

# **Autism Partnership Board Meeting**



**19 September 2024**

**At New County Hall, Truro  
and on Microsoft Teams**

# Who was there

Name	About them
Councillor Sally Weedon (Chair)	Cornwall Council
Nattie Thompson	Healthwatch Cornwall
Robert O'Leary	Healthwatch Cornwall
Bethany J Noall	Citizen Checkers
Beccy Summers	University of Exeter
Beth Collis	Cornwall Council
Christopher Burns	Self Advocate and Disability Campaigner
David Burns	Citizen Checkers and Healthwatch Cornwall
Dina Holder	The Women's Centre Cornwall & Divas
Gary Dymott	Mencap in Bude
Gemma Dyson	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Heather Davison	Divas
Lorraine Corrigan-Turner	Mencap and Bude Autism, ADHD and SEN Group
Paul Owen	Champs Team, Healthy Cornwall
Sam Mokorram	The Advocacy People
Steve Hillman	Healthy Cornwall
Tom Scues	Champs Team, Healthy Cornwall
Vicki Allan	Cornwall Council

# Who couldn't make it

Name	About them
Amber Conn	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Julia Wildfire-Roberts	Pentreath
Karen Hooper	Cornwall Council
Lewis Henry	Brandon Trust
Marie Ralph	Autistic Community of Cornwall
Matthew Wilmott	Autism in Schools Team for East Cornwall
Rachel Mellor	Brandon Trust
Dr. Rebecca Jelbert	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Rhiannon Sharpe	Disability Cornwall
Tazmin Hook	Independent Cornwall Autism Network
Tina Sanford	Cornwall Council
Tracey Chater	United Response

## What we talked about



Everyone agreed that the minutes of the June meeting were correct.

# Update from Healthwatch Cornwall



**Healthwatch Cornwall** is starting a new Partnership Board.

The **Mental Health Partnership Board** will bring advocates and the people that provide health and social care together.

Everyone is welcome.

If you want to help to improve mental health services, we want you on the Board.

There is a launch event at Lanivet Community Centre on 8 October.

The Partnership Boards team will email everyone with full information.



## Champs Update - Safe Places Scheme and Safe Places ID Cards



Zoe Webb is working to improve safe places. Many are not as good as they should be.

In the future there will not be as many safe places but the ones there are will be very good.

**The Champs** are making training videos so that everyone working at a safe place understands what they need to do.

**Christopher Burns** said he would be worried if food banks are used as safe places.

He said that staff would have to be trained. Many do not understand disability awareness.

Staff need to be able to identify people that need support.

**The Champs** team said there are no safe place food banks in Cornwall at the moment.

All safe places staff will have to do the **Healthy Cornwall** training.



There is a new **Safe Places card** that has the same picture as the stickers you see in windows.

On the back there are 3 boxes.

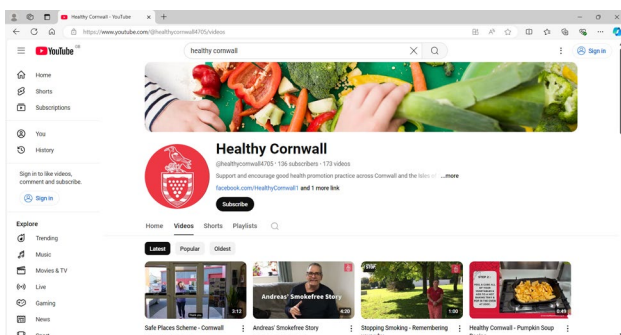
You tick the ones that are about you.

1. I have a learning disability
2. I am autistic.
3. I am neurodiverse



You will be able to watch all of the short films on YouTube.

[Click here](#)





THE  
**Women's  
Centre**  
CORNWALL

**The DIVAS** and the **Women's Centre Cornwall** are giving **healthy relationships training**.

This is for women with learning disabilities and neurodivergent women who have been through domestic abuse or sexual violence.

Women with Learning Disabilities and Autistic women are the highest risk group.

They also provide individual support to women.

Email [Penni Charteress](mailto:Penni.Charteress@cornwall.gov.uk) or call her on 07958 611948 for more information.

There will be **Peer Support Groups** too.

It can be very isolating to be a woman with learning disabilities and/or an autistic woman.

That can be made worse if there is abuse too.

These groups will be a safe place to meet and talk with other women.

If you want to join a group or want to help email [Addy Oliver](mailto:Addy.Oliver@cornwall.gov.uk) or call her on 07961 900672.



# An Autism Strategy for Cornwall



An **Autism Strategy for Cornwall** is being written.

The Strategy will go to Cornwall Council's Cabinet in March 2025 and will be in place in April 2025.



**Citizen Checkers** are holding sessions to let people talk about:

- understanding and acceptance
- improving support
- reducing inequalities
- employment and education
- independent living
- keeping safe.

[Click here](#) to find out more.



Christopher Burns said that it is very hard for many people to travel around Cornwall. It is important that a lot of people can join online.

# Any Other Business



## Social Housing

Gemma Dyson said she had heard about people that are struggling to live in homes that do not meet their sensory needs.

Vicki Allan will look into it.

## Neurodiverse men – healthy relationships



Robert O’Leary asked what support is available to help neurodivergent men to understand what a healthy relationship looks like.

Men are the people that commit the most domestic abuse and sexual violence.

It makes sense to provide education and training to try to stop that from happening.

## Next meeting:

