Improving Health and Lives:
Learning Disabilities Observatory

Autism Self Evaluation

Local authority area

1. How many Clinical Commissioning Groups do you need to work with to implement the Adult Autism Strategy in your local authority area?

   1

Comment

   NHS Wakefield CCG

2. Are you working with other local authorities to implement part or all of the priorities of the strategy?

   Yes
   No

If yes, how are you doing this?

   Not working directly with other LA's to implement the strategy but have consulted with them regarding sharing areas of good practice.
   We are engaged with the regional autism forum.

Planning

3. Do you have a named joint commissioner/senior manager of responsible for services for adults with autism?

   Yes
   No

If yes, what are their responsibilities and who do they report to? Please provide their name and contact details.

   Jayne Gilmour, Service Manager, Care and Support Transformation, Wakefield Council
   Email: jgilmour@wakefield.gov.uk
   Reporting to the Service Director for Adults, Health and Communities.

4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

   Red
   Amber
   Green
The JSNA process has been fully reviewed and refreshed in 2011. A specific JSNA for vulnerable groups has been produced as part of the JSNA refresh process.

As part of the JSNA we capture the DPH annual reports which focus on a specific need within the community. In 2011 the focus was on vulnerable groups which includes learning disabilities and autism.

When we developed our local autism strategy we undertook a needs assessment and we have health inequalities as an area to address within our delivery plan.

5. Have you started to collect data on people with a diagnosis of autism?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Data is collected on people who have autism within health services. Within social care the mechanism for recording autism / aspergers syndrome and high functioning autism won't be available on our in-house IT system until April 2014. In the interim we are starting to manually collect data on a quarterly basis. We routinely collect data on the number of people with autism placed out of district.

6. Do you collect data on the number of people with a diagnosis of autism meeting eligibility criteria for social care (irrespective of whether they receive any)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, what is

the total number of people?

the number who are also identified as having a learning disability?

the number who are identified as also having mental health problems?

We may be able to provide some local numbers regarding this when the data collection mention in Q5 is introduced. This is collected for those people placed out of district.

7. Does your commissioning plan reflect local data and needs of people with autism?

- Yes
- No
If yes, how is this demonstrated?

We have an Autism Strategy in place which includes priorities and a delivery plan which includes commissioning intentions. We are currently refreshing our market position statement to reflect changing priorities. The needs of people with autism will be addressed through this.

A needs assessment was completed as part of developing the Autism Strategy.

We are also developing a Challenging Behaviour Strategy which will include a needs assessment which will also consider the needs of people with autism. Part of the strategy will be to identify services, support and accommodation that may need to be commissioned locally.

8. What data collection sources do you use?

- Red
- Red/Amber
- [X] Amber
- Amber/Green
- Green

Comment

In developing the local Autism Strategy, account has been taken of national prevalence data. A Local Needs Assessment was commissioned by Wakefield Council to engage the local community and to ascertain the views of people with autism and their families.

The needs assessment produced mixed results, particularly in reaching people with autism who do not use integrated services.

9. Is your local Clinical Commissioning Group or Clinical Commissioning Groups (including the Support Service) engaged in the planning and implementation of the strategy in your local area?

- Red
- Amber
- [X] Green

Comment

The CCG are fully engaged and work collaboratively to implement the NHS responsibilities of the strategy and are partners in the implementation of the strategy at a local level.

10. How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their carers in planning?

- Red
- Amber
- [X] Green

Please give an example to demonstrate your score.

A Local Needs Assessment was commissioned by Wakefield Council to engage the local community and to ascertain the views of people with autism and their families to help develop our local strategy.

The Autism Steering Group is regularly attended by a parent/carer of a person with autism. There was representation from people with autism however they have recently stopped attending.

Work is being looked at to engage more people with autism to become actively involved in the group. A recruitment campaign is underway and we are looking at alternative ways of engaging with people e.g. using Facebook.

11. Have reasonable adjustments been made to everyday services to improve access and support for people with autism?

- [X] Red
- Amber
- Green
Please give an example.

Some work has been undertaken regarding reasonable adjustments however this has been delivered through awareness raising sessions and only to a small number of individuals.

However the NHS 'LD Champions' that are based within the hospitals also cover autism and work has taken place with health service providers on improving access for users and patients.

The local authority does not have a specific policy in place with regards to reasonable adjustments.

12. Do you have a Transition process in place from Children's social services to Adult social services?

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<th>Yes</th>
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If yes, please give brief details of whether this is automatic or requires a parental request, the mechanism and any restrictions on who it applies to.

The process is that the allocated children's social worker in the Children with Complex Care Needs Team makes a referral to the relevant adult team when the young person is 16 (if the young person is likely to meet FACS criteria). This referral is made automatically however parents/carers and young person (depending on level of understanding) are made aware and are involved in this process. The referral process ties in with Year 11 Annual Education Reviews which are person centred and are holistic in nature. The allocated adult social worker is then invited to CIN Reviews, LAC Reviews and Annual Education Reviews during the transition period.

13. Does your planning consider the particular needs of older people with Autism?

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Comment

We have recognised the need to include older people and as part of commissioning support services for older people, the new framework agreements for support and enablement and supported living services, now include the need for autism specific support.

Training

14. Have you got a multi-agency autism training plan?

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<th>Yes</th>
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15. Is autism awareness training being/been made available to all staff working in health and social care?

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Comment: Specify whether Self-Advocates with autism are included in the design of training and/or whether they have a role as trainers. If the latter specify whether face-to-face or on video/other recorded media.

It is planned to include autism awareness training in the Council induction process, Customer Care Training and Equality and Diversity Training when these are next reviewed.

Autism awareness sessions have taken place and were well received and attended by staff from health and social care. Further training sessions are being organised open to all internal and external providers within Health and Social Care.

We have an Autism Training Plan which is near completion. The training plan is tiered to identify the level of training required by individuals and organisations. Once the plan has been agreed training to met the requirements will be commissioned including delivery of specialist training and the need to include self advocates with the delivery of this.

16. Is specific training being/been provided to staff that carry out statutory assessments on how to make adjustments in their approach and communication?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Comments

Autism Awareness Sessions have taken place which included how to make reasonable adjustments. This covered a small number of staff from health and social care.

More specialist training sessions are being commissioned for Social Workers so that they can have a better understanding of the needs of people with autism and and how to source appropriate services.

Further training sessions are also being organised for assessors early next year. This is included as part of our autism training plan.

17. Have Clinical Commissioning Group(s) been involved in the development of workforce planning and are general practitioners and primary care practitioners engaged included in the training agenda?

- Yes
- No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

GP's and health professionals are included in the training agenda. GP practice staff have also attended the awareness training sessions.

Links to national training have been identified and circulated to GP's.

Training for GP's to be implemented once diagnosis and assessment pathway is in place.

18. Have local Criminal Justice services engaged in the training agenda?

- Yes
- No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

Requests have been received from WY Police regarding accessing training.

HMP Service has organised autism awareness training.

**Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner**

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red
- Amber
- Green
Please provide further comment.

Currently the pathway for autism specific diagnosis is commissioned by the local CCG and provided in a neighbouring city.

A more local diagnosis and assessment pathway has been mapped based on NICE guidelines the recommended pathway which is due to go our Clinical Cabinet is integrated with an offer of a community care and carer assessment following diagnosis, care planning where eligible and/or sign posting onto other services.

20. If you have got an established local diagnostic pathway, when was the pathway put in place?

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

Comment

Information not available

21. How long is the average wait for referral to diagnostic services?

Please report the total number of weeks

Comment

Information not available.

22. How many people have completed the pathway in the last year?

15

Comment

A further 10 were referred for diagnosis in a neighbouring authority.

23. Has the local Clinical Commissioning Group(s)/support services taken the lead in developing the pathway?

× Yes
○ No

Comment

The pathway was developed by the Autism steering Group through a Diagnosis and Assessment Sub-Group which consisted of representation from NHS Wakefield CCG and various support services staff.

24. How would you describe the local diagnostic pathway, ie Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis or a specialist autism specific service?

○ a. Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis
○ b. Specialist autism specific service

Please comment further

The preferred option pathway proposes having all services delivered by one team in order to improve service user outcomes.
25. In your local diagnostic path does a diagnosis of autism automatically trigger an offer of a Community Care Assessment?

[X] Yes
[ ] No

Please comment, i.e. if not who receives notification from diagnosticians when someone has received a diagnosis?

The current pathway does not. However for the proposed local diagnosis and assessment pathway there will be a multi-disciplinary team approach for the social care element which will trigger an assessment.

Currently, anyone with a dual diagnosis such as autism and ADHD are managed by a specialist service so this would trigger a Community Care Assessment. This would be the same for anyone diagnosed with autism as a secondary condition as they would access the specialist local mental health and/or LD teams.

26. What post-diagnostic support (in a wider personalisation perspective, not just assuming statutory services), is available to people diagnosed?

There are a range of services for people with autism who have a learning disability including supported accommodation, short breaks, day opportunities and preventative services. For people with autism who do not have a learning disability, we have commissioned employment support services, advocacy and a mentoring scheme, have funded social groups and people are able to access other preventative services and support such as Well Women and Drop in Services.

Care and support

27. Of those adults who were assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and are in receipt of a personal care budget, how many people have a diagnosis of Autism both with a co-occurring learning disability and without?

a. Number of adults assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and in receipt of a personal budget

2853

b. Number of those reported in 27a. who have a diagnosis of Autism but not learning disability

______________

28. Do you have a single identifiable contact point where people with autism whether or not in receipt of statutory services can get information signposting autism-friendly entry points for a wide range of local services?

[ ] Yes
[X] No

If yes, please give details
29. Do you have a recognised pathway for people with autism but without a learning disability to access a community care assessment and other support?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please give details

*The proposed new pathway will include this.*

30. Do you have a programme in place to ensure that all advocates working with people with autism have training in their specific requirements?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

**Comment**

*Training for Advocates is included within our local training plan. The new advocacy service commissioned in April 2013 requires that the Provider will ensure that all staff and volunteers have appropriate training for their roles and will ensure continuous professional development for advocacy staff and volunteers to ensure they are kept up to date with responsibilities and requirements, for their roles. Achievement against this is monitored through contract management meetings.*

31. Do adults with autism who could not otherwise meaningfully participate in needs assessments, care and support planning, appeals, reviews, or safeguarding processes have access to an advocate?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

**Comment**

*They would have access to an advocate via the Advocacy Service that is commissioned by the Council.*

32. Can people with autism access support if they are non Fair Access Criteria eligible or not eligible for statutory services?

- Yes
- No

Provide an example of the type of support that is available in your area.

*A new advocacy service was commissioned from April 2013 which includes a specific mentoring / befriending scheme for people with autism. This part of the service is open only to those individuals who do not meet the Councils FACS criteria.*

33. How would you assess the level of information about local support in your area being accessible to people with autism?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

**Comment**

*There are low level, preventative services available such as befriending/mentoring, advocacy, social groups, outreach, activity groups, and access to therapies and counselling (ie IAPT primary care mental health services).*

*We do have a database of universal services via our e-marketplace but there are gaps with regard to information on support for people with autism.*
Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

Comment
Not identified specifically however this was considered as part of the Autism Strategy and as part of the revised Homelessness Strategy.
New supported accommodation units have been commissioned for adults with LD, Autism and PD.

Employment

35. How have you promoted in your area the employment of people on the Autistic Spectrum?

Comment
We currently commission a employment support service that includes an employment pathway for people with autism. The provider is engaged with the local JobCentre Plus and supports with making reasonable adjustments.
Service to be re-commissioned from April 2014 and provision for people with all hidden impairments including autism has been strengthened within the new service specification.

36. Do transition processes to adult services have an employment focus?

Comment
Yes there is an employment focus and young people go on work experience from school and to consider their aspirations, choices and opportunities during person centred Annual Education Reviews.
Young people are also supported through our local Connexions. These provide trained personal advisors for young people and have a strong presence in schools, 6th forms and further education colleges to support with making those choices. The service is available to every young person age 13-19 even if they are not attending school.

Criminal Justice System (CJS)

37. Are the CJS engaging with you as a key partner in your planning for adults with autism?

Comment
We have had some representation at the Autism Steering Group but no regular attendance
The CJS have expressed an interest in autism training and have participated in training events.

Optional Self-advocate stories
Self-advocate stories.
Up to 5 stories may be added. These need to be less than 2000 characters. In the first box, indicate the Question Number(s) of the points they illustrate (may be more than one. In the comment box provide the story.

Self-advocate story one

Question number

Comment

Self-advocate story two

Question number

Comment

Self-advocate story three

Question number

Comment

Self-advocate story four

Question number

Comment

Self-advocate story five

Question number

Comment

This marks the end of principal data collection.

Can you confirm that the two requirements for the process to be complete have been met?

a. Have you inspected the pdf output to ensure that the answers recorded on the system match what you intended to enter?

☒ Yes
b. Has the response for your Local Authority area been agreed by the Autism Partnership Board or equivalent group, and the ratings validated by people who have autism, as requested in the ministerial letter of 5th August 2013?

☐ Yes

The data set used for report-writing purposes will be taken from the system on 30th September 2013.

The data fill will remain open after that for two reasons:

1. to allow entry of the dates on which Health and Well Being Boards discuss the submission and
2. to allow modifications arising from this discussion to be made to RAG rated or yes/no questions.

Please note modifications to comment text or additional stories entered after this point will not be used in the final report.

What was the date of the meeting of the Health and Well Being Board that this was discussed?

Please enter in the following format: 01/01/2014 for the 1st January 2014.

Day

14

Month

11

Year

2013