

## Stockport Women and Girls Network Meeting Minutes

Adswood Young People Centre

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

10-2PM

### Intro and Welcome

#### Update

**Make a Difference** – Nadia Ali gave an update on the women and girls project which has been launched in Pakistan, and Nadia is traveling to Pakistan next week to deliver training and facilitate health and wellbeing provisions. Nadia will give an update on her return on this project. The project has raised £2,890 since March 2022. This will be allocated to the set up cost and running costs for the next 6 months.

**Heaton Norris Community Centre** – has a new timetable of activities, that are being delivered weekly from the community centre. Please email [heatonhcc@gmail.com](mailto:heatonhcc@gmail.com) to request a copy

**SWAGN finance** – Nadia Ali informed everyone that there is approximately £2,500 allocated each quarter to SWAGN. This currently has gone towards, venue hire, food cost, administration and co-ordination and the Menopause workshop. Nicola has offered to help towards reaching out to supermarkets to support the cost of refreshments and to network further with other services to look at how we could reduce some costs e.g. venue hire

**SEND from a grassroots community perspective - "it's not all about the paperwork"**

Jan Bennet from Autisk, gave a presentation on her personal and professional experiences of having 6 children with SEND and her challenges with educational and health services. Jan currently co-ordinates several SEND provisions in the Adswold community and has successfully secured funding to enable young people with SEND to access inclusive weekly activities and the community centre.

To find out more about the work that Jan does, please follow the link below or email Jan Bennet on [autisk17@gmail.com](mailto:autisk17@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/Autisk>

<https://www.autisk.co.uk/>

### Stockport lived experience- A presentation from a local young person with SEND

Nadia Ali read out a case study from a young person with SEND to highlight the challenges which she faced through out her primary and secondary school life. SWAGN wants to combat the barriers that young women are facing in schools that are affecting their ability to achieve and thrive. What more can we do as a community and as professionals to ensure that ALL girls are supported regardless of their background? Here are the notes from Nadia's interview with the young person. We encourage everyone to have a read and ask ourselves WHAT MORE COULD WE HAVE DONE TO PREVENT WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS YOUNG GIRL!

#### **MY STORY**

From the day I was born with a visual impairment it was highlighted that there was the need for me to have additional support and resources to ensure that my learning and social development needs were met during my school journey.

I got an EHCP from an early age and it was identified that I needed an IPAD from when I was 5 years old. I knew that I had an EHCP (Educational Health and Care Plan) towards the end of my time in primary school, 7 months before I was due to leave. Even still, nobody did their job effectively to get me support nor that essential equipment, the IPAD for me up till then. I waited another 3 months

after I entered secondary school to get that important piece of equipment to help me learn. That period of time at primary school had a massive impact on me through my secondary school life. I was not able to learn, nor access the work like everyone else and that was even though I had that EHCP.

From when I was 8 to 11, I did not have full inclusive support to help the way I worked, that is, my style of studying. I was referred to CAMHS (Children and Young People's Mental Health Services). It took 4 years for me to get a diagnosis. The school should have pushed more to get it done. It could have done more to help my learning. It had a major impact on my ability to achieve in my studies. One leaves school and then one gets the formal diagnosis; too late for school, but in time for college, I guess. Well now I can progress at college.

School achievement.

It was predicted that I would come out with 4-5 GCSEs but I only came out with 2. I asked for access to booster classes but was refused by the school. This was because the teacher at that time predicted that I wasn't going to pass any GCSE (which I was 1 grade away from achieving). If I had been given access to booster classes I would have passed.

All the other students did 8-9 GCSEs and I was only asked to do 5. They made an assumption that I couldn't achieve the same. The pathway was not the right one for me. I was and am capable.

I had daily contact with at least 10 teachers and only 2 of them believed I could achieve. The others treated me differently.

### Social and Emotional Impact of Bullying

People at school were being horrible about my looks; looking different to everyone else (that's how I felt and was made to feel). The school policies do not and did not help those who are different. The experience left me feeling that being a different skin colour, having a different culture and tradition, and having a visual impairment.... well, I felt I was being pushed to one side, while the perpetrator who bullied me, was given more support than the victim, me. That time was 4 years on and off and with police involvement.

I did not want to go to school. I even had suicidal thoughts in the last 2 years of my school life.

### The Young Person's Award

That only 1 of 2 teachers helped me achieve that because she nominated me. And more than that. It boosted my self-esteem and confidence. More than that, showed what I had done and can continue to do.

### The Us Girls Group

It gave me emotional and social support. It gave me a safe place and lots of fun. It was because of the group I was able to have the confidence to give a speech in front of the mayor.

### My mum and my sisters

My mum and sisters have always believed and supported me from day one. They have stood by me

with love and nurtured me all through my experiences. I am lucky to have that because many others don't.

#### Key Issues

##### School and education

Every stage of school is important, and I did not get that support at primary school. It was so important. Because I did not move on to do well at secondary school.

Schools should give more access to booster classes for its students. And they/the teachers should push everyone, not just the high-achiever. They should do more for the low achievers to reach success too.

The teachers should be more understanding and more aware their kids and their needs. And invest more time in their students. Three months at the most important time of a child's life were wasted at the school I went to. That had a negative impact on the next 5 years of my school life.

##### Inclusive Education

There should truly be inclusive education for all levels of pupils at school

##### Mental Health support

Why did it take so long to have that diagnosis at CAMHS? If it had happened sooner, I would have got the support I needed to see me through secondary school.

#### **Black History Month 2022**

Aba Graham from the Stockport Race Equality Partnership is co-ordinating a programme of all the activities that are taking place in Stockport for BHM 2022 and encourages everyone to get involved and to share any events that are open to the public to add to the calendar for BHM 2022. Please contact Aba Graham on [aba@srep.co.uk](mailto:aba@srep.co.uk). Aba is also co-ordinating regular meetings. Please get in touch. Heaton Norris Community Centre has organised their annual BHM event. This year it is taking place at Tiviot Dale Church as the community centre will not large enough to host all who want to take part. This is on 28<sup>th</sup> October, please email [heatonshncc@gmail.com](mailto:heatonshncc@gmail.com) for more information – all groups and professionals are welcome to attend.

### International Women's Day – March 2023

Nadia Ali – has asked all members to have a look at the event which took place in March 2022, hosted by Make A Difference. Nadia will be hosting a similar event for 2023 , and would like the network to get involved and have a small subgroup that want to work together to look at how we can work in collaboration with other organisations in Stockport

### Lunch and Networking opportunity

1 hour

At the previous meeting many people gave feedback, that more time was needed to network with other people in the room. We encouraged everyone to sit with someone they had not met before and to exchange contact details and information about each other's services and how they can potentially work together. This is the feedback from the day:

- \*Really worthwhile/ inspiring event. Lots of opportunity to support each other.
- \* Great conversations, new leads, good event.
- \* Useful networking opportunities that have produced positive actions.
- \* Great insight to see what other organisations want to change/improve.

- \* Really enjoy(ed) the networking opportunity. Especially the speed dating tables as it meant I spoke to new people.
- \* Brilliant opportunity to network and share stories/ideas/support services in and around Stockport.
  
- \* Absolutely amazing progress and appreciated advance call to action for planning on future events and information sharing on making successful funding bids and looking forward to supporting speaking up on change of funding application administration and accessibility.
- \* Good to see the website up and running and a place to see and share contacts, progress and events.
- \* Nice opportunity to meet some women. Personal experience is can be asked to be involved in pieces of work especially EDI/Refugee work but input not always welcomed. Think there's a fear of stepping on toes so people don't bother (in order to) avoid the conflict.

### Action plan - update and sub groups

Nayuri gave a presentation on the action plan. Since the meeting we have met with two members of the network who have made some suggestions about how we can be more creative in our delivery and the need for engagement in take action from the action plan. We will form a small subgroup to look at this in more detail and will update at the November SWAGN meeting, as this is going to take some time to bring it together productively.

### As we begin to reach shorter days in the winter, what are we doing to ensure the safety of women and girls in Stockport?

Nadia and Nayuri asked the members to look at what each organisation is doing to raise awareness and ensure the safety of women and girls in Stockport during the winter months. This information will be collated in detail at the next meeting to share with each other, the small adaptations that we can be made to improve the safety of women and girls in Stockport , and also looking at what is being done at a strategic level too. Nadia will contact Stockport Hate Crime Partnership for a update.

## AOB

### Feedback for Sector 3

Nadia asked participants how they see the role of Sector 3 in this network – Nadia will feed this back to Kirit Patel and update at the next meeting. This is the feedback from the meeting.

- Admin – to support the network to become more independent
- To do more advice and lobbying of MPs and councillors
- Publicity and marketing
- Creating/ to create more free spaces for meetings
- To connect with this network effectively
- To streamline SEND paperwork
- Funding consultants identify to work with network members
- To signpost members of the network to the wider resources in Stockport
- To do funding support for more money to invest in the development of the network
- To attend meetings and give a wider scope of what is happening strategically in the region for women and girls
- To promote and recruit volunteers to be active members of the network with specific task
- To highlight the work of the network on Sector 3 website regularly

### Next Meeting date, Time Venue



Wednesday 26th October 9.30-12.30pm

Squad House, 3rd Floor Pear Mill, Stockport Road West, Lower Bredbury, SK6 2BP.

The entrance is around the back where there is also adequate parking. The lift is where the X is.

Next Meeting theme is LGBTQ+. This will be hosted in collaboration with SWAGN and the RESPECT (LGBTQIA+) Network

**Eventbrite invites will be out soon**