**Autism Residents Advisory Group Meeting**

**Stratford Library 30/04/2024 9:30am –11:30am**

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| Attendees:  Sabrina Elstub – Co-Chair, Resident  Linda Wan – Co-Chair, LBN Commissioner  Patricia Moody – VoiceAbility, Support Facilitator  Mbemba Bojang – NHS People Participation Lead  Anna Sandiford – NHS People Participation Lead  +4 online Residents  +6 in-person Residents | **Apologies:**  Ben Taylor  Jacqueline Delventhal  Sabrina Bafli |

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| **Item** | **Note / Action agreed**  These minutes should be read alongside the accompanying slides | **Action by** |
| **1** | **Welcome and introductions/apologies**  **Serena- Co Chair** welcomes the attendees, reminded participants of meeting rules, talks through the Agenda  Guests speakers were invited to present. Guest slides will be shared. | **LW** |
| **2** | **Newham Hospital People Participation Service:**  Mbemba Bojang & Anna Sandiford **NHS People Participation Lead,**  spoke and shared a set of slides.  The People Participation Service works with Newham patients to help shape hospital services, ensuring engagement and participation with a focus on quality improvement to make the hospital better.  The key objective of the People participation Service is to have patients, carers and local residents with lived experience of using Newham Hospital get involved in Designing and improving hospital services |  |
|  | **Newham Hospital World Café**  The Service is inviting patients that have accessed hospital services in the past year and carers to join the next world café. Participants will be given training & will also receive Reward and Recognition.  The next World Café Autism event is on **Wednesday 25th September 2024**, at Newham hospital – by invitation only.  Criteria to participate:  · Have attended Newham hospital in the last 12 months  · Must attend the meeting that will take place face-to-face at the hospital  · Must attend a training session, and the main event on the morning of 25th Sept  ARAG members interested in joining the main world café event should send an email to:  **Email**: [Autism.Commissioning@newham.gov.uk](mailto:Autism.Commissioning@newham.gov.uk)  **Subject**: World Café Participant  As spaces are limited, once we know who is interested, we can then go from there. It's important to know that if you are not able to attend your voice will still be represented. The world cafe is not a complaints forum but a platform for idea generation.    All the information gathered will go via a report to all attendees, the hospital Patient Experience and engagement committee, the Integrated care board and ARAG. | **ALL** |
|  | The People Participation Service are also looking for ARAG members and carers to participate in the planning of the world café:   * They would like to invite up to 5 people who have Autism / who are carers of those with Autism to Join. * The planning group will decide on a theme for the world cafe that links into the Newham Autism Strategy and is Newham Hospital specific. We will also co-design three questions around this theme with the objective of finding practical solutions that are within our power to make things better for Autistic people using Newham Hospital * Ensure the welcome pack that goes out to attendees is Autism friendly * There will be a training session, 2 planning meetings and 1 main Activity (25 Sept 9-12am) and a test run (24 Sept 5-7pm) * ALL participants must be available and attend in person training and planning meetings, and where relevant the test and main activity (if also participating in the main event)   If any ARAG members are interested in being part of the planning group, please email:  **Email**: [Autism.Commissioning@newham.gov.uk](mailto:Autism.Commissioning@newham.gov.uk)  **Subject**: World Café Planning Group | **ALL** |
| **3** | **Minutes and Matters Arising – Serena Elstub**  **Canning Town Library 30.04.2024 10.am – 11.30 am**   * Actions were reviewed and agreed – see slides * The front page illustration of The All Age Autism Strategy was shared with the group, receiving a positive response and stated it was inclusive |  |
| **4** | **Autism strategy Delivery Board – update Serena Elstub**  The board agreed the recommendation to:   * re-establish the 6x working groups and the leads * offer ARAG members R&R towards co-delivery of the actions and attending working groups * report back to residents annually using the You Said We Did model |  |
| **5** | **ARAG Members Appointment – Linda Wan**  **ARAG Co-Chair**   * This is Serena’s last meeting as Co-Chair for the ARAG as she has completed a full year as Co-Chair. Serena was thanked for all the work she has put into the role. Serena has been involved from the beginning with the focus group sessions, launch of the autism video and member of the ASDB. * The position of the Co-Chair has now been handed **Emma Akosua Kofie** – Emma was welcomed and thanked for taking on this role. Emma stated how excited she was to be part of developing and shaping the strategy in Newham. |  |
|  | Priority areas, working groups and Co Delivery (slide 32)   * 4x Priority leads identified, 2x more Priority Leads needed * More action leads needed   If any ARAG members are interested in getting involved please email:  **Email**: [Autism.Commissioning@newham.gov.uk](mailto:Autism.Commissioning@newham.gov.uk)  **Subject**: ARAG priority or action lead  A separate email will be sent again which details the application process.  Discussion took place around how many hours you could work without impacting on your benefits, if you are in receipt of benefits. If unsure you should take advice from our Newham [Benefits and Income Maximisation – Newham Council](https://www.newham.gov.uk/advice-support-benefits/benefits-income-maximisation) or DWP or HMRC.  There was also discussion around whether vouchers could be accepted in place of payment without having to declare the vouchers, this should also be checked as it was suggested that this should be declared. LW seek clarification on this point. | **ALL**  **LW**  **LW** |
| **6** | **Autism Strategy Action plan – Linda Wan**  Linda outlined information in the slides:   * Governance Structure * ARAG member roles * Review of co-produced actions |  |
| **7** | **ARAG updates**   * Whats app broadcast; is a confidential messaging system. Please join to get up-to-date information * Review of venues times and days of the AGRAG meetings; an email will be sent out to some members to obtain an update on preferences, please reply. * Develop a list of resources; a list will be shared, if you know of any other services not on the list please share so we can develop this resource for autistic residents | **ALL**  **ALL**  **ALL** |
| **9** | **AOB- Linda Wan** (slide 40)   * **Oliver McGowan Experts By Experience trainers** – wanted, R&R paid, if interested please email:   email [autism.commissioning@newham.gov.uk](mailto:autism.commissioning@newham.gov.uk)  ​ Subject title: OM EbE​   * **Newham library** – we have a great resource, please access the numerous books on autism in our libraries * **NAS e**-learning portal * **Autism Research Round up** * **MH ELF Question time and NIHR MH reviews** * **Seeking 2x volunteers Ambassadors for Our Newham Work** * **Ageing Well RAG** for ages 50+ & **Festival** |  |
| **10** | **Review of meeting rules –** not possible to do – (out of time) |  |
| **11** | **Date of next meeting**   * 8 October 2024   More details here:  [Newham's Autism Resident Advisory Group (ARAG) – Autism – Newham Council](https://www.newham.gov.uk/health-adult-social-care/autism/3) |  |