



NAS WORCESTERSHIRE COMPANIONS GROUP 2016

WORCESTERSHIRE ALL-AGE AUTISM STRATEGY: NOTES FROM DISCUSSION

Priority 1: We will have a clear pathway for diagnosis and support for children, young people and adults with autism spectrum conditions.

- Really difficult to get a diagnosis – “round and round the mulberry bush”
- Need for a simple clear route
- Lack of information about what to do
- Need for leaflet for young people and parents explaining signs and symptoms of autism
- Long delays e.g. 2 year wait
- Felt relief when finally diagnosed
- Medication and CBT often do not help – need one to one treatment

Priority 2: We will identify gaps in knowledge and understanding and make sure that all organisations can access high quality awareness raising and training.

- Many teachers do not appear to know about autism
- Luck whether you get GP who understands autism
- Housing providers need to be aware
- People need educating
- People need to listen
- Parents’ knowledge is important

Priority 3: We will improve transition planning to include a Transition Toolkit with details of access to a range of services and that can offer support for young people and adults in their decision making.

- Had to start all over again at 16
- No service between 16 and 19 – grey area
- Should be seamless move (not ‘transition’!) from children to adult services

Priority 4: We will work with providers of education, employment and training opportunities to make sure they understand the needs of people with autism spectrum conditions and support them appropriately.

- Need to address cruelty and bullying in the workplace
- Job Centres should understand needs of people with autism
- Managers need to be helpful
- Clear information/messages about job and someone to report to
- Create a list of local employers who are aware of how to work with people with autism
- Create a check list and certificate for good employers e.g. awareness training; employment of people with autism; right adaptations to hire and employ people with autism; buddying system; provision of quiet room
- Annual award for best employer of the year; best Sports/Leisure Centre; best GP etc

Priority 5: We will make sure that people with autism spectrum conditions are supported to make the most of their talents as they progress to more independent living. We will make sure that children, young people and adults with autism spectrum conditions have access to all universal and health and social care services.

- Need for housing advice and support – “people fall through the net”
- Specialist help for people who live on their own – someone to ring/contact if needed
- Care Village where people with autism can have peace of mind and importantly friendship and a secure future with 24 hour support staff
- Service for carers to access help and advice on services in the Worcestershire area

Priority 8: We will promote the use of support groups in local communities and ensure they can access information about local services that are available.

- Funding for autism groups to provide a secure service e.g. payment for room hire for groups
- Provision of building with accessible facilities e.g. sports, art, music, games, chill out area
- Life skills and independence training e.g. cooking, using washing machine
- Encouraging and training volunteers
- Minibus which can be hired at low cost for outings