

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 14 MAY 2015**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES**

### **JOINT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE AUTISM SELF-ASSESSMENT**

#### **Purpose of report**

- 1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Board on the findings of the 2014/15 Joint Health and Social Care Autism Self-Assessment and on the use of a Department of Health (DH) non recurrent Section 31 grant.

#### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

- 2 The purpose of the Autism Self-Assessment framework is to assist local authorities and their partners in assessing progress of the implementation of the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy. The Health and Wellbeing Board received a report in December 2013 on the 2013 Autism Self-Assessment.
- 3 The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Adult Asperger Strategy and Delivery Action Plan 2010–2013, is being revised to reflect the findings of the self-assessments of each partner local authority.
- 4 In November 2014, all local authorities were informed of the award of a non-recurrent Section 31 grant of £18,500. The purpose of the grant was to support each local authority in its implementation of Think Autism.

#### **Background**

- 5 Directors of Adult Social Services were notified of the third self-assessment on the implementation of the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy in December 2014. The notification letter also included details of a non-recurrent grant being made available to all local authorities of £18,500 to support the implementation of the Think Autism priorities and five identified areas for action:
  - Increasing awareness and understanding of Autism;
  - Developing clear, consistent pathways for the diagnosis of autism;
  - Improving access for adults with autism to services and support;
  - Helping adults with autism into work;
  - Enabling local partners to develop relevant services.
- 6 The self-assessment comprised of 49 questions across seven sections: planning, training, diagnosis, care and support, accommodation, employment and the criminal justice system, with an additional two sections to highlight local good practice and the experience of self advocates.

## **Key Findings**

- 7 Previous self-assessments identified good progress being made on joint working across LLR, diagnosis, provision of information and guidance and access to training. The need for further improvement was identified in the collection of data about adults receiving a service from the County Council and better engagement with the Criminal Justice System.
- 8 The increased level of detail in this year's self-assessment enables a more detailed overview of progress against each of the seven areas:
  - a) Planning
    - i) Good progress (green): Autism is included and will continue to be included in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; an LLR action plan is being developed to support effective local commissioning; Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are engaged in the planning and implementation of the local autism strategy, people with autism and carers are engaged in the planning of services.
    - ii) Improvements needed (amber): There has been an improvement in the ability to collect data on adults with autism through the introduction of Integration Adults System, however, a period of embedding is needed to ensure data is being accurately and constantly recorded; examples of reasonable adjustments to services have been identified, however, these are not widespread, transitions processes from children's to adults' services take into account the needs of young people once triggered by parental request. This is expected to improve as the Special Educational Needs and Disability programme develops.
    - iii) Significant improvements (red): are needed on the collection of information on the specific needs of older people, women and people from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities with autism. This is being addressed through the revised LLR Autism Strategy action plan which includes specific actions to better understand these groups.
  - b) Training
    - i) Good progress (green) continues to be made on the provision of training through a multi-agency autism training plan. It is being delivered through partner agencies learning and development departments and the Leicestershire Social Care Development Group (LSCDG). Training is available to all staff in health and social care about autism, including specialist training for staff undertaking assessments of people with autism. The Police are engaged in autism awareness training through their Getting It Right First Time training programme.
    - ii) Significant improvements (red) are needed in the engagement of Criminal Justice services and Probation services. Appropriate contacts are being sought working with partners in the Police and through the implementation of the Care Act.

- c) Diagnosis
- i) Good progress has been made on the integrated diagnostic pathway. A pathway has been in operation since the late 1990's. Partners continue to review and revise the pathway to ensure it is fit for purpose. The pathway includes diagnosis of children, young people and adults who may have autism as single indicator of need and those who have a secondary diagnosis such as learning disability.
  - ii) Improvements are needed to ensure there is suitable access to speech and language therapy services following diagnosis.
  - iii) Significant progress (red) is needed to enable access to services such as psychology and occupational therapy following diagnosis.
- d) Care and Support - Good progress is being made on the availability of suitability trained advocates which support people to meaningfully participate in needs assessment, care and support planning and safeguarding processes, information is provided which is relevant to people with autism and their carers. Where appropriate carers were offered assessments (this has subsequently been superseded by the requirements of the Care Act to offer all carers an assessment).
- e) Housing and Accommodation - Significant progress (red) is needed to ensure that the housing needs of people with autism are included in local housing strategies. Links have subsequently been made with District and Borough Councils to raise awareness of the needs of people with autism.
- f) Employment
- i) Improvements are needed to ensure there is an employment focus within Transition processes, there is an expectation that Employment will be considered as part of Education, health and care plans however, more detail is needed to evidence good progress.
  - ii) Significant progress is needed to promote employment of people with autism.
- g) Criminal Justice System - Good progress has been made as there is a Police representative (Hate Crime Officer) on the LLR Autism Strategy Group and an Autism "Keep Safe" card is being developed to support engagement between individuals and the Criminal Justice services. People with autism have access to appropriate adults' services in custody suites and nominated "places of safety".

#### Local good practice

- 9 The County Council commissions the Leicestershire Information and Advice Hub which provides advice and support to people with autism and their families. The Hub provides access to an autism services directory in Leicestershire, a telephone helpline, email enquiry desk and information about employment and support. Drop-in sessions are also held across Leicestershire.

## Self Advocate Account

- 10 An account from a young person with autism who has accessed the County Councils “Get Set” programme was provided. Whilst there is much more work needed to support young people into employment this was identified as an example of good practice highlighting the impact that good support can make to young people with autism:

“the position interested me, so we moved on to the next stage of the process. From my perspective at least, this was a not-interview with the team I could be working with. I say ‘not-interview’ because I’d been in a lot of interviews, I think it was around 22-25 at that point, and this didn’t feel anything like those. There was no real pressure, no interrogations, no stern faces or piercing gazes trying to burrow into your soul; just a friendly little chat, with the get set representative by my side as backup for when by shyness overwhelmed me, and as a (suspiciously) friendly face.....the people I met were friendly too, (is that a requirement for working at the council? Its odd meeting so many people that don’t want to punch me in the face) the question they wanted answering was essentially ‘what can you do for us?’ Now at a glance that might seem similar to that dreaded ‘what can you bring to our company?’ but it’s not. They wanted to know what sort of work I’d feel comfortable doing for them, what I wanted. Starting to sound like a narcissist perhaps, but it made a nice change to have people asking me what role I’d like to take, rather than rating me against some job description counting the number of boxes I tick.”

## Use of Grant

- 11 There are three elements to the project being funded by the Section 31 grant:
- Purchase of hardware – tablets, smartphones, video cameras (one touch camera such as a GoPro) which individuals can apply for and keep on the condition they complete an initial survey on how they expect to use it and then another survey on actual use in 6-12 months’ time. Successful applicants will be provided with a list of apps that they may find helpful – specialist and mainstream.
  - Development of the Leicestershire “app” Autisme which participants will be expected to download and provide feedback on their use of it.
  - Research on the use of tablets and smartphones to increase independence and support planning.

## Consultation/Patient and Public Involvement

- 12 Local consultation has taken place through the LLR Autism Strategy Group which includes adults with autism.

## Resource Implications

- 13 The Section 31 grant is non-recurring. £18,500 was made available to every local authority irrespective of the size of the local population.

- 14 There are no implications in relation to the completion of the self-assessment. Actions arising from the assessment may have resource implications to partner agencies but these will be assessed on a case by case basis.

### **Timetable for Decisions**

- 15 The 2014 Self-Assessment was submitted on the 9 March 2015 as directed by the DH.

### **Conclusions/Recommendations**

- 16 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and comment on the findings of the self-assessment to inform the development of the action plan arising from the self-assessment.

### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

- 17 The report is relevant to all areas of Leicestershire.

### **Officer to Contact**

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### **Relevant Impact Assessments**

#### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

- 18 The Self-Assessment is a means for local areas to assess their progress against statutory requirements. The Self-Assessment has highlighted areas for further work in relation to equalities: identifying the needs of women, older people and people from BME communities with autism. There is evidence of reasonable adjustments being made to ensure people with autism can access services.

#### **Partnership Working and associated issues**

- 19 The Self-Assessment was completed with partners from: Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council, West Leicestershire CCG, East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG, Leicester City CCG, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, and the LLR Autism Strategy Group, which includes people with autism. Actions arising from the Self-Assessment will be completed with partners where appropriate.