

Item 5. Draft Autism Strategy for Adults in Worcestershire

Date	4 November 2014
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Recommendation	<p>1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) consider and discuss the content of the Draft Autism Strategy for Adults in Worcestershire;b) authorise consultation on this strategy and request that the outcome of this is brought back to the Board in January 2015 for consideration; andc) request an Autism Strategy for children and young people be brought to the Board in January 2015 for consideration
Background	<p>2. The policy context for the Strategy includes the Autism Act 2009 and is set out in section 4. <i>Autism is a complex lifelong developmental condition that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to other people and how they make sense of the world around them. Autism is known as a spectrum condition because of the wide range of ways in which it presents itself in different people. Although autism presents itself differently in each individual, there are some core features which include persistent difficulties in social interaction and communication and the presence of stereotypic behaviours, resistance to change or restricted interest. (Source: National Autistic Society)</i></p> <p>3. The National Strategy for Autism requires local authorities to appoint a lead commissioner and to lead the development of a local Autism Strategy, with a view to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensuring the provision of appropriate support for people with autistic spectrum conditions;• having appropriately trained and qualified staff in place; and

- having a clear pathway for assessment, support and where required a clinical diagnosis.

The Autism Strategy

4. This Strategy has been developed by the Autism Strategy Partnership Group, which includes adults with autistic spectrum conditions, family carers, third sector partners, Worcestershire Health and Care Trust and the Council and CCGs [represented by the Integrated Commissioning Unit]. The Strategy states the commitments by all health and social care partners to comply with national requirements through an associated action plan.
5. This Strategy covers adults [people aged 18 years and over] only. It takes account of the transition for young people moving from children's health and social care services to adult services. Due to different legislative frameworks, it is proposed that a for a separate Autism Strategy for children and young people be developed initially and over time an all age strategy be developed taking into account respective national legislation and guidance.
6. Although detailed figures are not available it is estimated on the basis of national data that in Worcestershire there are approximately 3,300 adults with autistic spectrum conditions; of these it is estimated that approximately 1,500 have a learning disability.

Next Steps

7. With the agreement of the Board, consultation would commence as soon as possible for a period of 6 weeks. Consultation will include publication on the Council's website and the opportunity for people to submit written comments, as well as focused discussions with representatives of adults with autistic spectrum conditions and their family carers. The Board will receive a report detailing the outcome of this consultation with any revisions to the Strategy in January 2015.