

Health and Wellbeing Board

20 March 2018



Adults Autism Self-Assessment Implementation Update

Report of Tricia Reed, Strategic Commissioning Manager, Adult and Health Services, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on the delivery of the 14+ Autism Strategy Implementation Action Plan and provide feedback from the statutory self-assessment for County Durham.

Background

- 2 There is an Autism Strategy for County Durham which commences from age 14. A Multi-Agency Implementation Group is in place to ensure delivery and monitoring through an action plan which is developed and refreshed with stakeholders.
- 3 The Local Authority and NHS are required to carry out a national statutory self-assessment against priorities set out in the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy and as updated by Think Autism 2014.
- 4 The Autism self-assessment allows local autism strategy groups to review their progress and revisit future planning with partners including people with autism and their families. The exercise is also a key means for the Government to identify progress across the country in the implementation of the Strategy. Whilst the focus of implementation of the Autism Strategy is at a local level, the Government has a duty to monitor progress towards implementation of its goals nationally. The information provided is analysed by the Public Health England learning disabilities observatory and will help in this process.

Current Position

- 5 Findings of the North East Self-Assessment 2016 have been collated and shared by Public Health England in October 2017.

Key Findings

6 A number of key findings from the self-assessment are summarised below:

- a) Planning - Areas of improvement were demonstrated in relation to reasonable adjustments of general Council Services and access to health and social care information, support and advice. However, these areas are ranked amber so remain as areas for focused improvement. Data collection in relation to adults with autism across services remains an area for improvement.
- b) Training - There are high levels of Autism Awareness training across health and social care and training has commenced for adults over 65, self-advocates with autism and/or family carers included in the design of training. However, an area for improvement has been highlighted for those staff members who are carrying out statutory assessments in particular.
- c) Diagnostic Pathways – this is an area of concern in relation to development of a local autism pathway and the ability to meet the NICE recommended waiting time remains in the red.
- d) Post-Diagnosis – reasonable adjustments for people with autism who have a learning disability in relation to Speech and Language Therapy Services (SALT), psychology assessments and Occupational Therapy (OT) assessments remains positive, however for those who do not have autism without a learning disability this is an area of concern. Identification of those with autism in crisis services requires improvement.
- e) Care and Support – the level of assessment offered to carers continues to perform well in County Durham. Improvements have been demonstrated moving from amber to green for advocates' autism training, advocates available for adults with autism for those not participating in needs assessment, care and support planning, appeals, reviews or safeguarding processes. There is some further improvement work to do in relation to information on local support available. This will be improved with the continuing development of the County Councils website Locate and information distributed through Provider Forums.
- f) Accommodation – There has been an improvement with some Housing Strategies in County Durham considering Autism and this work should continue to demonstrate improvements and wider inclusion.
- g) Employment – there has been improvements moving into green performance in promoting employment for people with autism and employment focus in transition to adulthood.

- h) Criminal Justice – an area of improvement demonstrated now in green is in relation to police, Probation and Court Services working in partnership and Appropriate Adult Services available for people with autism.

Progress since the self-assessment

- 7 The Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are working with Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust (TEWV), and other partners involved, to address the waiting times for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessments, which have been a result of increased demand over the years leading to delays in care and support pathways.
- 8 The project is a two-pronged approach aiming to reduce the waiting list to an acceptable level and secondly designing a pathway to ensure all patients receive the level of assessment appropriate to their individual needs and that there is a graduated approach to meeting need and diagnosis. This work is in early planning stages but is being addressed as a priority.
- 9 CCGs are exploring the possibility of an ASD dedicated team for assessments and are in the early stages of considering models and funding required. In the meantime, with some short-term funding, TEWV have a team to deliver a 5 day assessment to get as many people through the assessment process as quickly as possible as an interim measure. There is recognition that a longer term solution is required to assess people thoroughly in their own environments rather than in a clinical setting. Discussions between CCGs and TEWV are ongoing.

Next Steps

- 10 The existing implementation action plan 14+ (appendix 2) has been updated. A new three-year action plan is being developed through a multi-agency/stakeholder approach, in line with self-assessment feedback and the latest national guidance, to ensure prioritisation and continuous improvement.
- 11 The implementation action plan 14+ will also consider the findings of the Strategic Review of Autism conducted by Children's Services across 0-25 to ensure a joint approach and smooth transition. A joint action plan will be developed for the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider.
- 12 Once a new all age draft action plan has been approved at the Autism Strategy Implementation Group the Autism Strategy Project Group (0-25) and Autism Review steering group (0-18), this will be forwarded for approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board as part of a comprehensive update report.

Recommendations

13 The Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- a) Note the contents of this report and agree proposed next steps.
- b) Receive a comprehensive joint report in May 2018, which will incorporate an update in relation to performance and developments for children, young people and adults with autism.

Health and Wellbeing Board Sponsor: Jane Robinson, Corporate Director
Adult and Health Services, Durham County Council

Contact: Denise Elliott, Interim Head of Commissioning, Durham County
Council denise.elliott@durham.gov.uk 03000 267357

Tricia Reed, Interim Strategic Commissioning Manager, Durham County
Council tricia.reed@durham.gov.uk 03000 269095

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – No implications identified at this stage. Funding will need to be identified to develop comprehensive assessment and treatment pathways, with Health leading.

Staffing – staff capacity to deliver the action plan- addressed through new Commissioning Policy and Planning Officer.

Risk – if sufficient progress is not made with implementation of the Autism strategy priority actions within agreed timescales, performance against the self-assessment, as reported to the Department for Education, could be jeopardised.

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty – the action plan sufficiently identifies the council's obligations in relation to Equality and Diversity, specifically for adults with autism, including those with learning disabilities and mental health issues.

Accommodation – the action plan considers the accommodation needs of those with autism, which could impact on future commissioning arrangements.

Crime and Disorder - the action plan includes an element of criminal justice to be delivered and monitored against, involving key partners.

Human Rights - encompassed within the action plan.

Consultation – the action plan is being developed in partnership with key stakeholders including parent/carers and service users with autism.

Procurement – no implications identified at this stage.

Disability Issues – the action plan sufficiently identifies the council's obligations in relation to adults with autism, learning disabilities and mental health.

Legal Implications – statutory guidance is incorporated within the considerations of the action plan

Appendix 2

“Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives” in County Durham County Council

Action Plan for 2017/18

	Quality Outcome/Service Ambition	Action	Lead Person	Date for completion	Progress Monitoring/Outcome Indicator
1.	Adults with autism achieve better health and social outcomes.	Develop a mental health Autism pathway Autism to be included/incorporated into the development of County Durham Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Wellbeing model	L Dunn/J Dyson L Dunn/T Reed	Ongoing Ongoing	Continue with multidisciplinary meetings with Tees Esk and Wear Valley Trust Offer Autism Awareness to Talking Changes
2a	Adults with autism access a range of mainstream accommodation options.	Link with County Durham Housing Strategy Explore and establish referral pathways with a range of relevant organisations, e.g. Homegroup, Moving On, DISC Provide bespoke training for housing professionals	L Dunn L Dunn/M Webb MAIN	Ongoing Ongoing Summer 2017	Completed

2b	Adults with autism access a range of specialist accommodation options.	Development of specialist packages and accommodation for people in hospital as part of the Transforming Care programme	T Reed	Ongoing	L Dunn to liaise with Tricia Reed for progress reports/updates
3	Adults with autism are dealt with appropriately/effectively in the local Criminal Justice Services.	Continue to liaise with partners within Criminal Justice to ensure prisoners with Autism are appropriately supported	L Dunn	Ongoing	Link with NHS England around prison health services' service specifications to ensure prisons appropriately support prisoners with Autism. Link with TEWV prison health service to ensure the assessment, diagnosis, treatment and support of prisoners with Autism
		Prisoners with Autism are supported with their move back to County Durham on release	L Dunn/N Newman	Ongoing	Link with the Social Care Prisons Social worker to signpost and support
4	Adults with autism are able to access employment opportunities.	Continued involvement with the Stakeholders' Autism Employment Group	L Dunn	Ongoing	Support families with the Autism Employment Group Support families in their work to develop a social enterprise
		Work in partnership with DCC's HR department to improve Recruitment and Selection processes	L Dunn	Ongoing	Support to develop Autism Checklist for interview process Liaise with Corporate HR and Learning and Development to develop e learning course

		Establish links to ATOS and provide feedback on identified issues - liaise with Chris Graham, Welfare Rights, re update on provision of feedback	MAIN and service users L Dunn	May 2017 June 2017	Offer ATOS staff Autism Awareness training MAIN service users to provide MAIN with written account of their experiences to be shared with L Dunn
5	Staff working with people with autism have appropriate skills, knowledge and training.	Work with MAIN trainer to ensure appropriate training opportunities	L Dunn MAIN	ongoing	Identify key services requiring training to be delivered in order for the needs of women with ASC to be considered. Identify other training gaps and request bespoke training as appropriate
6	Adults with autism and Carers receive regular information about autism support services in County Durham	MAIN to facilitate quarterly stakeholder events MAIN to seek service user and parent representation to replace previous stakeholder representatives Stakeholder representatives to attend ASIG meetings Improve joint working with carers Develop a more effective system to signpost service users and families to available resources	MAIN L Dunn L Dunn S Garrett L Dunn	Ongoing ASAP ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	L Dunn to attend quarterly stakeholder events and act as the link with Autism Strategy Implementation Group (ASIG). Completed CD Carers to facilitate Carers Peer Support Group L Dunn to liaise with Locate to provide feedback from users and families to improve/develop the service

7	Older adults with autism receive appropriate support	Arrange Autism Awareness training sessions for social care staff involved in assessing need	L Dunn/L Edwards	Ongoing	Lyndsey Edwards to liaise with MAIN and Older Persons service to arrange and publicise 2 training events for 2017
8	Younger adults with autism have access to social activities and achieve greater social inclusion	Develop socially inclusive activities across County Durham	MAIN	Ongoing	MAIN to continue to provide a programme of social opportunities for people with ASC
		Maintain links with Recovery College to encourage user participation and the development of contacts/links/relationships	MAIN	Ongoing	MAIN to continue to roll out the use of the Autism App with service users.
		Promote activity programme for Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds project	MAIN	Ongoing	Publicise the launching of the Virtual College in April 2017
		Promote information and opportunities with the countywide Active Durham Partnership.	L Dunn	Ongoing	
9	Improved engagement with service users and carers in service planning.	Continued use of the quarterly Stakeholder events and the inclusion of representatives with Autism and their families at ASIG meetings	L Dunn	Ongoing	As no 6
		DCC to facilitate a market place event for families – families to provide guidance on areas to cover.	T Reed /Susan Garrett	Summer 2017	

10	Clear Council policy covering reasonable adjustments to statutory and other wider public services	Work with partners to identify where reasonable adjustments can be made to improve access to wider services	L Dunn/MA IN	ongoing	Continue to promote reasonable adjustments within statutory and wider public services
11	Improve data collection	Work with operational colleagues to ensure the recording of data	L Dunn/ Louise Dauncey	Ongoing	Continue to promote data collection via Local Authority, CCG's and TEWV
12	Autism work to continue to be monitored by the Health and Wellbeing Board	Minimum of 1 report a year to be completed and presented at Wellbeing Board	T Reed	Annually	March 2018 report in progress