

Autism Unlimited Meeting Notes – 13/12/21 (Stacey)

Attendees: Louise Middleton (PCT), Stacey Freeman (PCT), Claire Causley (Autism Unlimited), Donna Wearn (Autism Unlimited), Karen Stephens (Dorset Council), Lisa Pickard (Dorset Council), , Rachel Brown (Dorset Council), Sarah Lawrence (Dorset Council), Laura White (Dorset CCG), Diana Barbosa (Dorset Council), Tracey Naylor (DPCC)

Apologies: Melissa Tettenbourn (BCP Council), Annie Draper (BCP Council)

This was the first meeting with Autism Unlimited (previously Autism Wessex) to discuss the timeframes for the (Tier 1 and 2) training they will deliver to both Dorset Council, BCP Council and CCG staff and the e-learning (Tier 1) training that will also be available to a wider range of individuals: bus drivers, taxi drivers, passenger assistants, GP practice staff and parents.

We discussed the communications that will go out in January to inform everyone about this training. It is hoped that Tier 1 training could begin about March (e-learning) and Tier 2 training (face to face, restrictions allowing) would take place between May and September 2022.

We discussed the Oliver McGowan training and the benefit of including a link to the video that explains why this training is necessary.

The discussion from the meeting:

Donna- Historically, things have been created by Neurotypicals. The training has been completely co-produced with members of the autistic community, including autistic individuals who are employed by Autism Unlimited.

Don't change and alter the autistic person. (I love their attitude and approach)

Tier 1 - Open access - unlimited

Tier 2 - How do we allow equality of access to all?

Donna – We need to consider induction for new employees to ensure everybody is up to date.

Laura – We need to build that insight into the project.

Rachel - Regarding people who access the training through web page, how do we capture data of who has completed the training?

Donna – The training has been split into 6 bitesize sessions. They are not being referred to as 'modules' because it can present as too overwhelming.

We are trying to make it engaging for the learner so it does not have the 'feel' of mandatory training. It should cater to every need.

Lisa - bits from internal system to website.

Could this link with Early Years work?

Rachel – It can be put in Early Years and adult pathway

There will be places for the voluntary sector

Lisa - Need to look at booking system. e. g. – So there is not one person taking bookings for adults, once for children etc.

Laura - There will be an instruction expressing they are working in partnership with Autism Unlimited and how it can be accessed.

Laura – Aiming to share training for review in the first week of January 2022. People want this, and want to know when and how it will be available.

Do people want to do further reading and watch the Olivier McGowan video? It is very emotive.

Donna- It is quite heavy and intense; there is no natural place for it to fall in the segment. We can offer links for additional learning.

Lisa- It is necessary to include/watch it as it is very powerful.

Donna- We could do a pilot run with it at the beginning or end. It should be referenced and we need to be comfortable with the uncomfortable.

Rachel - By having it at the start it could be misleading, as people will think this is the Oliver McGowan story. It's probably best not to embed the video within it.

Donna - Hopefully people will be interested and will choose to watch it independently, if it is shared as an additional resource. It is a long video.

We need to review the pilot and gain feedback.

Lisa - Can we send the link when the 'comms' go out, and stick the video at the end of the training?

Donna - This training is influenced by it. If the video is shared internally, it at least introduces the idea.

Laura - Tier 1 - Open to anybody

Tier 2 – We need to gather as a group to ensure how we can explore

how we ensure equity.

Then there will need to be further communication to establish how we reach wider roles such as school staff, bus drivers, passenger assistants etc.

We hope this is a warm up to cultural change, and then the Oliver McGowan will be introduced.

Laura asked Donna to look into key steps, and for a timeline to be communicated.

Sarah – We need to promote this heavily internally, and celebrate the fact that we are ahead of the curve.

There is a lot of excitement that this work is underway.