

Feedback received from Autistic People:

I have received 2 written pieces of feedback, and further verbal feedback from around 15 - 20 attendees at the Portsmouth Autism Community Forum

(8th November):

- One written feedback suggested it was "very neurodivergent affirming" and this was something they "loved" about the action plan. This written feedback also noted that it was good that further funding had been successfully sought for the life skills programmes.
- Another written feedback noted it was "good".
- Verbal feedback provided was that there is a need to pursue appropriate trauma support for autistic and neurodivergent people, and this was not included in the action plan. It was acknowledged this may not be in the scope of Adult Social Care but can be included to pursue this with ICB colleagues, to inform future commissioning and with our mental health colleagues, and therefore will be included in the action tracker (when developed, this is the next part I need to complete). This generated a lot of discussion for people, and the importance of being able to access trauma therapies and support for suicidal ideation was clearly highly important, particularly as suicide rates are higher in the autistic community.
- There was some feedback around use of language in places such as using "people with lived experience". It was noted it needs to be clear what lived experience is being referred to. I will make amendments to clarify this.

I have copied and pasted the written feedback below in full:

- " I think that autistic adults with co-occurring learning disability or who are non-speaking that may face additional challenges and exclusion should be mentioned more. May want to mention something about not requiring spoken communication in certain spaces.
- "A) Create a language guide which has do's and don'ts for words." - If you do this, you should create a survey or something of the Portsmouth community to get a good idea of where the language preferences are. There isn't much consensus on some words in further minoritized groups or autistic people with higher support needs (due to lack of surveying those groups so far in research).
- "3) Make information, advice and guidance available and accessible." - May want to make sure you have "easy read" materials, social stories, and sensory

guides in particular as this will increase accessibility for people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people.

- "A) Develop independent living skills programmes that include budgeting, cooking, cleaning amongst others, using NHS England funding sourced for this purpose." - I really really like this!!
- May also want to mention developing more sensory-friendly spaces, *at least* with respect to lighting and noise

Overall, it was very neurodivergent-affirming and I loved it!! Thank you for everyone's hard work on this, and I look forward to attending the meeting tomorrow."

"The plan all looks good to me."

Kayley Sayers

Transformation Lead

8/11/24