

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 5 DECEMBER 2013**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES****DEPARTMENT OF THE HEALTH ADULT AUTISM SELF EVALUATION****Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to highlight the completion of the Leicestershire Autism Self Evaluation to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The details contained within the Autism Self Evaluation provide evidence of local planning, health needs, strategic development and the local implementation work that has been completed to date.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The purpose of the Autism Self Evaluation is to evaluate Leicestershire's progress on the delivery of the Autism Act 2009, the Adult Autism Strategy 2010, Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives, and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Autism Strategy.

Background

3. On 2 August 2013, the Department of Health notified the Director of Adults and Communities that as an Authority Leicestershire County Council was required to submit an Autism Self Evaluation to assess progress on the delivery of the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy, Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives. The previous baseline survey took place in February 2012. The requirement was to evaluate progress against 37 questions, including detailed responses and Red, Amber, Green (RAG) ratings, on the main themes and expectations of the Autism Strategy. There was also an opportunity to include self advocate stories. The evaluation primarily covers services offered by the County Council, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), but also includes the wider Criminal Justice System in Leicestershire, employment support services and Leicestershire's District and Borough Councils in respect of housing provision and support. The closing date for submission was the 30 September 2013.

Proposals/Options

4. The Self Evaluation, attached as Appendix A, highlights that good progress, i.e. a green RAG rating, has been made in relation to:
 - Joint working across LLR (Questions 1, 2, 9 and 10);
 - Diagnosis of Autism across LLR (Questions 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24);
 - Provision of Information and Guidance (Questions 28, 32 and 33);
 - Access to Autism Awareness Training (Questions 14, 15, 16, 17, 30 and 31).

5. Further improvement, i.e. an amber RAG rating, is required in relation to:
 - Data collection by the County Council for adults with Autism receiving a service (Questions 6 and 27);
 - Better engagement with the Criminal Justice System and employment support services (Questions 18, 35, 36 and 37).
6. This 2013 Self Evaluation has shown significant progress from the baseline survey (February 2012), as highlighted above. The further improvements will be achieved by better data collection via the new adult social care recording system (IAS – Integrated Adults System) and improved links with agencies across the employment support services and Criminal Justice System, via an invitation to attend the local Autism Strategy Group meetings.
7. The Health and Wellbeing Board is required by the Department of Health to endorse the findings of the Leicestershire Autism Self Evaluation.

Consultation/Patient and Public Involvement

8. Local consultation has taken place through the LLR Autism Strategy Group, which includes adults with autism and parent/carer representatives. Two support/social groups for people with autism, the Monday Club and Translate (Loughborough), have also been consulted via a questionnaire. Due to the limited timescales and the difficulties with involving adults with autism, i.e. a communication disability, in consultation the questionnaire to consider within the existing groups meetings was felt the most appropriate.

Resource Implications

9. There are no specific resource implications relating to the self evaluation. The significant progress made locally has been through investment in several projects and resources funded through Health Transfer funds which will continue up to July 2015. The future of these resources will be dependent upon the priorities identified in the Integration Transformation Fund.

Timetable for Decisions

10. The Department of Health allow changes to be made to the RAG ratings, following endorsement by the Health and Wellbeing Board, until the 31 January 2014. After this date the Leicestershire Autism Self Evaluation will be published on the Department of Health website.

Conclusions/Recommendations

11. The Health and Wellbeing Board is invited to consider and comment on the Leicestershire Autism Self Evaluation. This is the first opportunity for the evaluation to be presented following submission to the Department of Health. The Department of Health guidelines state that after consideration the RAG ratings can be amended to reflect the discussions.

Officer to Contact

Mick Connell
Director of Adults and Communities
Leicestershire County Council
Tel: 0116 305 7454 Email: mick.connell@leics.gov.uk

Martin Hall
Autism Spectrum Disorder Project Officer
Leicestershire County Council
Tel: 0116 3053623 Email: martin.hall@leics.gov.uk

Appendix

Appendix A: Department of Health Autism Self Evaluation

Relevant Impact Assessments**Equality and Human Rights Implications**

12. An Equality Impact Assessment and Human Rights assessment has been completed and approved by the Adults and Communities Departmental Equalities Group on the areas covered in the Self Evaluation.

Partnership Working and associated issues

13. As already highlighted the evaluation primarily covers services offered by the Council, LPT and the CCG's, but also includes the wider Criminal Justice System in Leicestershire, Employment support services and Leicestershire's District and Borough Councils in respect of housing provision and support. All agencies have been engaged in the process and supplied relevant information as requested.

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