

## Worcestershire Autism Reference Group Meeting

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 19:30–21:00

In person meeting: The Hive, Worcester

### People Present:

Name	Organisation/Job Title
LW	Co-Chair, Worcestershire County Council (WCC), Adult Social Care Lead Commissioner
CC	Co-Chair and Expert by Experience
HS	Co-Chair of Worcestershire Autism Partnership Board and Expert by Experience
EA	WCC, Commissioning Officer
AK	WCC, Co-Production Officer
2	Expert by Experience

Item	Notes
1	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
2	<b>Minutes from last meeting</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minutes from the last meeting – approved and agreed these will be published online.</li><li>Actions from previous meeting: <b>ACTION:</b> Find out levels of traffic to WCC autism website and Autism West Midlands webpages – WCC autism website report received, to be circulated to group. <b>ACTION:</b> Remote panel for group to review one another's social media recommendations. No additional feedback received. <b>ACTION:</b> Social Media recommendations to have a description and visual picture added. <b>ACTION:</b> AK to seek recommendations from Young People to include in list. <b>ACTION:</b> From Priority 4 Health priority discussion: Share examples of reasonable adjustments. Shared. <b>ACTION:</b> LW to feedback issues of accessing G.P appointments to the Learning Disability and Autism Programme Board.</li></ol>
3/4/5	<b>Neurodivergent language discussion – Amy Knight, Co-Production Officer, Worcestershire County Council</b>

Item	Notes
	<p>Amy went through a Power-point presentation.</p> <p>Feedback:</p> <p>If the information is aimed at a broad audience, additional supporting information is needed to accompany the bold statement.</p> <p>The bold statements help people use the right words but alone do not explain things to give people the level of understanding needed.</p> <p>The secondary information educates the reader, adds real value and gives context.</p> <p>Three paragraphs are too much</p> <p><b>Neurodiversity – 1<sup>st</sup></b></p> <p>Needs more work</p> <p>All equal but with differences</p> <p>The following sentences were particularly liked:</p> <p><b>Neurodiversity includes the diverse ways in which the brain interprets and transforms information into thoughts, actions, movements, and behaviours.</b></p> <p><b>Rather than viewing neurological differences through a deficit-based lens, neurodiversity shifts away from medicalised language and embraces a more inclusive perspective.</b></p> <p><b>Neurodivergence – 2<sup>nd</sup></b></p> <p><b>Bold statement: Being neurodivergent includes people who are: autistic, dyslexic, dyspraxic, ADHD, have DCD, OCD and Tourette’s</b> - Assumes people know what these definitions are.</p> <p>...<b>predominantly represented</b> – simple words are needed. This paragraph is very scientific.</p> <p>The following sentences were particularly liked:</p>

Item	Notes
	<p><b>These individuals have distinct ways of thinking, processing, and experiencing the world—differences, not deficits—that influences communication, language, social interaction, and overall ways of being.</b></p> <p><b>... and affirms the value of diverse neuro-cognitive traits without framing them as impairments.</b></p> <p>Other feedback:</p> <p>Recommended to include in councillor training.</p> <p>Could use the diagram and put text into diagram.</p>
6	<p><b>Future agenda items</b></p> <p>Sensory audit for commissioned providers. Examples given. G.P Practices</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> LW to raise issues discussed with ICB commissioners <b>ACTION:</b> Invite Sensory Friendly Environments Project Team to come and talk about the work that they have been doing.</p>
7.	<p><b>Feedback on today's meeting</b></p> <p>Attendees welcomed the in-person meeting. As not many attended though, it was agreed we would send another poll out to the group to ascertain preferences: online/in-person/hybrid and day/evening sessions.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Poll to be sent to group members</p>
	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> TBC</p>