



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

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?

We are a member of the South West Regional Autism Partnership Group. We attend meetings to share good practice and ideas and contribute to regional events. Earlier in 2013 we also completed a south west benchmarking exercise, led by the National Autistic Society, again to identify good practice models around the region, share challenges and how those challenges have been overcome.

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.

*George O'Neill - Head of Specialist Commissioning & Safeguarding Adults
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4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

There is comprehensive information in Wiltshire's JSA about autism, what autism is, national and local data, links to Wiltshire's Autism Strategy and information about services.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Data is being collected and shared although there are still gaps in methods of recording.

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

We collect data on those people with a diagnosis of autism meeting eligibility criteria and receiving services:

Total number = 361

Number who also have a learning disability = 317

Number who also have mental health problems = 0

Wiltshire's mental health social care staff have until recently been using a database that hasn't collected the information required above, however this will improve in the future as they now use a data base that does collect this information

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

- Yes
 No

If yes, how is this demonstrated?

Wiltshire has published a Joint Autism Commissioning Strategy and Implementation Plan that details local data (and prevalence data and needs) and a Consultation document that details what people with autism said was important to them:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/disabilities.htm

8. What data collection sources do you use?

- Red
 Red/Amber
 Amber
 Amber/Green
 Green

Comment

For young people, data is collected from paediatricians and CAMHS. School and social care data is less robust as autism may not be a child's primary need and may not be recorded (please note Children's services work with people from age 0-25 years).

Adult social care services use a database called Care First to collect data about people with autism. The information depends on primary and secondary 'classifications' being recorded.

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 CCG Service Improvement Manager is a member of the Autism Partnership Board.

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.

In 2011/2012 consultation meetings resulted in a Consultation document being published.

Wiltshire holds an Autism Forum before each Partnership Board meeting. This is open for any adult with autism to attend and discuss issues with each other and then present issues and ideas to the Board as there is an overlap of the two meetings. This structure has evolved over time to strengthen the involvement and level of representation in the strategic planning processes to ensure continuous involvement. People can also input to the forum via email etc if they can't attend in person. Wiltshire Council funds the facilitation of this forum by a grant.

Children's services (working with 0-25 age range) carried out a multi agency service review in 2012 which involved wide consultation with parent carers and children and young people with autism. A young adult with autism represents other service users on the Children's Multi Agency Strategy Group.

Wiltshire has a strong history of partnership working with parent carers who are represented on all boards.

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.

There is a clear policy that where possible generic services will support people with autism rather than create autism specific services. Examples of how this is being achieved are through training programmes (e-learning and courses) for a wide range of professionals (social workers, police, support workers, GPs etc); a Professional Forum where Autism Leads in teams meet to share experience and support; and an extensive autism awareness campaign.

Wiltshire's education and health services have a strong track record of working to upskill mainstream settings to accommodate the needs of children and young people with language and communication difficulties. Training programmes are promoted and offered to staff in schools and other settings. Settings where training has taken place will be identified in Wiltshire's local offer of provision for SEND children and young people (0-25 age range)

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.

Since April 2013 Wiltshire has extended its Children's Social Care Service to work with young people to the age of 25, or stability. Transitions into adult care will happen on an individual basis at the point of stability for each young person allowing for consistency of planning and support during young adulthood.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The particular needs of older people with autism has not been considered separately to the consultation programmes mentioned above (in Q10)

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.

A training programme (for 900 professionals) and e-learning package have been specifically commissioned for awareness and intermediate levels (based on 'Skills for Care/Skills for Health/NAS guidance' and local information) and made available for social care, health and voluntary organisation staff etc. Self advocates with autism were involved in the design of the training programme via a planning day and via feedback from the Autism Forum.

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

A training programme (for 900 professionals) and e-learning package have been specifically commissioned for awareness and intermediate levels (based on 'Skills for Care/Skills for Health/NAS guidance' and local information). All participants completed evaluation forms which are collated and are then contacted again to find out how the training has improved their practice. The training programme covered two levels; Awareness - by e-learning or 2 hour face to face session Intermediate - 1 day face to face course. Both levels include content on making adjustments in approach and communication. Re Specialist level of training - there is a Wiltshire Autism Professional Group to develop a hub of professionals with more specialist knowledge to underpin the other training tiers and explore the need for additional specialist training. New workers in adult social care attend a 12 day induction (over 12 weeks) with covers National Common Induction Standard (Skills for Care) and what new workers need to know in Wiltshire. The programme includes person centred approaches, communication, and autism is included specifically.

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.

Yes but training in the CCG is in the early stages.

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

- Yes
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

There is a representative from the Community Safety Partnership on the Autism Partnership Board.
 All Criminal Justice services have had access to the commissioned training programme and e-learning mentioned above, including police custody staff. This includes awareness and intermediate level training.

Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please provide further comment.

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

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

9

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

2012

Comment

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

Please report the total number of weeks

4

Comment

4 weeks is the average wait over three providers. Waiting lists do not exceed 6 weeks.

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

113

Comment

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

- Yes
 No

Comment

With support from Wiltshire Council

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

There is a choice for people of 3 providers. 2 are integrated with mainstream statutory services and the third is an independent specialist autism specific service

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?

*No - the individual's GP is notified of the diagnosis.
The diagnostic service would provide advice, information and signposting. This would include how to self refer for a community care assessment.*

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

*Within the diagnostic pathway, 2 sessions of post diagnostic support are offered.
There is one established group offering social support. The Autism Partnership Board is looking at how to fund and extend this provision across Wiltshire.*

[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

2723

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

6

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

70

Comment

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

There is one phone number to access Adult Social Care in Wiltshire, answered by Customer Advisors. They have had access to the training programme and are able to offer information and signpost people with autism to appropriate services and organisations. This is a generic service, not an autism specific service.

A central information point has been created via the Wiltshire Council website to provide key information specifically around autism.

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 route for accessing social care is clear. Wiltshire Council's Adult Care Locality Teams have had access to the training programme and would undertake community care assessments for people with autism but without a learning disability. Within each of those teams is an Autism Lead that links to the Autism Professionals Forum if specialist support/advice is needed.

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

Advocates have been offered training as part of the training programme.

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

Local advocacy services are accessing training but not developing their own training.

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.

*There are some existing services in place which are not exclusively for people with autism but do support and include people with autism well (eg travel training, community connecting, carers support).
 There is a social support group for people with autism in Salisbury. The Autism Partnership Board is looking at how to fund and extend this provision across Wiltshire.*

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

A central information point has been created via the Wiltshire Council website to provide key information. Newsletters are widely disseminated which publish key information and website links.

Some generic services support people with autism well (e.g. travel training, community connecting).

There are specialist supported living and residential care home services.

Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

It is no longer a statutory requirement to have a Housing Strategy. Wiltshire therefore hasn't got a formally adopted housing strategy covering all adults.

However there is a Housing Strategy for 16-25 years olds which specifically includes young adults with autism.

We have limited information in this area on current and future demand and on confirmation of what is needed in the future when it comes to specific accommodation needs but we are adapting our customer database to enable this information to start being collected.

We have providers on our Supported Living Framework working with adults with autism in different supported living arrangements.

There is residential care provision for people with autism in Wiltshire.

Employment

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Wiltshire has 2 autism specific job coaches within the Wiltshire Supported Employment Team (WEST). WEST works with local employers to promote the value of recruiting people with autism. They also support and job coach on an individual basis. Representatives of the Wiltshire Autism Partnership have attended 'business breakfasts' to promote the employment of people with autism.

A wider awareness campaign of the benefits of employing people with disabilities is planned for 2014 using leaflets, posters and a locally made DVD.

There is a representative from Job Centre Plus on the Autism Partnership Board.

The Rotary is working on an Employer Autism Awareness Accreditation Scheme, as a result of an Autism Awareness Workshop this year in March, where the Wiltshire Autism Partnership was involved.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Wiltshire is a pathfinder authority for the Government's Green Paper 'Support and Aspiration' and as such has been using an education, health and care plan (in Wiltshire known as 'My Plan') with SEND young people as they prepare for adulthood. From age 14 onwards planners are focusing on long term life outcomes of employment, community inclusion and independent living.

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

A member of the Community Safety Board sits on the Autism Partnership Board as a representative of the CJS.

The Autism Alert card is promoted and used across Wiltshire.

A number of partners, including the Police, Victim Support, Wiltshire Council, Pub Watch, have set up Safe Places in Salisbury and Devizes as pilots, for eventual roll out across Wiltshire.

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

111629

Comment

This story relates to questions 11, 16 and 29. Over the past 18 months A, who lives in a care home, has been using the services provided by Wiltshire Council to enable him to progress forward in a number of areas, and provide a stepping stone to enable him to enhance his life. This is both in a practical sense, and as a positive emotional tool to aid A to gain greater confidence.

There have been a number of factors which have been important in A's life, and the main core of this has been the pro-active stance of A's allocated social worker. It is through them that A has been able to establish a voice, not only within the environment where A resides, but also within the wider community. At the time when A's social worker was allocated he was at a vulnerable point in his life, and it is through the support provided that A was able to feel safe and secure in his environment, and then able to achieve beyond the boundaries of where he lives. This has been through attending a conference for Autism, and being given the opportunity to provide a video documentary for the invited audience. Also through the social worker's work there has been the opportunity to establish a relationship with the local college, with the view to assisting in various projects in future.

There has also been significant input from the transition to employment team (WEST), who although as yet have not been able to move A into employment, have been able to provide support in the creation of CV's and information on what is needed to find meaningful employment.

During the period where Wiltshire Council has been working alongside A, they have also been through a safeguarding process. Whilst this process was being conducted, A was made to feel that he was meaningful within the process, and that his views were an important component in the conclusions and action points raised. This further empowered A, and it has been noticeable that he has used this, along with all the other support, to enable him to find his own voice.

Self-advocate story two

Question number

3536

Comment

This story relates to questions 35 and 36. In April 2013 Wiltshire Gazette and Herald interviewed a young man with autism about his experience with work - it was a 2 page spread in the local paper. The young man described some of the challenges he faces with managing change and anxiety and also explained that he works full-time. He was supported to get his job by the Wiltshire Supported Employment Team, WEST. WEST provided a job coach and his employer provided a buddy. In the article he described the difference that gaining a job had made to his life - he had felt bored and useless but now feels focussed and 'pretty good about his life'. In the article his dad gives some top tips for parents of autistic children. The article formed part of the Board's Autism Awareness campaign.

Self-advocate story three

Question number

32

Comment

- * Service user who was assessed aged 23 with Asperger syndrome about five years ago.
- * He had attended university but due to problems had not managed to complete his computer course. Problems were to do with social interaction.
- * Following assessment and diagnosis he joined support group. Had been living in parents' house in total isolation so group was his first social contact in years.
- * Group gave him purpose and he would save money each week to allow himself to pay for activity with group
- * His confidence grew and with support from group members and facilitator he applied to the company he had done his school work experience with and gained a job 3 days a week
- * This job was partly done at home and part in the office to suit his needs
- * He started cycling again to access job
- * He increased to four days a week but eventually after nearly a year decided that working in this form of team was too stressful due to having to communicate with customers
- * He did however discover what he was able to do which also included being able to go to a staff canteen
- * He has now decided he would be better working for himself from home.
- * The attending of the group has allowed him to contribute to the Wiltshire strategy (by email) and to be included in the delivery of the awareness training and have this as an additional paid job.
- * He has now taken on the role in the group of encouraging shy quiet people like himself and is currently helping a young man who would talk to nobody to come out of himself by teaching him an old board game called "GO". This chap has then gone on to learn more about it online and they now have this interest in common and play each time they meet and have started to email each other.
- * He is still socially isolated but his confidence has grown and he even had a few dates with a girl he met online having found the skill to meet others and to succeed

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

Month

Year