meet to provide feedback on first draft • 15th April – Circulate the draft strategy to the NAPB

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week Commencing 29th April Partnership Board meeting to agree draft strategy • The strategy then needs to go through partnership organisations and governance for sign off. <p>It is hoped that the strategy can be finalised and signed off in June 2024.</p>
3.4	This will be a 5-year strategy and refreshed in 2029.

Agenda Item 4	Feedback on Proposed Strategies
4.1	The participants as given the chance to feed back on the prioritise.
4.2	These were recorded and will be used for the development of the refreshed strategy.
4.3	For privacy these comments have not been recorded in these notes.
4.4	

Agenda Item 6	Any other business
6.1	<p>The Norfolk Autism Partnership has co-produced 4 quick reference guide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and Childrens Quick Reference Guide (Norfolk) • Family and Childrens Quick Reference Guide (Waveney) • Autistic Adults Quick Reference Guide (Norfolk) • Autistic Adults Quick Reference Guide (Waveney) <p>These can be downloaded from our website at: https://www.norfolkautismpartnership.org.uk/autism-information/</p>

Agenda Item 7	Close of Meeting
7.1	The Norfolk Autism Forum was closed

Date, time, and location of next meeting

The next Autism Norfolk Forum will be held on:

Tuesday 7 May 2024 13:00-15:00

Sign-up details will be posted to the Partnership's webpage and sent to members. The topic of this forum has not yet been decided.

Future Forum meeting dates:

Tuesday 02 July 2024 13:00-15:00

Tuesday 29 October 2024 13:00-15:00

Tuesday 25 February 2025 13:00-15:00

Tuesday 29 April 2025 13:00-15:00

Tuesday 01 July 2025 13:00-15:00

Tuesday 02 September 2025 13:00-15:00

Glossary

ANF:	Autism Norfolk Forum
ASD:	Autism Spectrum Disorder
ASB:	Autism Service Norfolk
ICB:	Integrated Care Board
ICS:	Integrated Care System
EHCP:	Education, Health and Care Plan
FOIA:	Freedom of Information Act
GDPR:	General Data Protection Regulations
NAP:	Norfolk Autism Partnership
NAPB:	Norfolk Autism Partnership Board
NAS:	National Autistic Society
NCC:	Norfolk County Council
NCH&C:	Norfolk Community Health and Care
N&SFT:	Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust
SEND:	Special Educational Need and Disabilities
UEA:	University of East Anglia
WAW:	World Autism Week
WG:	Working Group
WG Lead:	Working Group Lead