



# 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?

3

### Comment

*There are 2 Clinical Commissioning Groups in Leicestershire but we actually engage with the 3 CCG's which cover Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) .The 3 together cover the geographical area covered by Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LD and MH).The Autism Strategy Group is also LLR.The Autism CCG GP Lead is based in the West Leicestershire 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?

*Leicestershire County Council work with Leicester City Council and Rutland County Council in the delivery of the Autism Act/Strategy.We also liaise with other local Authorities across the East Midlands via the the regional leads group in order to exchange information and good practice.An example is we are working with the NAS and Derbyshire County Council to facilitate an East Midlands Autism and the CJS Conference as our contribution to the national review of the Autism Act / Strategy.As an LLR Group we are represented on the East Midlands Autism Clinical Leads Network and the East Midlands Autism Programme Board.Locally we participate in a jointly run Autism Strategy Group which includes Leicestershire,Leicester and Rutland local authorities (LLR) , Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT) and the 3 CCG's which oversee the implementation of the Autism Pathway and Support Planning and the delivery action plan.We have 5 workstreams as part of the Strategy Group which cover Transitions,Employment,Accessable Information,Market Development and Housing.*

## 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.

*In May 2012 Leicestershire County Council appointed an ASD Project Officer , based within the Adults and Communities Planning and Commissioning. This person has been responsible for working across the Local Authority , Private and Voluntary sector to deliver the outcomes recommended in the Autism Act and Strategy. ASD Project Officer : Martin Hall (martin.hall@leics.gov.uk) reporting to Amanda Price (amanda.price@leics.gov.uk) Strategic Planning and Commissioning Manager reporting to Sue Wilson (sue.wilson@leics.gov.uk) Head of Service , Planning and Commissioning.*

#### 4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

##### Comment

*In the 2012 JSNA Autism was included within the Learning Disability Chapter. The specific recommendations highlighted Transition Planning from children to adult services., the need to increase the take up of Personal Budgets , an increase in the Information and Advice available to include Health promotions and increase the capacity for diagnosis. A further "deep dive" was completed after the publication of the JSNA which developed these themes and included recommendations.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

##### Comment

*Data on a diagnosis of Autism has been collected for number of years by Leicestershire Partnership Trust. Once a diagnosis has been carried out the Health Care Professional will discuss a referral to Social Care but it does not trigger an automatic referral. Any data recorded by the Local Authority does not necessarily include whether a person has a diagnosis or not. The new IAS , Information Management System, when it becomes operational will collect additional data.*

#### 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?

##### Comment

*Leicestershire County Council's information recording system , SISS , has the facility to record Autism and/or Asperger's Syndrome as a secondary category following the initial categorisation of Learning Disability or Mental Health. As the secondary category is optional our recording of customers is very much on a "Ad hoc" basis .A search on SISS does produce a small number of customers but this does not represent the true number that are accessing services when we look informal at the numbers of adults with Autism both with a Learning Disability and a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome known to Locality Social Work teams. The new information recording system , IAS , which is being introduced January 2014 will require Autism to be recorded as a primary disability so in the future our recording of customers with Autism will be an accurate figure.*

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

- Yes  
 No

### If yes, how is this demonstrated?

*The LLR Autism Strategy Delivery Action Plan, is linked across Commissioning Strategy's, & embedded into the respective Delivery Plans. It is acknowledged that the current data is not a true reflection of the numbers of people with Autism, however this should improve as data collection at Initial contact points / GP level is improved, as the numbers of diagnoses inevitably increase. Within health there is a recognition of unmet need and that work is required particular those adults diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome*

### 8. What data collection sources do you use?

- Red  
 Red/Amber  
 Amber  
 Amber/Green  
 Green

#### Comment

*REED CODES, LPT LD register, Maracis, SISS - Info system GP systems are being reviewed and are likely to be the most useful in the long term .Since November 2012 we have commissioned a local GP , Dr Yasmin Delargy , to lead on raising the awareness of Autism within General Practice and she has started wider discussions to develop the mechanisms to use REED coding in the future on a local and national level.*

### 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  
 Green

#### Comment

*A GP representative of the CCG is an active participant of the LLR Strategy group, and has helped to identify gaps and needs across the services. A new specification for an increase in the service provision is underdevelopment (using current case evidence) to provide on-going support for all patients following diagnosis, or a some point in the future if required. It is hoped this service will be across both adult MH and LD, and transitions. Dr Yasmin Delargy has designed and published "Top Tips for diagnosing, supporting and meeting the needs of people on the autistic spectrum" booklet which has been distributed across GP's in LLR and as a desk top PDF resource. This resource highlighted their responsibilities in relation to NICE (adult) guidelines. Following on from this we have delivered Autism training to GP's in the County and have facilitated 1:1 discussions to improve practice. We are also developing an E Learning package for Health and Social Care Professionals with our colleagues in LLR , Social Care, and LPT , Health.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

#### Please give an example to demonstrate your score.

*Carers and people with Autism have been involved locally in designing the Asperger's group, before the National Process was initiated. The local process has been driven by service users and carers being involved at the different stages of the development the Local Autism Strategy, the Strategy group, and the diagnostic and support pathway development group. Service users responded to an initial questionnaire about the Strategy. Some users and carers then assisted in an exercise in 'What would a good Pathway look like?' - linking from childhood to adulthood with milestone transitions and events. This culminated in an open event for to all to see and comment on the Whole pathway from Children's, through to CAMHS, and adult services in LD or MH. Easy Read Service user information is checked by a local Learning Disability Checkers group. Both service users and carers have been involved locally in the completion of the SAF. They also represent the authority at regional and national level at the Clinical Leads Network and the Autism Programme Board. There has been engagement and feedback from carers and users as part of the completion of the SAF.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Please give an example.

To enhance our service provision we have appointed 2 Team Seniors to work within the Adult Mental Health Team to mentor and support all staff within Leicestershire County Council to carryout Community Care Assessments for adults with Autism (LD/MH). This work very much focuses on reasonable adjustments in relation to an assessment and our applicaion of the eligibility criteria. These 2 workers are the focus of our support for adults with Autism. We are also running a one day course , facilitated by the National Autistic Society, for 20 workers to develop their skills further. We have also promoted the new Diagnostic Pathway , and how they access assessment and support for people with suspected ASD. The ASD Training Programme delivers one day training to workers at Enhanced and Specialist levels . These resources have also been taken up across the wider service provision of the local authority including our Customer Service Centre and by external partners. The briefing details and Pathway information is accessible to all LA staff on the internal website, and to the public all on the main website.

A process has been agreed outside of the standard pathway between clinicians and the LA. This will allow direct access to relevent teams for people with a diagnosis of Aspergers, thereby improving their access & opportunity to appropriate services. We are also in discussions about our 2 Team Seniors being avialable following the diagnosis for information and advice. The Mental Health diagnostic clinic was based on an upper floor of a psychiatric unit, which presented a significant barrier to users. As a result the clinic has now been moved to the ground floor and is much more accessible, as it seen a a separate entity and not part of psychiatric services.

The GP Autism Pack has been produced which includes 'Top Tips for diagnosing, supporting and meeting the needs of people on the Autistic Spectrum' as well as a variety of other information including the AQ10 diagnostic tool .

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

- Yes  
 No

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.

There is a process in place to identify those young people age 14 and over who should be offered a Community Care Assessment to determine their eligibility for Adult Social care support via a Personal Budget.. This process is led by the Disabled Childrens Team in partnership with the local authority schools and the Adult Transitions Team. Other teams , such as the Looked After Team , Connexions Team and Autism Outreach can also refer young people to the Transitions Team for assessment.

Formal Transition Planning arrangements are in place for the young person with a statement of Special Educational Need that starts within school prior to their 19th birthday. Alongside this we have the LLR Autism Diagnostic and Support Pathway which has three detailed sections on multidisciplinary assessment, for Children, Transitions & Adults. These pathways will work together to provide the appropriate assessment and support/services as young people move through different phases of education, health & social care. The transition process is automatic if the young person has a statement (this includes all young people in special schools). If in an out of county or mainstream school referrals can be made for an assessment if not picked up through other routes. A referral can also be made from the Autism Pathway for a newly diagnosed young person. The challenge in this area is to reach children who do not have an educational statement which would attend Mainstream Schools within the County. Access to social care services may be limited to preventative services if they do not meet the fair access to care threshold of substantial or critical. This does not restrict access to health or educational resources.

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Comment

The role of the 2 Team Seniors has included support to teams that assess and support older people with Autism, to enable them to consider how to make reasonable adjustments to their individual case input and to the wider planning of their services. The 2012 JSNA Learning Disability Chapter , which included Autism , considered recommendations irrespective of age so by definition that included the needs of older people with Autism . There is also an awareness of the epidemiology for over 60's, but there is little clinical discussion and it is not an area where GP's are picking up new people. It is an issue which is being addressed with Dr Yasmin Delargy's engagement with GP's and being considered by the Autism Strategy Group.

## Training

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

- Yes  
 No

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**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.**

*The LLR multi-agency training strategy clearly identifies the need to ensure training is aligned to the LLR Autism care pathways and ensures equality of access to learning for all.*

*The content of the programme has been informed by the involvement of people on the autistic spectrum and their carers in both the development of the materials and their delivery. There has been local Autism training running since 2003 and an E Learning Basic Awareness package available since 2010. In 2012 the Leicestershire Social Care Development Group (LSCDG) commissioned a provider, who has a diagnosis of Aspergers Syndrome, to provide one day ASD Training at Enhanced and Specialist levels. These courses are delivered on a monthly basis across Leicestershire and Leicester. The courses have been well attended and a wide variety of local authority, private sector and voluntary sector staff have attended. New training has also been developed from the Pathway in the form of a CD rom with a focus for GP's and including information & training for all other professions.*

*Responsibility for the commissioning, implementation and monitoring of the training programme is with the LSCDG, this a partnership that has been set up for a number of years to support the Independent and Voluntary Sector with workforce development, focussed on providing access to free training. The partnership consists of Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council with representation from the Independent and Voluntary Sectors. The training plan will be reviewed, following a review of the LLR Strategy. The training programme has been benchmarked against both the Skills for Care Knowledge sets for Autism and the relevant Autism modules within the Health and Social Care Diploma on the Qualification Credit Framework, and is flexible enough to reflect outcomes for people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions in both health and social care settings and reflecting the importance of person centred approaches.*

*The core aims of the programme are that staff are able to identify potential signs of autism and understand how to make reasonable adjustments in their behaviour, communication and services for people who have a diagnosis of autism or who display these characteristics.*

*The training programme also meets the requirements of the statutory guidance. Additional training has been developed from the Pathway in the form of a CD ROM with a focus for GP's and including information & training for all other professions.*

*The content of the programme has been informed by the involvement of people on the autistic spectrum and their carers in both the development of the materials and their delivery. We have also commissioned the one day Social Worker course from the NAS.*

*We have also established the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Autism Champions Network. The Network is available to anybody who works or volunteers with adults with autism to improve their knowledge and understanding of Autism. Individuals, once they have completed the Autism Awareness one day course, are encouraged to join to continue to develop their skills and knowledge. The Network also makes resources available and provides additional half day training on specific subject such as Autism and Communication. The Network has over 30 members from a wide variety of agencies and meets on a regular basis.*

#### 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

*The ASD Training Programme commissioning highlights this as an area of need. The Enhanced and Specialist courses go into much more detail, to assist with effective assessment and support planning. The 2 Team Seniors have accessed additional training resources and we have commissioned the NAS one day Social Care Assessment course which we aim to repeat in the future to train a higher percentage of staff. The issue has also been raised for training needs to be raised in the Psychiatrist and GP annual appraisal.*

*The E-learning/CD Rom course has been developed for Psychiatrists and GP's. This training is also accessible to all health and social care professions at whatever level they require. This has enabled the widest possible spread of quality training material. This is also available to the Independent and Voluntary sectors.*

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.

*The CCG's have been involved in the development of a new service specification for the development of the workforce to provide an ongoing multi-disciplinary support service within mental health services where there has been non previously. Since November 2012 we have commissioned Dr Yasmin Delargy to lead on the raising awareness of autism within General Practice. At the start we surveyed local GP's about their interest and knowledge of Autism to then develop resources and training to deliver to GP's across LLR. GP's were then involved in the design of a 'Top Tips' GP Autism Pack which has gone to every GP in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. This resource has also been made into an online PDF resource. Dr Delargy then delivered a number of training events within GP Practices to GP's and support staff on the use of the resources. Dr Delargy has also held 1:1 sessions with GP's. We have also facilitated a GP Conference to raise awareness of Autism and develop the use of GP resources. A specialist CD Rom/E-learning training package has been developed for mainstream psychiatry, with modules for all other relevant professions.*

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

- Yes  
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

*Training on Autism within Leicestershire Police is led by their Equality Unit. They have , for a number of years , involved a local trainer , who has a diagnosis of Aspergers Syndrome in their training programmes. He also sits on the Police Disability Independent Advisory Group. He has delivered either one hour or half day Autism awareness sessions as part of a wider Equality and Diversity Training Programme to front line officers , Operations staff , managers , police staff, Special Branch and Counter Terrorism staff and members of the HR Department. They have received very positive feedback about the Autism awareness input they have had. They have also had delivered training input to the CID Team from a parent of an adult with Autism focusing on investigative interviews. Earlier this year we had a number of discussions exploring the suitability of Nigel Archer being involved in delivering training in Leicestershire and visited Nigel in Birmingham, but due to the success of the current provider used by Leicestershire Police and due to the reorganisation of training to a Regional level, this has not been developed any further at the moment. The latest equality training strategy agreed in August 2013, has however recognised the importance of continuing to provide a bespoke specialist training module of Autism awareness, as part of a suite of specific modules where certain staff may need more in depth knowledge. It is anticipated that following the "Let's Talk About Autism" - Autism and the CJS Conference in Chesterfield in October we will be able to engage with the wider CJS to highlight training opportunities and their responsibilities under the Autism Act and Strategy.*

## Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Please provide further comment.

*A full diagnostic and support pathway has been developed across Children, Transitions and Adults, in Mental Health and Learning Disabilities.*

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

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

1

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

2013

**Comment**

*January 2013 was the start date for the current pathway, however there has been a diagnostic and support pathway in LD adults since 2005. There has also been a diagnostic pathway for ASD in MH since 2005.*

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

Please report the total number of weeks

24

**Comment**

*Aspergers Assessment Clinic , average wait time between triage and completion of assessment 7 months  
Learning Disability Service Referral to assessment 6 weeks , assessment process through to diagnosis 3 months*

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

188

**Comment**

*446 is the number of people who have received a diagnosis of ASD from both the LD and MH services (Adults 188 , Children under 18 258) However this may be an underestimate of the numbers completing the Pathway, as currently the data is not recorded in a format that allows the extraction of information on who has gone through the Pathway process, therefore those who do not meet the criteria for diagnosis are not included here.*

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

- Yes  
 No

**Comment**

*The Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT) initially lead in the development of the Pathway, along with the three local authorities , social care and education (adult, transitions and children's), CAMHS and Children's services. The PCT, were initially involved and the work was nearly completed by the time the CCG's became involved. However the CCG's have taken the lead in enhancing the diagnostic element of the mental health pathway and are assisting in the development of a service specification to provide additional identified support services.*

**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**

*Across LLR it is felt that we have both integrated mainstream and specialist autism services to offer the widest possible response to needs. This is reflected across the whole Pathway through Children/CAMHS/Adult.*

**25. In your local diagnostic path does a diagnosis of autism automatically trigger an offer of a Community Care Assessment?**

- Yes  
 No

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

*There is no automatic system of notification when a diagnosis is made. If someone is judged to require a Community Care Assessment then this will be discussed with them and a referral will be made to Adult Social Care. Some people will already have social care services. A referral would be made through the Customer Service Centre and passed to the relevant Community Mental Health Team. If a referral comes directly from the Diagnosing Psychiatrist it will be sent straight through to the CMHT. Preventative services, low levels of support and signposting would be undertaken by the Customer Service Centre and/or the Leicestershire Autism Information Hub (LAIH). The LAIH is a commissioned service, run by the National Autistic Society, to provide up to date accessible information about the full range of services across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. The Hub has a website, [www.liah.org.uk](http://www.liah.org.uk), and is also available via telephone and email. The Hub also has a remit to engage with Private and Voluntary Organisations to promote awareness and training. Newly diagnosed people receive an information pack which includes information about the Leicestershire Autism Information Hub which can be accessed when appropriate.*

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

*There is a range of different support available for both users and carers. These can be accessed via voluntary, private and commissioned services. Examples are Translate, Monday Club, LAMP, NAS, Carers support, Accredo. Within health the LD service provide Multi-disciplinary teams, Fosse Autism support service and Outreach Community service. There currently no specialist health care services for non LD cases, but the CCG is drawing up a business case to consider options. The Leicestershire Autism Information Hub is available to provide information and signposting to services for those adults who have received a diagnosis.*

## 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

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

c. Number of those reported in 27a. who have both a diagnosis of Autism AND Learning Disability

### Comment

*Leicestershire County Council's information recording system, SISS, has the facility to record Autism and/or Asperger's Syndrome as a secondary category following the initial categorisation of Learning Disability or Mental Health. As the secondary category is optional our recording of customers is very much on a "Ad hoc" basis. A search on SISS does produce a small number of customers but this does not represent the true number that are accessing services when we look informal at the numbers of adults with Autism both with a Learning Disability and a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome known to Locality Social Work teams. Leicestershire County Council's Self Directed Support Pathway provides services via a Personal Budget, either managed or as a cash payment, so the assumption would be that a very high percentage of eligible customers would be in receipt of a Personal Budget. The new information recording system, IAS, which is being introduced January 2014 will require Autism to be recorded as a primary disability so in the future our recording of customers with Autism will be an accurate figure.*



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  
 No

If yes, please give details

*The Leicestershire Autism Information Hub (LAIH) .The LAIH is a commissioned service , run by the National Autistic Society , to provide up to date accessible information about the full range of services across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. The Hub has a website , www.liah.org.uk , and is also available via telephone and email. The Hub also has a remit to engage with Private and Voluntary Organisations to promote awareness and training .An example of this has been a link between the Hub and Leicester Prison to provide awareness training. The Hub has two dedicated members of staff who update the website and answer the helpline.The website and information is design to be autism friendly. Generic Adult Social Care information is also available form the Leicestershire County Council Customer Service Centre.*

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

*If someone is judged to require a Community Care Assessment then this will be discussed with them and a referral will be made to Adult Social Care. Some people will already have social care services. A referral would be made through the Customer Service Centre and passed to the relevant Community Mental Health Team. If a referral comes directly from the Diagnosing Psychiatrist it will be sent straight through to the CMHT . Preventative services, low levels of support and signposting would be undertaken by the Customer Service Centre or the Leicestershire Autism Information Hub.*

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

*Our commissioned Advocacy provider , Leicestershire Community Projects Trust , staff have all attended the Enhanced Autism Training as well as holding the relevant Advocacy Qualification*

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

*Within our Advocacy contract with Leicestershire Community Projects Trust there is a specific requirement to provide a full range of Advocacy services to adults with Autism .Primarily adults with Autism can self refer or be referred by a third party whether that be a Social Care Professional or Parent/Carer.*

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.

*The Leicestershire Autism Information Hub was commissioned to be available to people with autism irrespective of their eligibility for services. The Hub provides information on a range of services which are available including Self Help Groups and Voluntary sector provision such as the NAS, LAMP, The Carers Centre and Translate. We also part fund a Social Group, The Monday Club, which is a Voluntary sector lead support group for adults with Asperger Syndrome. The Hub is also available to Parent/Carers, Professionals and all Organisations*

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

*The Autism Information Hub has information and links about a range of services across County, City and Rutland. The Hub is a "One Stop" point for all information and services which are available in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland available via the website, telephone and email. The contract for the Hub states that the information provided should be in a format which is accessible to adults with Autism and Parent/Carers. The Hub has a Steering Group, which includes adults with Autism and Parent/Carers, who have input in the style and content of the information. The Hub staff have also visited the Monday Club (a social group for adults with Asperger Syndrome) to have direct input on the suitability of the content and accessibility. Work is currently being undertaken by the Autism Strategy Communication group, to ensure consistency in the content and range of different communication models. Membership of this group includes users, carers and SALT, along with others. The Autism Pathway documents/information will be hosted on one site, with links to others involved again to ensure accessibility & consistency. Easy Read Service user information is checked by a local Learning Disability Checkers group. Voluntary sector groups i.e. Translate, Monday Club, LAMP, NAS, The Carers Centre, Accredo, also provide information and guidance alongside the Autism Hub. There are online directories and resources available via partners websites including ChooseMySupport which is the online marketplace for approved providers and adults to purchase services.*

## Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Comment

*As a Local Authority we are part of the Housing Strategy Partnership (HSP) which brings together the seven District/Borough Councils across Leicestershire. Leicestershire is a 2 tier Authority so the provision of housing is the responsibility of our partners and our involvement in the HSP is to influence the provision of Housing across Leicestershire. The seven District/Borough Authorities local Housing Strategies refer to "vulnerable people" which by their definition includes adults with Autism. Our assessment process includes Housing Related Support which focuses on the individuals needs of adults with Autism. We also have a Support Living Project which is supporting private landlords to make their housing stock suitable for adults accessing Social Care.*

## Employment

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

*The Leicestershire Autism Information Hub has a remit to engage with employers to promote Autism Awareness and "champion" adults with Autism as good employees. The Hub worker is delivering 1 or 2 hour sessions with employers to highlight good practice with existing employees with Autism and promote the qualities which adults with Autism would bring to their Organisation. The Hub website also contains information around Benefits advice and changes in the Welfare System. Locally we have a Mental Health Employment group which liaises and promotes employment across the City, County and Rutland which has a broad membership including Job Centre Plus, Welfare to Work providers and Local Authorities. There is one specialist independent provider LEAT (Leicestershire Employment for Autism Today) which provides 1:1 support, using Personal Budgets. The current generic Autism Training is also available to staff within job centres and employers, current and prospective. The re-organisation of staffing within Job centres has unfortunately reduced the levels of co-operation over the last twelve months.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

*Employment is included in the Transitions Person Centred Planning Process. When appropriate a young person would access the Disability Employment Advisor at the local Job Centre Plus office who would then refer the individual to the most appropriate provision which was available such as the Work Choice Programme which in Leicestershire is currently provided by Remploy and Working Links. The Autism Awareness Employer training being delivered by the Autism Hub will also be useful to raise the profile of employment for young people with Autism.*

**Criminal Justice System (CJS)****37. Are the CJS engaging with you as a key partner in your planning for adults with autism?**

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

*Leicestershire Police have recently appointed a number of Diversity Liaison Officers (DLOs), who have a specific knowledge or specialism about a certain aspect of equality. One of the recent DLO's has declared a specialist knowledge on Autism and will be a link between the Police force and adults with Autism. This is a new initiative and should deliver results over the next 6 -12 months. The Diversity Liaison Officer has been invited to attend our Autism Strategy Group. In the wider CJS the Autism Hub Manager has visited Leicester Prison to deliver Autism Awareness to Managers and staff. Across LLR we have a Mental Health and Vulnerability group which has a range of strategic partners i.e. CCG's, Public Health, LA, LPT and Police. An Autism Alert Card is in use across the city and county, with 70 being issued to adults with Autism. A Keep Safe scheme with Keep Safe cards has been developed with Community Safety Teams to support vulnerable people including adults with autism to access the community and be supported. We are currently helping to organise an East Midlands Autism and the CJS Conference entitled "Let's Talk About Autism" as our contribution to the national review of the Autism Act/Strategy. It is anticipated that this event will help to continue our joint working in the future. On occasions clinical advice has been provided, by a local Autism Psychiatrist, to the Courts in particular cases.*

**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

101415

## Comment

*In November 2013 Leicestershire County Council, working with the Leicestershire Social Care Development Group (LSCDG), published the tendering document for the countywide Autism Awareness Training Programme. This Programme was a key element in delivery of the Autism Strategy in Leicestershire. Following evaluation of the bids, three providers were invited to the next stage to present their tendering proposals. The contract was consequently awarded to sole trader PS.*

*PS was able to demonstrate, as a person with a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome, a unique perspective on the delivery of Autism Awareness Training. His proposal involved bringing together a group of practising professionals as trainers, each addressing different areas of concern (i.e., "What is Autism?" "What does it look/feel like?" Issues and strategies in Environment, Communication and Anxiety Management, and "Pathways through Assessment"). PS is the lead facilitator and delivers the theoretical groundwork upon which the practical elements are then based.*

*The programme was tiered by design with Tier B (enhanced) level targeted to those with frequent and/or intensive contact with adults with ASD and Tier C (specialist) level targeted to those whose roles have a specific focus on working with similar individuals (Tier A (general) level is delivered by e-learning and was commissioned separately). To date, 5 of the scheduled 15 one-day sessions have been delivered and the feedback has been very positive. This Programme will provide an excellent platform for raising awareness of ASD across all providers and communities in Leicestershire.*

## Self-advocate story two

## Question number

10

## Comment

*In December 2011 PS delivered a presentation to the then East Midlands Autism Partnership Board entitled "An Ideal Customer Care Pathway Model." In this he addressed various elements including:*

- \* Raising awareness of ASD amongst the general population, Social Care staff and Health staff*
- \* The need for better access to information*
- \* Referral via GP's to the appropriate Diagnostic Clinic*
- \* The development of Post Diagnostic Support for adults diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome*

*His model proposed a central point including two elements, an Autism Information Hub and an Autism Referral Hub. This "Autism Centre" would facilitate access to information services and also referral to a whole range of appropriate support services via Health (such as OT or SALT), Employment Support, Advocacy, Benefits Advice, etc., via a single point of access.*

*The proposal was aspirational in respect that only one other area of England had anything comparable. The LLR Autism Planning Group welcomed the ideas and acknowledged it was a model that should be worked towards but would require the cooperation of Social Care and Health, including CCG's as they came into being, across any locality, area or region.*

*The model also highlighted the role that a Champions Network could have in promoting Autism Awareness and good practice across a particular locality. This presentation and subsequent meetings and conversations with PS, with his insight as a person with a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome, have formed the basis of the way that services are developing in Leicestershire. Direct influences have been the establishment of*

- \* Commissioned Autism Awareness Training*
- \* The Leicestershire Autism Information Hub, the central information point as suggested in the model*
- The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Autism Champions Network*

## Self-advocate story three

## Question number

3031

## Comment

*Client self referred to our service; his wish was to move from his current accommodation (residential care) and into other accommodation that would afford him more independence.*

*Client suffers from Asperger's and his accommodation provides round the clock care. A visit was arranged so I could meet with client, and formulate a care plan and devise some realistic outcomes.*

*Client had some issues with the social worker and felt they were not supporting him appropriately. Supported client to devise a letter stating concerns, and requesting new social worker*

*I liaised with the clients support worker who helped the client complete a Housing Application form and phone calls to do with the process. One frustration that the client had was around the 3 month wait for PIN number to allow him to bid for properties. I had several conversations with the housing department to try and speed this up.*

*The Housing department also required a supporting letter from a social worker, we supported the client to meet with the social worker and discuss this in more detail, resulting in a supporting letter been formulated. .*

*More clarification was needed for the clients housing application (Confirmation of where he is living was sent by his current support worker)*

*All bidding details through and properties can begin to be considered.*

*An alternative placement is sought from client by the social worker who had come across a supported living house within the search area, but with less support than he gets now. I visited house with client, whom he likes, only one other resident as well who he gets on with.*

*Discuss with client on a few separate visits if this is what he is looking for, which he says it is.*

*I feed this back to the social worker and held discussions with client and his current residential home around the kind of support package which would be require din the new home and the client moves into the new property two weeks later.*

*Visit client at new property - all working very well and he is happy.*

## Self-advocate story four

## Question number

3031

## Comment

*Client requiring support to contest the decision of Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) not to provide a full assessment for her son who has a diagnosis of Asperger's. The client has a history of mental health issues and is in receipt of a personal budget to provide her with PA support. She had become more and more unwell due to the strain of the continued battle to have her son's needs recognised. She was referred to us by her Social Worker who because of the conflict of interest (her being employed by the same local authority our client was at odds with), felt she needed independent support to further explore the problems.*

**Support Plan/Action:**

- \* Meet with client to discuss her situation, explain how advocacy can assist, and also the limits of our service.*
- \* Obtain consent for information sharing.*
- \* Meet with client's son, to gain an understanding of his views and also with the rest of the family who were able to further explain the affect on my client.*
- \* Write to my client's son's last known social worker, establish CYPS current position. His case, I was informed, was closed.*
- \* Write to head of CYPS, re an assurance he had in the past, given my client, that her son would get a full assessment. I also, at this time requested a meeting.*
- \* Attended meeting, which did go ahead, several months later and with another member of the head of service's team. At this meeting we were informed it was LCC policy not to offer children, with issues on the behavioural spectrum a full assessment/ and or services. I pointed out that this blanket policy appeared discriminatory as my client's son would in fact be entitled to this support as soon as he reached 18. It was decided he would get a full assessment from the disabled children's team.*
- \* Supported my client and her son at the assessment.*

**Outcome:**

*\* My client's son was found to have substantial needs. He was awarded a small personal budget, which addresses his isolation issues, which were a major cause of concern for him and all his family. A follow up meeting was held at the family home with the head of service's acting deputy. She explained that as a direct result of the discrimination highlighted in this case, LCC are reviewing their policy with regard to children on the behavioural spectrum. She said that in recognition of the many years my client had been requesting assistance for her son the local authority were willing to offer some back dated personal budget finance. She suggested 5 years back dated may be impossible but if my client and her son were to consider how they may make good use of some of this funding and put it in writing she would discuss the matter with the head of CYPS and see what could be done. I met once more with my client, her son and the rest of the family to consider the offer and wrote on their behalf. My client's son was successfully awarded 2,500.00 backdated personal budget.*

## 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

Month

Year

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