

**HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD
10 MAY 2016****ALL AGE AUTISM STRATEGY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE -
UPDATE**

Board Sponsor

Anne Clarke, Interim Director of Adult Services and Health

Author

Pete Sugg, Learning Disabilities Commissioning Manager

Priorities

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	No
People with learning disabilities	Yes

Safeguarding

Impact on Safeguarding Children	Yes
If yes please give details	

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 Strategy.**

Background

2. The All Age Autism Strategy was approved by the Health and Well Being Board on 12 May 2015 - see Appendix 1.
3. 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.
4. It focuses on the requirement of the Council and its 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 and 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.
5. 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;
 - ensure that all staff and agencies working in this sector are aware of Worcestershire Safeguarding policies and procedures;
 - provide strategic direction for education, health and social care organisations; and
 - ensure compliance with national guidance.
6. The Autism Partnership Strategy Group (ASPG) formally launched the Strategy on 8 October 2015. The event was held at the Woodland Room, Countryside Centre which has had autism friendly adaptations through specific health funding. The event was opened by Councillor Marcus Hart, Chair of Worcestershire Health & Well Being Board. Alongside the launch of the Strategy the GP / Professionals Guide to Autism pack was also launched. A wider event is planned for partners in the summer 2016. This event is being co-produced with the ASPG and other key partners to ensure maximum impact.
7. The ASPG has overseen delivery of the action plan and agreed the content of the update below.

Action Plan

Priority	We said we would	We have done	We will do next
The pathway for diagnosis and support	We will ensure that all children, young people and adults can have a diagnosis if they need it.	<p>Renewed Asperger's contract for 2016/17</p> <p>Health commissioners and the NHS Provider are engaging with education colleagues to develop a pathway where key partners understand their roles and responsibilities, NICE guidance is being followed, and parents and carers can receive clear information on what to expect.</p> <p>From a children's perspective, in terms of diagnosis, the Neuro developmental (ND) pathway (Umbrella pathway) is the route for assessment which may lead to diagnosis. Currently, this pathway is being reviewed due to health commissioners becoming aware of long waiting times through feedback from families, and through feedback from the West Midlands Quality Review Service (WMQRS) CAMHS Peer review.</p>	<p>Review and revise Asperger's pathway as part of re-commissioning plans for 2017/18</p> <p>Complete the joint health, social care and health pathway.</p> <p>A project group have recently agreed a revised pathway in terms of how assessments are organised and co-ordinated across relevant professionals and this is being trialed until June 2016.</p>
Awareness raising and training	We will build on existing training already available for professionals working with children, young people and adults across all partner organisations	<p>We have developed a training pack Appendix 2 - Think Autism Spectrum Training, which follows a pathway of four levels:</p> <p>Level 1 Basic Awareness Level 2 Ability to apply basic principles daily Level 3 Ability to assess needs and adapt approaches in a more complex way Level 4 Highly specialised knowledge with understanding of policy</p>	This programme will now be rolled out to all partners by September 2016 with a Learning Passport being introduced to monitor the take up of training by staff and volunteers across the system.
Securing successful and seamless transitions	We will continue to develop arrangements for young people transitioning into adulthood to ensure that nobody is left without support in this crucial time.	In terms of transition under an EHCP (for 0-25 years of age), Clinical Commissioning Groups have a statutory duty to ensure that health needs are met. After the age of 18, the community paediatrician will handover to an adult specialist consultant or the GP. The sub group is developing a process around the EHCP process and ensuring that transition to adulthood	The progress of children and young people on the autistic spectrum into adulthood will continue to be monitored through the current outcomes framework and the implementation of a full data set / metrics which is due to be agreed by 31 October 2016 and will be reported back to the Health and Well Being Board at our next review in 2017.

Priority	We said we would	We have done	We will do next
		<p>begins when a young person is in year 9 at school.</p> <p>The annual review paperwork will alert schools that from year 9 they need to think about health issues and transition to adulthood, so that health professionals can begin a smooth transition to adulthood early on.</p> <p>Children's Social Care continue to work closely with the Young Adults team to proactively manage transition to adulthood.</p> <p>A range of support is provided for those children and young people known to Social Care, including direct payments, overnight short breaks and community short breaks.</p>	
Improving access to education and employment	<p>Ongoing awareness training for schools, colleges and employers.</p> <p>Schools, colleges and employers are represented on the Autism Strategy Partnership Group to help shape support in their respective host organisations.</p>	<p>Within the Emotional wellbeing and CAMHS Transformation Plan, there is an action to consider groups of children such as those with ASD and findings from the ND Pathway review will align with the transformation plan, so that within the CAMHS service we ensure there is the capacity required (e.g. enough clinical psychologist time) to meet children's needs within the ND Pathway.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference of the Having a Job Sub Group of the Learning Disability Partnership have now been extended so that employment opportunities for those people who have ASD are now a priority. The Autism Strategic Partnership Group (ASPG) now have representation on Having a Job Sub Group including a service user.</p> <p>Worcestershire County Council Adult Services and Health Commissioning Unit has recently recruited two posts who have been specifically employed to look at employment opportunities and to offer 'support' to people on the spectrum.</p>	The number of young people and adults in education and employment will be monitored through our data gathering as outlined above.

Priority	We said we would	We have done	We will do next
Independent Living – Improving access to universal, health, social care and housing services	We will work with our partners to ensure that their planning reflects the aims and aspirations of this strategy.	<p>We have commissioned 9 new units of supported living accommodation in Droitwich for people with autism. The accommodation is specifically for people with complex needs. We are waiting confirmation on the changes to housing benefit to ensure that the ongoing development of such schemes continues.</p> <p>We also have exact numbers of people who need specialist accommodation in the next 3 – 4 years through working with the Transitions team.</p> <p>People at the lower end of the spectrum are being supported to access the cluster flats being developed for people with learning and other disabilities</p>	We will be considering how we support people with high functioning autism who do not necessarily meet our eligibility criteria – or how we support them to access housing through the normal channels. Through our strong partnerships with district council and housing providers we will be ensuring that the right accommodation is accessible for service users when required.
Local Planning	We will work with all partners to ensure that we gather data about children, young people and adults, which is accurate and available.	Over the past year we have collected a range of information which will enable the ASPG to target resources accordingly.	We will be building on the data gathering already in place to continue to build an in depth picture of Autism in Worcestershire and therefore the areas where additional / different services maybe required.
Listening to children, young people, adults and their carers	We will review the composition of the Autism Strategic Partnership Group (ASPG).	We have reviewed the membership of the ASPG and through engagement with local community groups and organisations we have added and renewed relevant partners. Through our co-production with specialist groups in the voluntary sector we are specifically targeting those minority groups outlined in the action plan to ensure inclusion of all members of the community who maybe on the spectrum.	<p>Continue to ensure that we are engaged with all partners / voluntary organisations across the county so that we have a network of activities/ information hubs to enable people to access self-help organisations and information as required.</p> <p>Though there is not an Autism self-assessment framework in 2016 planned the ASPG has agreed to undertake the process to ensure that the work of the group is refreshed and up to date as possible.</p> <p>We are holding a workshop Thursday 30th June 2016.</p> <p>Appendix 3 - NAS Worcestershire Companions Group, illustrates how one of our partner organisations, local groups have fed back their views on the Autism strategy and advised how they would like to see services change accordingly.</p>

Priority	We said we would	We have done	We will do next
Supporting community based organisations and groups	We will engage with more community groups and organisations to be able to ensure their services are included in the Local Offer and the Your Life, Your Choice websites.	Over the last year the ASPG has had a permanent agenda item on Your Life, Your Choice (YLYC). We have addressed access issues for service users with autism spectrum conditions and worked with the YLYC team to ensure that local organisations who offer services for children, young people and adult on the spectrum are able to register on the site.	The group will continue to monitor access to YLYC and will undertake live demonstrations within its meetings with service users to ensure that the site is accessible and usable

Measuring Progress

8. The ASPG is at an early stage of development of metrics. Section 5 - Outcomes and action planning within the All Age Autism Strategy gives commitment to the measurement of progress of the implementation of the Strategy. In the table above we have reported on progress to date and have agreed with the ASPG that a full data set / matrix will be agreed by the partnership by 31 October 2016 and will be reported back to the Health and Well Being Board in its 2017 update.

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

9. 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 from the training programme outlined in the action plan update.

Privacy Impact Assessment

10. Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. The Strategy was launched in compliance with the Autism Act 2009. Since the launch there are no further implications or need for screening as this was undertaken a year ago.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 - The All Age Autism Strategy (available on-line)
- Appendix 2 - Think Autism Spectrum Training
- Appendix 3 - NAS Worcestershire Companions Group