

Job description: Lewisham Autism Partnership Board Co-Chair

Key responsibilities:

The role of the co-chair is to lead and support the Lewisham Autism Partnership Board in its aim of overseeing the implementation of the Lewisham All Age Autism Strategy (2023-2028) and by championing the voice of autistic people living in Lewisham

The Co-Chair will have a vital role in ensuring members make the best decisions for autistic people of Lewisham

The expert co-chair will be expected to:

- Co-Chair meetings of the Lewisham Autism Partnership Board ensuring that ultimately decisions are made in the best interests of autistic people in Lewisham.
- Work collaboratively with the Assistant Director and LAPB Co-ordinator, specifically on the development of the agreed programme of work for the Co-Chair to lead and champion throughout their tenure.
- Through agreed work programmes, canvass and champion the views of a diverse range of autistic people, their carers and families reflective of the populations residing in Lewisham to help determine best options for change and delivery that can realistically be achieved within available resource envelopes
- Support the LAPB to identify solutions that respond to the identified needs of communities, raised through agreed coproduction initiatives.
- Ensure good governance principles are applied at Lewisham Autism Partnership Board meetings (setting policies, setting and monitoring performance, ensuring appropriate resources are available)
- Promote good relationships and trust between all members of the LAPB, meeting with member organisations individually if appropriate
- To report on the progress of the LAPB to other Lewisham committees and boards.
- To champion the range of diverse views and experiences among our Autistic population.
- To effectively communicate the vision and purpose of the LAPB when engaging with wider stakeholders and communities in Lewisham.
- To advocate for and represent the LAPB at external meetings and events.

Experience

- Diagnosis of autism or self-identifying autistic
- Experience of chairing a senior board of a significant collaboration or partnership and/or of successfully driving change through effective partnership working
- Experience of undertaking meaningful and supportive community listening and coproduction exercises, including making adaptations/reasonable adjustments to secure engagement from individuals with a range of accessibility levels
- Experience of reporting on qualitative feedback
- Experience of operating in an arena where difficult and sometimes contentious decisions have to be taken
- Experience of social care, NHS and third sector preferred
- Understanding of NHS and Local Government strategic planning and an awareness of external drivers affecting local health and health services

Leadership and Values

- Strong commitment to diversity of perspectives and harnessing a range of views to achieve solutions
- Strong commitment to apply co-production, ensuring engagement and involvement of citizens and communities that represent Lewisham borough.
- Ability to engage visibly and effectively with a range of partners and stakeholders (including governing bodies, senior clinicians, patients/service users and citizens) and work comfortably across organisational boundaries
- Confident to raise difficult issues and provide appropriate challenge to facilitate and strengthen relationships between partners, overcoming conflict where necessary
- Bring a sound understanding of, and commitment to upholding the Nolan Principles of Public Life
- Embrace effective governance, accountability and stewardship of public money and demonstrate an understanding of the principles of good scrutiny.

Personal attributes

- Lived experience of accessing assessment and support services for autistic people.
- Able to canvass and represent the views of autistic people from a range of communities living within Lewisham to ensure all voices are heard and listened to.
- Passion for collaboration and partnership working, able to engage, influence and secure shared ownership of objectives/goals
- Ability to plan and chair collaborative meetings, and communicate complex and challenging issues clearly and effectively
- Able to facilitate and encourage active engagement and appropriate challenge
- Able to give an unbiased view on possible conflicts of interest
- Able to oversee all governance matters to ensure they are conducted in accordance with best practice
- Have the skills, knowledge and experience to assess and confirm that appropriate systems of internal control are in place for all aspects of governance, including financial and risk management
- Responsive to feedback
- Able to think conceptually in order to plan flexibly for the longer term and being continually alert to finding ways to improve.