



Your Voice Network Neurodiverse group

Thursday 4th May 2023

Ice breaker question

Who is the most famous person you've met?

People said: Tori Amos, David Tennant, Jason Donovan, Cast of Torchwood.

Main Discussion

Topics for the network meeting

Feedback given by the group

We asked the group what topics they wanted to discuss over the next year these are what people suggested

- **Mental health services** – there is a cookie cutter approach that we do not fit into.
- Devon is having some progress on mental health. Someone in the NHS is setting up a new service for people with complex needs which will cover autistic people.
- • **Work support services.** Services like “we work for everyone” in North Somerset only have funding until the end of the year. The funded services have a protocol for how they want to work with people and they talk about being flexible but can only work with you for a year and then it ends. It’s hard to feel supported when you have to change service and they don’t work with you for enough time. Maybe a work passport that you share across services would be useful to prevent having to retell your story.

- • **Access to Work** – how to access it, what you can apply for, what funding is available to neurodiverse people

- **Support and intervention for long term ongoing conditions** – where they sit within the system

- • **Housing**, Types of housing solutions – social and private landlords and communicating with them including autistic and sensory friendly housing

- • **Police and the justice system**, interactions between the police and autistic people, and autistic peoples experience of hate crime

- • **Oliver McGowan training**

- • **Mens and women’s health** - these might have to be smaller sessions or break out rooms covering cancer screenings, the menopause and male aging

Feedback given by the group

- • **The ambulance service** – interactions with and treatment of autistic people in emergencies
- **LEDER** – is a service improvement programme learning from the lives and deaths of autistic people to try and reduce the health and social care barriers that lead to the low life expectancy. It has only been running for autistic people without a learning disability since last October.

- • **Gut health and digestive issues**

- • **Interoception** – explaining pain, physical and emotional experiences

- • It was suggested that we might have smaller group on relationships and Neurodiversity, Neurodivergent parenting and LGBTQ issues as these may be very specific issues
 - • Someone from DWP/jobcentre
 - • Someone from the Police force
 - • researchers

- • **We would like to know what you feel is important to discuss at the meeting and whether the network meeting is still at the best time and day for every one. So if you could spare a few moments to fill in this short survey it would be very helpful**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MZFXHYT>

Next meeting: Thursday 1st June 2023 6:00 -7:30 pm