

Health and Wellbeing Board

8 March 2016



Update on Progress with the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy “Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives”

Report of Jane Robinson, Head of Commissioning , Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to update the Health and Wellbeing Board on progress in relation to the Autism Strategy implementation and to share the Local Autism Action Plan for 2016, attached at Appendix 2.

Background

- 2 The Local Autism Action Plan was developed from the Department of Health’s self-assessment framework to support localities with the delivery of the Adult Autism Strategy and the statutory guidance which accompanied this.
- 3 The Plan for 2014/15 was developed collaboratively with service users and carers and the relevant agencies. It identified that further development was needed in the following two areas:
 - Employment.
 - Criminal Justice.

Current position and progress update

- 4 There have been a number of developments to Durham’s Autism Action Plan since the last report. The decision was taken in September 2015 to end the joint arrangements with Darlington Local Authority for the facilitation of the Autism Service Development Group. This was on the basis that the two local authorities were at different stages in their development work. The membership of the Service Improvement Group is currently under review and meetings will now take place quarterly. These will be run concurrent to a stakeholder forum for service users and carers facilitated by MAIN post diagnostic service. A user and carer representative will attend the Autism Service Improvement group to act as the link between the two groups. Marion Franklin, Durham County Council Policy and Planning Officer, will also attend the Stakeholder Forum.

- 5 The National Autism Self-Assessment Framework returns have been submitted for 2015. We have received overarching feedback from the Public Health Observatory but are awaiting specific feedback and any issues from this will be addressed in the Autism Action Plan.

Better Health and Social Outcomes

- 6 The referral process from Tees Esk and Wear Valley's (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust Autism Diagnostic Service to MAIN post diagnostic service has been reviewed. TEWV have agreed to use a referral form for those service users who would benefit from using MAIN's post diagnostic service. Prior to this, the onus was on the individual to refer themselves, something which users found difficult to do.
- 7 There has been very little take up of the training offered to GP practices (1 practice) and efforts have been made to improve this situation. As part of their work with the Autism Alliance, North East Autism Society (NEAS) has designed e-training for GP's in consultation with the Royal College of GP's and a number of service users. Discussion will take place with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) about ensuring GP practices take up the offer of this training.

Mainstream and Specialist Accommodation Options

- 8 Five service users, including some with Autism, have moved into the community as part of the Post Winterbourne Transformation Programme. There are firm plans in place for three additional service users to move into the community.
- 9 A proposal is underway to develop 40 units of accommodation for people with complex needs. Plans are progressing to develop an empty health property in Horden into six units of individual accommodation. In addition, a plot of land in Gurney Valley has been purchased by a private developer and plans have been drawn up for the development of a programme of individual units of accommodation. A further service will be developed in North Durham, but a suitable site for this is yet to be identified.

Criminal Justice

- 10 NEAS have established strong links with Deerbolt Youth Offenders Institution (YOI) and have provided Autism Awareness training for 98 prison officers. They are in the process of developing an assessment process for use on Deerbolt's First Night wing. This will then be rolled out for use in other Durham prisons.
- 11 MAIN have provided Autism Awareness training for 82 Durham Constabulary police staff including community support officers and custody sergeants.

- 12 The Appropriate Adult Service commenced in August 2015 and they record the number of people diagnosed with autism who require their service. Their Appropriate Adults have been offered Autism Awareness training via MAIN.
- 13 Links have been established with the Through the Gate service and a forum is to be developed in early 2016 to include key prison services and the relevant autism service providers. This will focus on reasonable adjustments, service issues and best practice responses. Autism Awareness training has now been offered to the Through the Gate service.

Employment Opportunities

- 14 County Durham is expected to receive £17.87 million from the European Social Fund to tackle youth unemployment. The aim is to introduce measures to get approximately 5,500 young people in County Durham into work, training or education. Links have been established with the programme lead and discussions will commence in early 2016 on what can be offered to support people with autism into employment, training or further education.
- 15 The Autism Alliance has delivered Autism Awareness training to approximately 28 Department of Work and Pension staff. NEAS will be developing a focus group to consider employment issues in 2016.
- 16 The Autism Alliance has signed up approximately 40 national companies and 180 north east companies and a variety of high profile local organisations to their Autism Charter. Future work will include developing those links to explore employment opportunities for people with autism.

Training

- 17 MAIN post diagnostic service offers a rolling training programme for service users, carers and professionals. In addition to this, they will now be providing training to the following:-
 - The three commissioned Advocacy services.
 - Public Health's Health Trainers service.
 - Social Care Direct staff.
 - The newly appointed prison social worker.
 - The Through the Gate service.
 - The newly commissioned Appropriate Adults service.

- 18 Below is a table of the courses offered and the numbers trained from January to September 2015 by MAIN.

TOTAL JAN-SEP 2015

	Attendee details						TOTAL TRAINED
	professionals (LA)	parent	carer	SU	Professional (other)	Health Professional	
INTRO TO Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	65	4	2	0	90	16	177
IDENTIFYING ASD TRAITS	6	2	0	0	27	3	38
SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH ASD	5	2	0	0	10	5	22
HOW TO WRITE CARE PLANS	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
EMPLOYING PEOPLE WITH ASD	12	0	0	0	3	4	19
TOTAL TRAINED	88	8	2	0	130	30	258

- 19 NEAS have provided Autism Awareness training to Durham County Council's Customer Care staff. Up to November 2015, 21 staff have received the training and more are scheduled for the early 2016.
- 20 Autism Awareness training is being offered via MAIN to social care staff involved in the assessment of older people for services. This will be specific to the particular needs of older people.

Progress in other areas

- 21 The issue of older people with Autism has been considered. The National Autistic Society policy report 'Getting on? Growing older with autism' identifies the key issues for older people who have autism. These include:-
- Under-diagnosis and the impact of receiving a diagnosis
 - Health issues, including identifying health problems and accessing healthcare
 - Reliance on family and isolation when this is no longer available
- 22 The report recommends that all health and social care professionals, including those working in older age specialisms, and older people's services, should receive autism training. Key personnel in Durham County Council's (DCC) older people's services were consulted on the benefits of offering Autism Awareness training to staff involved in the assessment of older people. This will now be facilitated by MAIN post diagnostic service in 2016.

- 23 A service user focus group has been established facilitated by MAIN to provide regular communication between DCC's Commissioning Department and service users and carers.

Future work

- 24 The intention is to develop the relationship between the two major autism service providers in the Durham area, MAIN and NEAS. This will ensure there is no overlap in the work they undertake and any gaps in provision can be identified and responded to by the appropriate service.
- 25 Work will be developed with the prison service to ensure that the needs of prisoners with autism are considered within the prison regime and links are established with local community services to ensure appropriate support is in place when prisoners are released.
- 26 Promotional work will commence to ensure that Care Coordinators are aware of the importance of recording diagnosis on Social Services Information Database (SSID) records, and the process in place for doing this.
- 27 The identification of the appropriate staff in older persons services who will require Autism Awareness training.
- 28 MAIN's post diagnostic service is currently funded via the Better Care Fund. Longer term funding will be identified for continuity purposes. The service has worked hard to meet the needs of those people with autism who do not meet the criteria for social care. The number of referrals demonstrates the demand for the service and feedback from parents, carers and other professionals on the work of the service has been very positive. The service continues to flourish and has a direct impact on the lives of those who access it.
- 29 Funding will be identified to continue to develop socially inclusive opportunities for people with Autism. They report that the social groups they established were of huge benefit to service users in developing and cementing their ability to socialise with peers.
- 30 Consideration needs to be given to the funding and development of an additional respite cabin at Edmondsley, County Durham which will be taken forward with the provider and operational teams in 2016

Recommendations

- 31 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
- Note the contents of this report and action plan for information.
 - Receive a further update at a future meeting.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Funding for the Post Diagnostic Service is in place until March 2016 but long term funding needs to be identified to meet the needs of people with AUTISM and prevent any deterioration and subsequent cost implications.

Staffing

No implications.

Risk

There is a risk of increased demand for social care services should the Post Diagnostic Service not be continued as without the appropriate low level support it is likely that those people who currently access the service would deteriorate and their needs would increase.

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

Durham County Council are aware of the need to make reasonable adjustments for people with AUTISM. There are implications around Autism training for key personnel.

Accommodation

There is a need for specialised accommodation for people with Autism and complex/challenging needs and there are cost implications relating to this.

Crime and Disorder

There is a need for stronger links with Criminal Justice to ensure the needs of people with Autism are identified and met to minimise cost implications.

Human Rights

No implications.

Consultation

No implications.

Procurement

No implications.

Disability Issues

No implications.

Legal Implications

No implications.