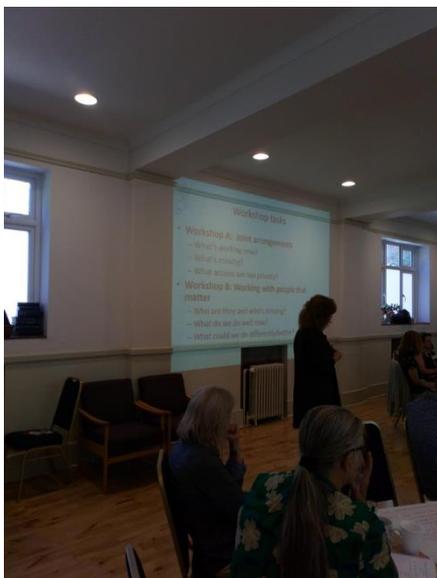


July 2019

SEND Newsletter.....encouraging everyone to raise their expectations for children and young people with SEND

Welcome to the SEND newsletter - an opportunity to share some updates about what is happening in Oxfordshire.

Developing the SEND Strategy



Representatives from Oxfordshire Parent Carer Forum, Education, Health and Care are working together to develop the SEND Strategy for Oxfordshire.

A workshop was held in the Wesley Memorial Hall to talk about where we are now, where we want to get to and how we might get there. Groups talked about how to

- Ensure all partners have an inclusive approach
- Identify children with additional needs at the earliest opportunity
- Improve the experience for families in all aspects of their SEND journey
- Work together and involve people that matter
- Improve transition planning for young people moving into adulthood

The draft strategy will be developed over the summer informed by discussions from the workshop. Another meeting is being arranged in the autumn term to continue its development.

The event reminded me how many different people and agencies are involved in the lives of children and young people with SEND and their families. It has also shown that it is possible to get all the right people together and have a meaningful and inspiring conversation about our common goals and ways to achieve them.



The Autism Experience Group

Earlier this year Oxford Health launched an Autism Experience Group for adults (18 years plus). The group is led by Jorik Mol, Expert by Experience, and Mike Parry, a Mental Health Nurse who also has lived experience of Autism. The group is an Autistic only space in relation to membership and provides the opportunity for people to share their experiences in a safe environment, working together to change and influence the development of services.

The group meets on a Thursday evening at Abell House, Horspath Driftway, Headington Oxford OX3 7JH. It has been running for 3 months and has been very well attended. Feedback from groups members has been very positive.

For further details of the group, when it meets and topics to be discussed please contact Jorik at autismexperience@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

Feedback from some younger members of the group has identified the need to set up a similar group for people under the age of 18 years. We would like to hear what young people in Oxfordshire would like so we have set up a Survey Monkey to get their views. Please share the following link with young people who have an autistic spectrum condition. We would like it to reach as many young people as possible. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y6PD9PR>