

**HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD  
11 JULY 2017****ALL AGE AUTISM STRATEGY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE -  
UPDATE**

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**Board Sponsor**

Sander Kristel, Director of Adult Services

**Author**

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Commissioning Manager

**Priorities**

(Please click below  
then on down arrow)

Older people & long term conditions	No
Mental health & well-being	Yes
Obesity	No
Alcohol	No
Other (specify below)	

**Groups of particular interest**

Children & young people	Yes
Communities & groups with poor health outcomes	Yes
People with learning disabilities	Yes

**Safeguarding**

Impact on Safeguarding Children	Yes
Impact on Safeguarding Adults	Yes

The work of the Autism Strategic Partnership Group is carried out under the auspices of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Board and is in full compliance with the required standards.

**Item for Decision, Consideration or Information**

Consideration

**Recommendation**

- 1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to note progress made on the all-age Strategy and the significant progress that has been made on the Autism Self-Assessment (SAF) Update.**

**Background**

- 2. The All Age Autism Strategy was approved by the Health & Wellbeing Board on 12 May 2015**

3. Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how people perceive the world and interact with others. Autistic people see, hear and feel the world differently to other people. If you are autistic, you are autistic for life; autism is not an illness or disease and cannot be 'cured'. Often people feel being autistic is a fundamental aspect of their identity.

4. Autism is a spectrum condition which includes Asperger Syndrome. All autistic people share certain difficulties, but being autistic will affect them in different ways. Some autistic people also have learning disabilities, mental health issues or other conditions which mean people need different levels of support. All people on the autistic spectrum learn and develop. With the right sort of support, all can be helped to achieve positive outcomes.

5. People with Asperger's Syndrome are of average or above average intelligence. They do not usually have learning disabilities. They have fewer problems with speech but may still have difficulties with understanding and processing language.

6. Funding of services for people with Asperger's is a responsibility of the CCG and significant work has been done by the Council to ensure best use of the resources available.

7. The Worcestershire Strategy, based on the vision within the National Autism Strategy – "Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives", envisages that all children, young people and adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. The Strategy adopts a life-long approach and is based on diagnosis and support.

8. It focuses on the requirement of all partners to develop a pathway of services for people with autism as they move from being children to adults. The Strategy is based on the commitment in Worcestershire's Health and Well Being Strategy to ensure fair access to health services, clear and concise information in order that Worcestershire residents are healthier, live longer and have a better quality of life. The Strategy also takes into account relevant national legislation and guidance, including the statutory guidance for local authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the national Autism Strategy 2015.

9. The All Age Autism Strategy for Worcestershire aims to set out:

- objectives and outcomes for autism services and support within the county;
- provide a framework of monitoring and evidence of quality of service;
- outline an action plan of how work will be taken forward in the next three years in key priority areas;
- illustrate a shared understanding of the needs of people with autistic spectrum conditions;
- ensuring that all staff and agencies working in this sector are aware of Worcestershire's Safeguarding policies and procedures;
- provide strategic direction for education, health and social care organisations; and
- ensure compliance with national guidance.

10. Since returning to the Health & Wellbeing Board in May 2016, when the Board was updated on progress, further development of the Action Plan has taken place which is outlined in Appendix 1.

11. Since that update, the Autism Strategic Partnership Group (ASPG) has launched the Strategy to a wider audience and cemented the whole-age element of the Strategy with a focus on children, young people and transition. The ASPG have launched an employment initiative to ensure appropriate consideration of the new Green Paper on disability employment. This has now been embedded in the Strategy and will culminate in an employment focused event to be held during the spring of 2018.

12. There is a national requirement to submit a Self-Assessment return which monitors progress against set areas of service development and delivery. All partners have made good progress to date and ongoing work will continue to ensure services continue to improve. Appendix (2).

13. People with Autistic Spectrum Conditions are known to be a risk of poor mental health and poorer health outcomes generally, and the Strategy is working to mitigate health and quality of life inequalities.

14. Worcestershire County Council has lead responsibility for the delivery of the Autism Strategy. Elaine Carolan, Strategic Commissioner, is the named lead.

12 The Council is also an active member of the West Midlands Autism Leads Network.

## **Legal, Financial and HR Implications**

13 All actions are within existing budgets. All legal implications are based on the Autism Act 2009. There are no additional HR implications but the ASPG are monitoring any staffing capacity issues that may arise from the roll out of the training programme outlined in the action plan update – (Appendix 1)

## **Privacy Impact Assessment**

14 Not applicable.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

15 The Strategy was launched in compliance with the Autism Act 2009. Since the launch there are no further implications or need for screening.

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

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### Specific Contact Points for this report

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### **Supporting Information**

- Appendix 1 - Action Plan Update
- Schedule 1: Awareness Raising & Training: Update from Babcock Prime
- Appendix 2 - Autism Self-Assessment Framework Update 2016
- Appendix 3 – Worcestershire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2015-2018 (on-line)