

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Phil Woods – Family Member & Chair
Andrea Glasspell – Assistant Director – Community Health and Wealth, Wigan Council
Sarah Marshall – Assistant Director, Greater Manchester Integrated Care Organisation
Colin Harvey – Parent
Stacey Forsyth-Duffy – More Than Words
Joe Wiswell - DWP
Adrian Shone – Autism Advocate
Deborah Thomson - Engagement & Inclusion Lead, Wigan Council
Rachael Darling – Strategic Development Manager, Wigan Council
Siobhan Smith – SENDS Engagement Officer, Wigan Council
Melanie Pickering – WWL
David Bradley – Probation Service
Kathryn Anthon – Service Manager, Personalisation, Wigan Council
Lisa Ball - Public Health Service Manager, Wigan Council
Luisa Preston – Parent Carer Forum
Kelly McClarence – Parent Care Forum
Louise Gettings – Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) for SEND – Wigan Locality - NHS GM
Emma Edwards – Public Health, Wigan Council
Jo Crooks – Project Manager Wigan Council and Parent
Sarah Speakman - Business Manager Contact Centre and Libraries
Rebecca Bowen - Customer Services Officer - Libraries Transformation
Deborah Shuttleworth-Pennington – Project Officer, Wigan Council

Apologies:

Amanda Cheesman – Deputy Chief Nurse, WWL
Reg Dempster – GM Fire and Rescue Service
Lauren Crews – Service Manager Housing, Wigan Council
Mike Wharton – Assistant Director Adult Social Care Practice
Cllr Keith Cunliffe – Deputy Leader, Wigan Council. Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health
Kellie Williams – SEND Service Lead, Wigan Council
Lindy Wardle – Service Manager, Provider Management & Market Development, Wigan Council
Melanie Allen – SEND Service Manager, Wigan Council
Kathryn Perry – Assistant Director, Housing – Wigan Council
Louise Hall – Consultant Clinical Psychologist, GMMH
Alison Badley – Clinical Team Manager, GMMH
Alan Bailey-Banks – Wigan Wellbeing
Tracey Cunliffe – Senior Casework, MP Jo Platt Office
Gillian Percy – Parent
Dan Driver – Service Lead Locality Teams, Wigan Council
Hannah Forbes – Leigh Community Trust
Matt McQuillan – Inclusion Manager, Be Well, Wigan Council

ITEM	LEAD
1. Welcome & Introductions: Welcome messages were received, introductions made, and apologies noted.	Phil Woods
2. Matters arises and previous meeting minutes: - The board agreed the minutes were an accurate reflection of the previous meeting. - The action log was updated.	Phil Woods Deb SP
3. Self Advocates Autism Engagement Group  Wigan Autism Partnership Board 17. - Deb T presented the attached slides to update the board. Action: Deb SP to share the Autism Friends information, colleagues asked to put forward colleagues to take part in the champion training to then deliver to own services. - Colleagues from Wigan Libraries confirmed there are free rooms to use in local libraries for the training. - The board asked for the updated reach of the Autism Friends Training for the last 12 months. Action: Deb T to share. - Deb T to link in with Luisa, Parent Carer Forum for Autism Friends training. - The youth inspector approach was discussed, Deb T to include as part of the work around inclusion not just for people with autism for the places they inspect. The board agreed a position statement around inclusive for the above work to be prepared, to manage people's expectations. - An evening autism engagement group has been setup and will meet at the Family Hub on Mornington Road on the last Thursday of every month, from 6-7:30pm. This will make access easier for people who work, volunteer or study in the daytime. An update on the success of this at the January board. Action: Deb T to provide. Parent Carer Forum Update - Lusia provided an update around the autism in schools project. The project has worked with 12 high schools and 7 primary schools. The secretary of state visited one of the schools where the project took place and provided excellent feedback. It was confirmed the work is informed by a data led approach.	Deb Thomson / Luisa Preston

4.	Wigan Wellbeing and Resilience • Lisa explained the changes to this service, and the reasons why this service is changing. Also confirmed it is not a cost cutting exercise. Full support will be given to the current people who access the service. The future of the support offer is being co-produced with the people who are affected by the change to this service locally. • Lisa attended the autism engagement group to talk about the changes and hear the views of people who use the service currently. Gaps highlighted included support with benefit claims, form filling, advocacy and peer support. • Lisa also explained the Manbassador and Women's Peer groups which are being setup in conjunction with Public Health from Wigan Council. There are further opportunities for community groups or people who would like to set something up to provide peer support.	Lisa Ball
5.	WWL A&E Update • The Emergency Department (ED) and Thomas Linacre Centre working closely with Jessie, Otis' mum who is supporting to shape the quiet space in ED and an adult and a children's calm cart and Makaton cards. This work began to improve following a previous negative experience with her son. Action: Melanie to update at the next board how this has made a difference to people who use the spaces and resources. • The information notice board in ED has been updated with information of what parents need to know when attending. Action: Louise G to link in with WWL to ensure this is not just autism specific. • The board suggested a tour of the new space and resources in the ED Department. Action: Deb SP to coordinate.	Melanie Pickering
6.	Highlight Report Updates (by exception) • The Employment task group has been reintroduced and will meet in between boards, with updates on progress to be brought here and to the Learning Disability Partnership Board. This includes Wigan Council, DWP, Ingeus, Work Well and other partners. • Health task group is awaiting a peer review, Sarah will bring the findings to a future board. • Criminal Justice Andrea to pick up with Mari from a GMAC perspective and colleagues in the council to make links to support this work.	All
7.	Any Other Business • Andrea confirmed Wigan Council Adult Social Care will be inspected before the end of 2025 by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). • Pre work has taken place, with a evidence submission by Wigan Council, CQC will review the data available nationally and speak to	All

	people who work with us and partners. A rating will be shared following the inspection. • The board discussed what they would like to be included in the November workshop to be included. This included; reflection and celebrations of achievements of the board to date and how society culturally feels different due to increased awareness. Ideas put forwards for spotlight items included Giles’ Journey to Employment, GMMH Peer Mentor Program, the Autism in schools project and a reflection of the impact of the Oliver McGowan Training for people with autism who deliver the training. Table work to reflect and plan for the next few years and a focus on research to support our future focus to further develop the work. Action: Andrea to share Giles’ story with the board. • Each priority area to have a poster for people to add comments to on the day, things to celebrate and any improvements they would like to suggest. • The next meeting date is being used for the full day workshop, to reflect and celebrate, and to agree the strategy for the next few years • Deb T updated the board that work is ongoing with the data team at the council, around what is available to pull together to measure the impact of the work on the board. Further updates will be provided as the work progresses. Action: Deb T to circulate to sub-group leads to ask what data is already available, who sees the data and what is the impact to people with autism.	
Date and time of next meeting: Wigan All Age Autism Strategy Workshop Date – Wednesday 19 November 2025 Time – 10 am – 4 pm Venue – Directors Suite, Leigh Sports Stadium, Sale Way, Leigh		