**Social Care and Information**

Social care assessment checklist: Needs be autism accessible, I didn’t find it accessible. I could not understand so I could not to speak to the issues. (No accessible information.)

Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) and autistic needs: They say ‘just tell us’, but the burden is put on me: If I can’t understand what they mean (how it applies to me) I can’t say. E.g. food and things I need for dealing with stress or overwhelm , they (the council) will not count this as DRE.

Autistic training for Personal Assistants (PAs): There is no budget. The council said they would pay course fees, but not pay for PAs time. My PAs say never heard of a role where you have to do training unpaid. Are PAs paid to be trained? I pay them £15 an hour, but it is not enough, no security or pensions for them.

We are being gaslighted.

**‘Autistic friendly City’**

Accessible buildings in Bristol, not accessible to Autistic people. E.g: The Mall is overwhelming, no sensory consideration. Buses rattle due to loose fittings, I can’t focus, read, listen to music. I am overwhelmed, I will arrive stressed. Brought this up with bus company, but they said ‘what route?’ (additional) overwhelm is created by the bus company.

There is a tendency (by authorities and services ) to speak about a desirable hope for the future, and management speak, its not tied to reality. (Does not make any sense.to autistic minds) The Stephen Bubb ‘Building rights’1 Report is couched in that language, there is no time frame, no details, just aspiration – This does not give rights. You have to give commitment, not give vague statements.

They (public services in Bristol) say are ‘Autism friendly’, then the Bubb Report said that they are breaching people’s rights: It is hyperbole.

This world is not designed for me.

**Education:**

A new issue since last CRPD is education: Who speaks for autistics? It has got worse.

I was doing a community development course, 2020 course leader said to do basic level professional course there would be no funding as it is not at a high enough level. When I have a problem its down to me to solve it myself – the medical model. I can speak well, but I have issues putting it on paper. Dyslexia support course, wasn’t led by people with dyslexia.

No autistic community group, so there no way to ask collectively. NAS Avon group isn’t functioning. Asked if community development workers can support Autistic people – there was no answer.

The BASS (NHS Autism Service in Bristol) review group suggested changes, wrote our own Terms of Reference, but BASS decided to put in someone in to tell us that they would set the agenda. We tried to create a way to give feedback, but we could not.

**Advocacy**

No autistic specific advocacy in Bristol. Need trained advocates when trying to get things across: We are used to being told we are a problem, this impacts our preparedness to ask for help and trust people, we are dealing with our trauma.

Autistic people need to be involved in training and performance reviews of advocacy services.

**Consultation with Disabled People**

In many areas of national issues (Climate change, cobra, NHS or emergency services, welfare benefits cuts / not put up in line with cost of living, Motobility cars taken away) Disabled people are forgotten. We need to thought about and asked, until foregrounded nationally nothing will change.

**Health Services and COVID**

Went to my Health Centre, I received two different texts with different appointment times, I was not told about ‘mandatory’ masks. I was referred by another professional to see my Doctor (GP) as I needed to be seen in person, but I was refused. I had asked for letter to support sensory exception to mask, then I was blamed for creating upset. I arranged meeting with my therapist, but the Health Centre didn’t text me.

CCG have changed the rules about special needs dentist, CCG say you can go to any dentist, they are all trained in meeting our needs – this is not true.

I now don’t feel comfortable accessing medicine and health services.

1 *‘Bristol’s agencies act within the context of a national system of care and support for people with learning disabilities and autism that is wholly inadequate’* Building Rights(A report following systemic failures by the council, NHS and police and the negative impact on the rights of Autistic people and people with learning disabilities in Bristol.)

Sir Stephen Bubb (2021)

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/5395291/Building_Rights.pdf/f8b0fe05-bdf0-de44-e14a-0f684e0a6f95?t=1623649850966>

Additional comment from BRIL Member: Bristol’s is failing to meet the needs and rights of Disabled children and young people in education: SEND support is crisis in Bristol. 2 3 4

2 *‘The High Court agreed with the parents, concluding that Bristol’s decision-making process around these proposed cuts was legally flawed. Significantly, the High Court also noted that it wasn’t possible to say for sure that the outcome for cuts would have been the same if the decision-making process had been carried out lawfully.’*

3 <https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/legal-victory-bristol-parents-against-send-cuts-what-mean-other-areas/>

3 <https://www.cascaidr.org.uk/2018/10/08/r-application-ke-v-bristol-city-council-2018-ewhc-2103-admin/>

4 ‘***Two years on from the Ofsted and CQC Joint Send Inspection of Bristol, just how well are things going? Something is certainly still rotten in the state of Denmark’***

<https://chopsybaby.com/magazine/bristol-send-crisis-shows-little-signs-of-improvement-for-families/>