



Greater Manchester Autism Consortium Advisory Groups – Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Greater Manchester Autism Consortium Project (GMAC) has been in existence since 1993. The project was created to serve the needs of autistic people and family members across the ten Greater Manchester (GM) authorities in a variety of ways. The project serves to:

- Provide information to individuals, family members and professionals
- Share good practice
- Identify gaps in service provision
- Raise awareness of autism and the needs of autistic people
- Support Training standards
- Champion the rights of autistic people and their family members

The details of how those aims will be met is set out in the GM Autism Strategy Implementation plans.

GMACs first obligation is to seek to comply with the contract as fully and efficiently as possible, as far as the intentions of the 10 boroughs can be determined.

Advisory groups

The title of the two groups are the GMAC Autistic Adult's Advisory Group and the GMAC Families' Advisory Group.

Those groups report into the GM Autism Delivery group which is chaired by a representative of the GM Adult Directors of Social Services group on behalf of the GM Integrated Care System. Currently the chair is Bernie Enright (Manchester).

Terms of Reference

Agenda

- The groups shall receive reports from the GM Autism Delivery group on the activities completed since last meeting, currently ongoing and being planned.
- The groups shall seek to submit proposals for consideration by the steering group that shall be reasonable with regard to The Contract.

Membership

- Membership of both the groups shall be voluntary and shall form no kind of employment relationship between GMAC and any individual.
- Members will be encouraged to seek to develop links with each other and with as many autism groups and/or autistic individuals as they can in their own boroughs.



- Members will normally be sought in each borough from;
 - representatives of local autism groups active in that borough
 - residents in each borough who are autistic
 - immediate family members of someone an autistic person
 - current and recent family or volunteer carers of an autistic person

Chair/facilitator (Advisory Group Coordinator)

The chairs are appointed by the GMAC and their roles are to:

- manage the business of the meetings efficiently by chairing the meeting
- ensure that members arrive at the meeting properly informed regarding the business to be discussed and to have set the agenda in advance
- ensure that members have equal / reasonable opportunity to be heard.
- ensure that all business is conducted as fairly and efficiently as reasonably possible

Frequency of the meetings

Each group will meet quarterly in between the GM Autism Delivery group or more regularly if agreed by the coordinators.

Format pf the meetings

The Autistic adult advisory group will be in the form of a 3 hour hybrid meeting (both over Zoom and in person at the same time), and the family members group will over Zoom split into two identical sessions, one at lunchtime and one in the early evening on the same day.

Links to the GM Autism Delivery group (governance)

Greater Manchester Combined Authorities and Greater Manchester Integrated Care System



GMAC Project Team
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