

What

What we talked about



Welcome

1. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Round

All members introduced themselves and told the group how they like to spend their free time.

We asked if there were any more one page profiles.

- David Wood, React, SAIL
- Daniel Jones, Turning Point Development Officer
- Amanda Topps, Lancashire County
- James Hughes, React
- Gillian Collins, Lancashire County Council Employment Service
- Steve Whelan, Adult Disability Day Services
- Mike Holt, React
- Richard Woods, React
- Stephen Smith, React
- Pat Afflick, Integrate

Daniel needs to update his and Mike and James need to support self-advocates to update theirs.

Pat likes to go to the cinema and for meals out and looking after her grandson.
 Stephen goes to a drama group called ADA, Knowle Green.
 Richard likes to watch TV and enjoys quiz shows.
 Mike runs 5 or 6 times a week and likes reading.

Steve likes watching tennis and plays tennis on the X Box, socialising with friends and doing DIY.

Gill likes reading and walking and going to the gym.

James likes running and enjoys Park Runs

David relaxed listening to audio books on his MP3.

Daniel likes playing on his Xbox.



Apologies

Natalie Vranjes

Paul Blythin

Amy Bishop

Peter Seefus



2. Positive and productive meetings

We introduced the ground rules.



3. Reviewing our Actions

We looked at our actions from our last meeting:

Action: Gill, Amy and Kath arranged to meet on Monday 1 August at Preston College to see how this could be achieved.

Gill, Amy, Paul and Kath met on 1 August. They set a provisional date of 12 October to speak to employers at Preston College. They are meeting next week to catch up. Gill has invited:

NHS Foundation Trust, Co Op and Chorley Council.

Amy is contacting Booths.

This is so ask employers what they see are the barriers to employing people with learning disabilities.

Action: Amanda to ask Ellen and Helen for the questions the Autism Board are asking employers so our group can find out more.

Helen sent the link after the meeting to the Autism Board Employers Questionnaire, click the link to see the whole questionnaire:
<https://lccsecure.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/questionnaires/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=674189>

Here are the questions:

Survey for employers

- 1. What is your type of Business/ Job Sector (Please select from the drop down list below)**
- 2. What is the size of your organisation: 10 employees, 11-50 employees, 51-200 or Over 200**
- 3. Do you currently employ anyone with a known autistic spectrum condition (e.g. Autism, Asperger Syndrome)?**

If **yes**, how many individuals do you employ with a known autistic spectrum condition?

- 4. In employing someone with an autistic spectrum condition; what qualities have they brought to your organisation? Please tick any that you have found applicable**

- Technical skill
- Problem solving
- Attention to detail
- Specialist knowledge
- Organisational skills
- Reliability
- Loyalty
- Commitment and focus
- Other

If other, please state

5. Have you found any challenges in employing someone with an autistic spectrum condition?

5a. If yes, please give details:

What are these challenges?

5b. What helped? (How did you overcome these challenges?)

6. Often our experience has shown that some simple adjustments in a job can make a big difference to people in work.

For example; changing the way information is presented or instructions are given, the type of training offered, how the job is organised

As an employer, list 3 things that you did or adjustments that you made to help make the job successful for the employee?

7. Have you attended any training courses about autism to assist you in supporting your workforce?

7a. If yes, who provided the training?

7b. How helpful was this training?

8. Have you undertaken any research in autism to assist you in supporting your workforce?

For example: reading, internet research, advice from support organisations such as the National Autistic Society.

8a. If yes, please give details.

9. Would you be interested in recruiting more people on the autistic spectrum?

10. Finally, is there anything else you would like to say or tell us about employing someone with autism or any further information you need to help you to do this (for example signposting to available training or information)?

End of Questionnaire

Action Outstanding: Amanda to find out if we can access the information on the Wellbeing Directory.



4. Today's Theme Mapping What's On in Lancashire

Members brought local information and organisational information about regular activities. We talked about how to share information.

Members said a booklet would be good. Information on a web page or a newsletter.

We could advertise the directory or newsletter on the local radio stations across Lancashire as they have activities sections on their programmes.

We looked at East Central and North for regular activities for people with learning disabilities and for people without disabilities.

These ideas will be put into the What's On in Lancashire document Amanda has been putting together.

We discussed how we could help some of this information to be shared.

We said that there could be problems keeping the information up to date.

Amanda said a good way which has worked through partnership working and the Friends and Relationships Champions is for a local partner to work with Amanda and the FAR OUT groups to put together a bi-monthly newsletter. Partners like Piccadilly, AFG and LCC Domiciliary service have helped to do this in North Lancashire.

Action: Pat offered to work with Amanda to do this in Central Lancashire. They arranged to meet on Tuesday 27 September at 10am at the Integrate office to look at the newsletter idea.

Amanda said that Mary Jones and the providers in West Lancashire are arranging a meeting to discuss a similar idea and how to link in a similar way to the FAR OUT Champions.

We talked about asking the LLDC via Christine Mottley if they could organise and host a Lancashire LD activity information directory.

We think Daniel would be a good person to ask Christine.

We talked about barriers to sharing this information. How will people access activities and who with?

Action: Amanda to email the What's On template to Steve Whelan so that LCC in house services can add their activities on and any that they are aware of.

Action: Amanda to find out how the wellbeing service could help.

Action: Amanda to send What's On template to providers



4. Today's Theme Mapping What's On in Lancashire

What actions does the group need to take?

See actions above.

Below is the feedback about friends and relationships from the Partnership Board on 20 January 2016

What can we do?

Make sure people know how/what is going on in their area through:

- Website
- Facebook
- Libraries
- Leaflet drops
- Pass on information through groups
- Local radio, newspapers, tv
- What's on newsletter

What can we do to make sure people have an active social life?

- Make sure people get out
- Find out what is going on – not everyone has access to a computer
- Cost can stop people doing things
- Need someone to go with – buddy system
- Organise events and activities
- Identify local and safe areas and activities
- Involve other community organisations eg rotary club etc (may help with costs/transport)
- Share support and transport costs
- Connecting with volunteers and local community members to assist rather than relying on paid support
- Better communication and advertising what is happening and available locally



5. Updating our Action Plan

To go on the next meeting agenda.



7. Any other business

There was no any other business.



8. Closing Round

Members said what they thought went well or not so well about our meeting today.

Worked hard and worked well together.

Interesting meeting.

Lots of information and how are we going to make sense of it all.

We have found out a lot of information and we need to make information accessible.

Concern about how we can use the information as there is a lot of work.

Meeting new people.

Good meeting looking at each area and finding out what is available in each community.

Good that Richard and Paul collected newspapers and information.



**End of
meeting**



**Date of next
meeting**

Thursday 17 November 10-1 A06 County Hall, Pitt Street, Preston

Please contact Amanda a week in advance of the meeting if you need parking and we will attempt to secure a parking space for you.