

## Representatives Feedback Form

**Volunteer Name:** Diana Elliott

**Name and date of meeting attended:** Bristol Autism Forum, 2 Nov 2017

**Number of attendees:** 13 Chaired by Mike Davies, Councillor - co-chair and Council Autism Champion. Facilitated by Helen Pitches.

**Time spent (incl. reading & travel time):** N/A

### Healthwatch Feedback

#### Information Taken to Meeting (from Healthwatch)

None

#### Main items to feed back to Healthwatch

Minutes of the meeting will be put on the Bristol Council website – but these haven't yet been done for the July meeting.

Terry Dafter, the interim head of Adult Social Care is co-chair of the Forum until the post is filled, probably in March.

Minutes from the last meeting – it was noted that several of the actions had not yet been done.

Attendees at the BASS advice service had not been able to have a pre-discussion prior to this meeting.

Mike Davies said he hadn't been able to speak to the Mayor yet about progress on issues raised by the 'Letters to the Mayor'. He hoped to do so soon. He was in particular asked to enquire whether a letter could be sent out to all schools and some businesses, as had already been discussed.

Circulation list and attendees at the meetings: This has not yet been resolved – not many had replied to the request to advise whether or not they are still interested in the group.

Again it was noted that there was no representative from the CCG and it was felt that the CCG must be a participant and that the Autism Strategy had a requirement for this.

The Bristol Autism Strategy (2012 – 2015) should be refreshed, but not rewritten.

A date was set for the group to meet in January to discuss:

The Bristol Autism Strategy

The Action Plan

Terms of Reference, to include membership of the group, and how to achieve participation of autistic adults and also parents/carers.

It was felt that further discussion on the Action Plan should be delayed until this meeting.

**AOB:**

Adam O'Loughlin, the Avon & Somerset Police Autism Champion, attended the meeting and expressed his interest in being a member of the group (and the other Autism Groups within their area). Involvement of the Criminal Justice system is a requirement of the Autism Strategy as illustrated in the Autism Self-Assessment Report. A&S Police are working with BASS and the University of Bath to provide training for their staff.

**Actions Healthwatch needs to take** (by whom? when by?)

As mentioned in the previous report - are Healthwatch able to help with encouraging GPs surgeries and hospitals to have better understanding of autism and the needs of autistic people, of whatever age, when accessing their services? Please let me know!

The CCG could be encouraged to increase funding for the adult diagnostic service so that NICE guidelines could be achieved – 13 wks from referral to assessment. Currently this is about 6 mths/26 weeks. (This is relevant to all local authorities!). With the formation of the BNSSG, commissioning over the whole area could help provide the same level of service in all these areas.

**Other information**

Was the venue accessible? (Please circle)                    **YES (City Hall)**

**Comments:**

Did you receive all of the information you needed before the meeting? (Please circle)

**YES**

**Comments:**

**Any other information/comments** (e.g. was the meeting easy/hard to understand? Did you meet any key contacts?)

Efforts are made to make the meeting accessible for autistic adults. Use of cue cards to ask to speak/for clarification. Explanation of acronyms.

**Date/Time/Venue of the next meeting:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018, 1 – 5 pm City Hall

**Are you planning to attend?**

**YES**

**Name:** Diana Elliott

**Signed:** emailed

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Please return to ?Steffie Denton within 7-10 days after the meeting**

**and cc in ?Pat**