

Date 14/7/25
Time 10:00 - 16:00
Location Monks Yard, Horton Manor, Horton Cross, Ilminster TA19 9PY

1 – Welcome

The co-chair welcomed the board to the meeting.
Apologies were received and new attendees welcomed.
A new process for board members stepping down was discussed.

2 - Approve previous minutes and Action Log

The minutes from the meeting held on 19 May 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.
The action log was reviewed and updated

4 - Co-production update

The team provided an update on the activities undertaken by the Experts by Experience Leaders over the past two months. Key areas of focus included:

- Development of co-production standards
- Delivery of training for professionals
- Continued refinement and promotion of co-production standards

A productive meeting was held with Somerset Foundation Trust to explore ways of improving collaborative working relationships.

The co-production team is now at full capacity.

The board also held a discussion about the current work of the Recovery College.

5 - Exec. Group update

The Board were updated on recent activities undertaken by the Executive Group. Key points included:

- **Turning Point Engagement**
- **Somerset Council**
- **Access to Services**

- **Workforce Discussion**

6 - Lead Accountable Body update

The board were provided with an update on recent actions undertaken by the lead accountable body. Key highlights included:

- Increased Council relations
- Recruitment
- “We’ve Got This” funding
- Transport
- Best Practice Framework
- Service improvement plan
- Small grants
- Measuring Impact

7 - Performance report

The performance report was presented, highlighting proposed changes to the delivery assessment criteria.

8 - ICB Mergers

A paper was circulated in advance of the meeting. No further discussion was held during the session.

9 - Break

10 - Strategy

The Board had reviewed both the full strategy document and the interactive one-pager.

Decision: The Board unanimously approved the Open Mental Health strategy.

11 - Best Practice Framework

The Board were informed that the Best Practice Framework had been approved by the executive group and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. Feedback from partners had been incorporated and documented in the accompanying “changes” summary.

It was agreed that the Framework would be circulated as a **“working document – at test and learn stage.”**

12 - Risk Register

The risk register, including the new summary tab and the standard operating procedure (SOP), was circulated ahead of the meeting.

13 - Watch - Peer support worker update

Watch joined the meeting to update the board on the new Peer Worker Development Programme.

- A taster session has been included.
- The training will run for 12 weeks.
- Participants will be supported throughout by Peer Induction Leads.
- There will be four cohorts per year, each offering 15 spaces.
- Upon completion of the training, participants will be invited to join a peer forum.
- A dedicated web page will be created to advertise all Peer vacancies.

14 - Supported Housing Pilot

Rethink colleagues joined the meeting to discuss the supported housing project, currently being led by Rethink. It was noted that Somerset Council has expressed interest in the initiative.

15 - Any other Business

- a. SFT research project
- b. Trauma-informed working group – Attendance
- c. Trauma-informed training
- d. Safeguarding supervision and support

16 - Lunch

17 - OMH Presentation

Welcome and Introductions

The newly appointed Service Group Director for Mental Health & Learning Disabilities, and Head of Mental Health at Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, were warmly welcomed to the meeting, alongside Expert by Experience Leaders who joined in person and remotely.

An overview of Open Mental Health was provided, which included:

- Open Mental Health's achievements and challenges over the past five years.
- The development of the **2025–2028 Open Mental Health strategy**, with a strong emphasis on:

Leadership from Experts by Experience

Embedding trauma-informed approaches
Prioritising equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging

- Co-production model.
- Lived Experience Partners.
- System integration discussion.

Useful conversations took place between Somerset Foundation Trust representatives, Expert by Experience Leaders and the partnership board

18 - Expert by Experience

The last section of the day was handed over to the Expert by Experience Leaders who updated the board on the following:

- Co-produced and co-facilitated training as part of the clinical model
- Contributions to the Best Practice Framework
- Development of support benches
- Revised and delivered serious Mental Illness (SMI) training
- Encouraging more open conversations around lived experience and co-production
- Co-production of the First Response voicemail
- Review of the co-chair role.
- Significant involvement in planning and delivering the Open Mental Health conference
- Initial work on co-production standards and training

Co-production Strategy Discussion

The group explored the development of a comprehensive **co-production strategy**.

Co-production Standards

The discussion also covered what should be included in the **co-production standards**, such as:

- Defining what good co-production looks like
- Creating psychologically safe spaces in meetings
- Effective use of pre-meets and debriefs
- Clear and respectful communication with Experts by Experience (EbEs)
- Managing breakdowns in co-production
- Supporting EbEs who may become distressed during meetings

The meeting closed at 16:05
Date of next meeting: 22/9/25