

# **Autism Partnership Board Meeting**



**14 March 2024**

**on Microsoft Teams**

# Who was there

Name	About them
Councillor Sally Weedon (Chair)	Cornwall Council
Mike Hooper	Healthwatch Cornwall
Robert O'Leary	Healthwatch Cornwall
Amber Conn	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Beccy Summers	University of Exeter
Beth Collins	Cornwall Council
Christopher Burns	Lived Experience
Dina Holder	The Women's Centre Cornwall & Divas
Graham Hickey	Cornwall Council
Ian Summers	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Imogen Groves	Lived Experience
John Holland	Devon & Cornwall Police
Judith Cassidy	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Julie Pape	Healthy Cornwall
Karen Hooper	Cornwall Council
Lucy Freemantle	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Lucy Yeomans	Cornwall Council
Michelle Lobb	Parent Carers Cornwall
Penny Mitchell	Cornwall Council
Rachel Pearce	Cornwall Council
Dr Rebecca Jelbert	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Name	About them
Sam Burridge	Cornwall Council
Sam Mokorram	The Advocacy People
Samuel Ramsay-Schug	Healthy Cornwall
Steve Hillman	Healthy Cornwall
Tazmin Hook	Independent Cornwall Autism Network
Vicky Allan	Cornwall Council

## Who couldn't make it

Name	About them
Alison Short	The Advocacy People
Julia Wildfire-Roberts	Pentreath

## What we talked about at the meeting



Everyone agreed that the notes of the meeting in December were correct.

# An Autism Strategy for Cornwall

Cornwall Council is leading on an **Autism Strategy for Cornwall**.

A group of autistic individuals, carers and professionals are working on it.

But it has been delayed.

This is because they need to make sure that it is led by autistic people.

There will be 7 important areas to look at:

- Improving Awareness
- Improving Support
- Better Lives
- Increase Employment
- Housing
- Keeping Safe
- Supporting Families & Carers

These are the things that people need for a happy life.

The Autism Partnership Board will see the Strategy.

You will have a chance to say what you think.



THE

Women's  
Centre

CORNWALL



Dina Holder told the Board about the work of **The Women's Centre Cornwall** and **The Divas**.

They are training lots of organisations across Cornwall and Devon.

**The Divas** are often sharing the lead and the feedback is very positive.

Domestic abuse or violence affects many people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

The Divas are teaching staff about the needs of those people.

They want to have a specialist support worker for women that are autistic or have learning disabilities.

That will make the wait for support shorter.

**The Women's Centre** and **Learning Disability Psychology Team** will be working together.

They want to understand the trauma people have when they have been abused.



Training Room



The Board has raised lots of concerns about how the **Police** communicate with autistic people.



**The Autistic Community of Cornwall** and **The Women's Centre Cornwall** worked with the Partnership Boards team to write a report.

But much more work needs to be done so a small group will keep working on all of the issues.

PC John Holland said there are two Police officers on the **National Neurodiversity Youth Council**.

At a recent event they saw videos on how Police Officers should engage with people with neurodiversity were shared for learning purposes.



They are looking to see if they can create NFC wristbands.

The Police could scan a wristband and be able to see all of the important information about the person.

It would be up to the person how much information they want to share.



# DWP



Department for  
Work & Pensions

The Partnership Board formed a **DWP** working group.

The aim was to make communication better.

**Job Centres** in Devon and Cornwall are now getting clearer signs.



New information leaflets have been written. They will be available online too.

A virtual walk-through is being created.

That will mean people can go online to see what their Job Centre is like before they go there.

So lots of things got better but there is still lots to do.

The Partnership Boards team got a letter from the Government that is very hard to read.

That shows that there are still big problems.

The Working Group will start to meet again.





University  
of Exeter

Beccy Summers gave a presentation.  
[Click here](#) to see it.

Beccy's team do research.

They speak with patients, carers and families to try to make health and social care better.

That will help to make people's lives better.

We hope that the Partnership Board and her team can work together.

[Click here](#) to see a short film about how people can take part.



At the next meeting Mike and Robert want you to tell us what the Board needs to be talking about.

We need you to tell us what really matters to you.

Please have a really good think about it.

We can make sure that all of the right people come to talk about it.

We also want to know what you need from us to make the meeting as good as it can be.





# Next meeting:



**at County Hall, Truro**



**on Microsoft Teams**

