

## **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD**

### **27 SEPTEMBER 2022**

## **ALL AGE AUTISM STRATEGY UPDATE**

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### **Board Sponsor**

Mark Fitton, Strategic Director, People

### **Author**

Laura Westwood, Lead Commissioner

### **Priorities**

Mental health & well-being

Being Active

Reducing harm from Alcohol

Other (specify below)

(Please click below  
then on down arrow)

Yes

No

No

### **Safeguarding**

Impact on Safeguarding Children

If yes please give details

Yes

Impact on Safeguarding Adults

If yes please give details

Yes

### **Item for Decision, Consideration or Information**

Consideration

### **Recommendation**

#### **1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to:**

- a) **Endorse that an updated All Age Autism Strategy is produced (2023-2026) across the Integrated Care System (ICS) footprint to reflect the partnership and strategic approach across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, with place-based elements;**
- b) **Endorse the strong all age approach of the Autism Strategy;**
- c) **Ensure appropriate officers, with decision making responsibility, across all organisations, participate and engage in the workstreams to shape and design the recommendations within the new strategy; and**
- d) **Receive a further report at a future meeting of the Board as part of the sign off process for the Autism Strategy; and support its delivery by signing off the implementation plan.**

## Background

2. The new National Autism Strategy 2021-2026, published in July last year now incorporates both children and adults into the National Strategy ambitions. The areas of focus include:
  - Improving understanding and acceptance of autism within society.
  - Improving autistic children and young people's access into education and support positive transitions into adulthood.
  - Supporting more autistic people into employment.
  - Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people
  - Building the right support in the community.
  - Improving support in criminal and youth justice systems
3. Our own most recent Worcestershire All-age Autism Strategy runs from 2019-22 in line with the expectation of a new National Strategy and now needs to be updated in line with the new national priorities.
4. We have an active Worcestershire multi-agency Autism Partnership Board that provides critical oversight and challenge to our Autism work and reports jointly to Health and Wellbeing Board and the Integrated Care System Learning Disability and Autism Programme Board.

## Legislative context

5. The Autism Act 2009 is currently the only disability-specific legislation in England. The Act requires the Government to introduce and keep under review an adult autism strategy. The initial strategy was published in 2010 and refreshed in 2014. The statutory guidance is aimed at supporting the NHS and local authorities in implementing the strategy in areas such as staff training, identification and diagnosis, transition planning when people move from children to adult services, employment, and criminal justice.
6. The [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#) (2015), continues to place duties on local authorities, NHS organisations and schools in respect of autistic children and young people. There is also a duty to provide services to disabled children under section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970."
7. The Health and Social Care Act 2022 requires all CQC registered providers to undertake Mandatory Autism Training.

## Strategy Development

8. The Integrated Care System Learning Disability and Autism Programme Board already brings together the aspirations of the two counties into one health related workstream. It brings to life and holds to account the local action plan delivering the national NHS 3-year plan via action plan. The ICS Assurance Board endorses the approach to create a joint strategy across the footprint. The two local Autism Partnership Boards also endorse the joint approach with local place-based sections within the strategy that enable specific work streams in each County (particularly around Children's services and education).
9. The ICS Board has good engagement across the health system including Autistic People and a paid Autism Champion role; the joint creation of a strategy will build upon and strengthen this. Co-production with Autistic People will need to be an integral part of the strategy development. The new strategy needs to be adopted across the ICS, and a systems approach used to ensure the delivery plan is owned and embedded into future practice and delivery routes. By signing up to the vision of the strategy at Health and Wellbeing Board level, opportunities to seek shared solutions to meet the priorities will become business as usual rather than a social care approach.
10. Work has been done to identify a workstream lead across the system for each priority within the National strategy alongside an additional priority chosen by Autistic People around Keeping Safe. This will ensure that there is a whole system approach to the development of the strategy. Priorities in bold will be led across the ICS, those not in bold will be Worcestershire based but link in with Herefordshire.

<u>Priority</u>	<u>*Helping Autistic People to:-</u> (taken from <a href="#">The national strategy for autistic children, young people and adults: 2021 to 2026 (Easy Read)</a> ( <a href="#">publishing.service.gov.uk</a> )	<u>Worcestershire Lead</u>
<b>Improving understanding and acceptance of autism within society.</b>	Feel less isolated and lonely Be treated well in their community Feel understood by business and organisations Use reasonably adjusted public spaces Use reasonably adjusted public transport	Debbie Hobbs, National Autistic Society
Improving autistic children and young people's access into education and support positive transitions into adulthood.	Get the right help at school/college Have teachers who understand and can help Get support to live in their community Find work Access higher education	Mel Barnett, Director for All Age Disability, Worcestershire Children's First

	Get the mental health support that they need	
Supporting more autistic people into employment	Find and stay in work Have help to live well if they can't work	Still to be identified
<b>Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people</b>	Live healthier and for longer Get help from an earlier age Not have to wait more than 13 weeks for help Get the Mental Health support that they need	Richard Keble, Programme Lead for Learning Disability and Autism, ICB
<b>Building the right support in the community</b>	Avoid admission to Mental Health hospital where possible Leave Mental Health hospital as soon as they are well Have access to good quality social care and housing	Laura Westwood, Lead Commissioner, Worcestershire County Council
<b>Improving support in criminal and youth justice systems</b>	Have reasonable adjustments made within the criminal justice system	Adrian Symonds, West Mercia Police
<b>Keeping Safe</b>	Be treated well in their community Have support for their families and carers to help to keep them safe Not have to experience hate crime, abuse, victimisation, or radicalisation	Carolyn Whippman, Senior Commissioning Officer, Herefordshire County Council

\*These are the key outcomes taken from the National Easy read strategy. Our own strategic work and co-production is likely to identify more/different outcomes for people.

11. A working group has been set up to steer the workstreams to achieve the work in the plan below:-

Task	Timeframe
<b>Engage:</b> Establish a mechanism to identify and fully engage with all necessary stakeholders, ensure there is representation from all necessary stakeholders from Herefordshire and/or Worcestershire. Ensure work undertaken is co-produced and that autistic people and their parents and carers are involved, drawing on the real experiences of autistic people and their families.	August 2022 – April 2023

<b>Establish baseline:</b> Referencing the <a href="#">National Autism Strategy</a> , and commissioning resources identify what baseline data is needed to understand the current position in Herefordshire and Worcestershire and identify how this data will be provided and measured going forward.	August – October 2022
<b>Engagement Planning:</b> Identify what engagement is needed and with whom for your priority	August – October 2022
<b>Engagement and data collection:</b> Information gathering, engagement through workshops, questionnaires, focus groups	November – December 2022
<b>Data Analysis:</b> Identify the story behind the data, the current trends/gaps, and the suggested priority areas to include in the autism strategy and action plan	December – February 2023
<b>Collation and production:</b> information collated into a cohesive strategy	March – April 2023

12. The Worcestershire Autism Partnership Board wanted Health and Wellbeing Board to be briefed on the work being done at this early stage in the Strategy Development to ensure that the whole system can engage with the strategy at the appropriate points.

## Legal, Financial and HR Implications

13. **Legal** – The All-Age Autism Strategy will need to ensure that the system complies and support compliance with the Statutory Guidance [Adult autism strategy: supporting its use - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
14. **Financial** – The strategy planning will map current spend and demand and action planning will need to consider resource (financial and HR) implications. There are likely to be implications around implementing the new Autism Mandatory training and it is likely that the demand mapping will demonstrate a need for more bespoke services. Herefordshire currently have an Autism Strategy Implementation budget of £25k per annum which is not in place for Worcestershire.

## Privacy Impact Assessment

15. Will be completed as the strategy is developed

## Equality and Diversity Implications

16. An Equality Relevance Screening will be completed with regard to the strategy.

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Laura Westwood, Lead Commissioner, Adult Social Care

Tel: 01905 846739

Email: [lwestwood2@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:lwestwood2@worcestershire.gov.uk)