



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 have developed the workforce development framework for social care staff jointly with East and West Sussex County Councils (see training section for detail)

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.

*Anne Hagan
Lead Commissioner
Adult Social Care
Brighton & Hove City Council
Room G23, Kings House
Grand Avenue
Hove
BN3 2LS
anne.hagan@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel 01273 296112*

Anne Hagan has allocated responsibility for leading the commissioning of community of community care services for adults with autism. Anne Hagan reports to the Director of Adult Social Services, local councillors and the Health & Well-Being Board.

4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

We have a specific "Adults with autistic spectrum conditions needs assessment", published May 2011, which informs our strategy. A summary was updated in June 2013. These are available here: <http://www.bhlis.org/>

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Data collection exists, but further work is ensure appropriate links are made between data sources. Our social care, health and housing databases collect information, but this has only been in place in recent years and the data is not cross-referenced. We have commissioned an enhanced diagnostic service which will improve data collection for newly diagnosed people. We are also aiming to extract data from GP practices in late 2013 as part of a data extraction exercise for the Learning Disability SAF.

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?

14

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

4

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

0

Comment

Data collection for Adults with Autism receiving social care is new, therefore this data will be an incomplete picture of actual numbers. The data is based on:

The number of new people being assessed each year and what the outcome of the assessment was broken down by client category-for our RAP return. The outcomes are as follows:

-Some or all (new) services intended or already started (incl. those started and finished)

-(New) Service(s) offered but declined

-Other sequel to assessment

-No(new) services offered or intended to be provided

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

- Yes
 No

If yes, how is this demonstrated?

Yes - our Adult Autism strategy is underpinned with data from our Adult Autism needs assessment

8. What data collection sources do you use?

- Red
 Red/Amber
 Amber
 Amber/Green
 Green

Comment

We have made a start in data collection, as described in question 5, across social care, health and housing. We will explore how to cross-reference this data and this is an action in our strategy as follows: "Develop a locally coordinated & comprehensive data system to inform planning"

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

We have the clinical lead GP fully engaged and part of our Stakeholder Group; she leads the autism agenda strategically at the CCG and we jointly commission specialist services such as the diagnostic service.

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.

We have people with ASC and carers represented in our Stakeholder Group, which also includes all our local specialist community and voluntary sector agencies. As part of our work to develop a network of 'Autism Champions' we are surveying people with ASC to gather their views on local services.

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.

Council policy would include our duties under the Equality Act, but do not specifically reference Autism. There are some anecdotal examples of reasonable adjustments in local services.

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.

Yes - there is a specific process governing transition from our Children's Disability Service to our Community Learning Disability Team. There is a transitions team for people with learning disabilities. There is also a transitions process for young people with mental health needs.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

We do not have data on the numbers or needs of older people with ASC. Our needs assessment states that "many older people will be undiagnosed because the autistic spectrum condition only became formally recognised as a range of conditions in the late 1960s." <http://www.bhlis.org/disability/p2>. Autism training is available to staff in older people services, but uptake is low. We will target this area for the Autism Champions network to improve awareness, but we do not have any further specific plans around this 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.

We have newly commissioned training program in place for social care staff which is designed and delivered by a self-advocate. From September 2013 the Workforce Development Team will be offering a range of courses and qualifications on autism. The revised courses follow consultation with Brighton & Hove's Autism Stakeholder Group and partnership working with colleagues in East and West Sussex. The revised framework integrates the autism knowledge and skills framework developed by Skills for Care and Skills for Health as well as referencing national occupational standards. There is a clear development pathway and a link between courses and qualifications.

The new approach builds on the statutory guidance Implementing Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives and introduces autism champions.

Training records and workforce data are available.

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

We do offer training to social care staff in accessible information, Autism, sensory interaction and related, but work is required to increase uptake as it is currently below 50%.

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 - We have the clinical lead GP fully engaged and part of our Stakeholder Group; she leads the autism agenda strategically at the CCG. We are at the early stages of workforce planning for GPs and primary care but we have a strategic objective around this area: "Autism awareness included in Primary Care workforce development", which has a number of actions attached to it. Our themed Stakeholder Group meeting will focus on workforce development and we have representatives joining us from the CCG who have specific responsibilities for primary care commissioning.

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

- Yes
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

Our local probation service have independently commissioned a local Autism agency to deliver training to their staff.

Sussex Police are part of our stakeholder group and are reviewing their training requirements.

Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please provide further comment.

There is a pathway to a Neuro-Behavioural diagnostic clinic and it has been recognised that the clinic cannot meet the level of demand and the waiting times have exceeded 6 months. However, this year the CCG have invested in an additional resource to address this which will bring down the waiting list and allow an improved pathway to be implemented. The new service went operational in Sept 2013 and it is expected that by Jan 2014 a new pathway and reduced waiting times will be fully established.

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)

2014

Comment

Please see comment above - pathway in development.

The Neurobehavioural Clinic was first established in May 2007.

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

Please report the total number of weeks

Comment

The newly commissioned service will bring the waiting times down to within 6 months. By early 2014 we would expect to be 'Green' as GPs will be fully aware of the referral route, the wait for referral will be lower and the new service specification has used NICE guidelines to develop the service design.

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

Comment

31 people from Brighton and Hove have been assessed for an ASC at the Neurobehavioural Clinic in the last year, 14 are on the waiting list to be seen for an assessment. These people will be a priority for the new service.

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

- Yes
 No

Comment

Yes, we have a clinical lead from the CCG who attends the Autism Stakeholder Group and has led on the development of the pathway and the new diagnostic service.

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 pathway is for people with high-functioning Autism or Asperger's and the referral route is through their GP.

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?

Not automatically for all people diagnosed, but it is part of the pathway where people are in need of a Community Care Assessment.

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

The diagnostic service will;

** Link patients into services such as social skills training and other structured and predictable training programmes based on behavioural principles that are commissioned and run locally by third sector organisations and also connecting individuals to existing education, employment and leisure programmes.*

** Work with mental health, learning disability and adult social care services post diagnosis to implement patient recommendations into their treatment plans. The service will also providing consultation and assist with complex case reviews for patients of these services.*

** Provide a rolling group therapy programme including a Psychoeducation group for people with ASC helping them understand and manage their 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

2444

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

8

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

48

Comment

Table with more detail:

Self Directed Support (Personal Budget) cohort 2012-13:

Adult with Autistic Spectrum Condition: 4

Frailty with Autistic Spectrum Condition: 1

Mental Health with Autistic Spectrum Condition: 1

Physical Disability with Autistic Spectrum Condition: 2

Learning Disb with Autistic Spectrum Condition

48

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

No - currently information about services is available in more than one place. We are in discussions with the social care Access Point service to ensure they can operate as a single signposting service to all other relevant services.

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

Discussions have been held with Managers across Assessment services, to seek improvements to the current arrangements - people with Autism who need a community care assessment should contact our Access Point and they will be directed to the appropriate team according to their needs.

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

Advocacy services are being commissioned with the expectation that all services can work with the population defined as "adults using or seeking to use adult social care and health services", but training for autism is not specifically required.

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

Yes, advocacy services are available to people with autism and we would expect reasonable adjustments are made to meet their needs.

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.

We have local agencies specifically working with adults with Autism:

Assert provides the following services for people with AS and HFA:

One to one support

Benefits advice and support

Monthly drop in for people with AS/HFA

Monthly mutual support group for parents, partners and carers of people with AS/HFA

One to one support for parents, partners and carers of people with AS/HFA

Social events and social inclusion activities for people with AS/HFA

Resource Library

Liaison with statutory services on behalf of individuals.

Support for people with AS/HFA in accessing volunteering opportunities with other charities and community groups

Free Life Skills courses

A monthly walking group

Other services of Assert

Assert can also provide information and advice to services and organisations that work with people with AS and HFA.

Assert can provide training to other professionals wanting to increase their knowledge of working with people with AS and HFA.

Assert can support other non profit organisations wanting to recruit new volunteers by using our matching service and placing our members with your group as a volunteer.

Assert promotes, encourages and supports good practice in working with people with AS and HFA.

Assert also participates in campaigning and lobbying for autism rights.

<http://www.assertbh.org.uk/>

ASpire supports adults with Asperger syndrome, High Functioning Autism and similar social issues through mentoring and group activities.

<http://www.bh-impetus.org/aspire/>

Autism Sussex operates a range of services across the county:

<http://www.autismsussex.org.uk/>

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 is no central database of information, but there are some local support services. The range of services available will be reviewed in the coming year to identify gaps.

Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Universal housing strategy details needs of people with disabilities, autism not specifically referenced. Minimal current and historic data availability on individual housing needs and usage of different housing services.

Employment

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Promoting the Employment of People on the Autistic Spectrum:

The council's Adult Social Care Supported Employment Team support people to find and maintain employment. 13.5% of the team's clients are on the Autism Spectrum. www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/supportedemployment

This council is one of the few in the country to offer specialised employment support. The support offered by the Supported Employment Team is more intense and more personalised than support offered by the government work programmes and job centre plus. In fact the Brighton & Hove job centres often refer people with autism to the council's Supported Employment Team.

The Supported Employment Team also works in partnership with and accepts referrals from the Mental Health Wellbeing Service's Work & Learning advisor and the council's Community Learning Disability Service. These are two services to which people with autism are often referred initially. The Adult Social Care team also network regularly with the Mental Health Services supported employment team.

The Supported Employment Team engages with employers in the city to encourage reasonable adjustments in recruitment and employment processes. The team maintain a database of engaged employers that allows them to keep track of employers engaged with, especially details such as names of contact people and details of any work placement opportunities identified.

The council's supported business, Able & Willing, works with the government Work Choice programme to provide paid work and training opportunities for job seekers with disabilities. 18% of the Able & Willing staff have autism listed as their primary barrier to employment. www.ableandwilling.org.uk

The Supported Employment Team has a partnership with the council's HR department to enable disabled people to fill carved job roles within the council. These carved job roles are especially valuable to people with autism who may have the skills for only specific aspects of a job.

In February of 2013 the council sponsored training provided by the National Autistic Society. The training was titled "Supporting People with ASD into Sustainable Employment". The training was made available to organisations within the city which support people in employment. 6 organisations attended including City College, Youth Employability and both the Adult Social Care and the Mental Health Services supported employment teams.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The Supported Employment Team is part of the same service as the LD transition team and accepts referrals from the transition team. The two teams often work in partnership regarding specific service users and employment support workers will often be invited to reviews.

The Supported Employment Team is represented in the SEN Partnership Strategy working group for transitions

All transitions plans refer to employment/activity opportunities. There are dedicated employment advisors contracted to support people with mental health needs.

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

Discussions with the CJS are underway, including training of the police and wider CJS and inclusive of the use of alert cards. Representative from CJS sits on autism partnership board or alternative.

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

35

Comment

Rita is a young lady with Autism, who the Supported Employment Team started working with in October 2012. She was referred by the Community Learning Disability Team, as she didn't meet eligibility criteria for their services, yet she was clearly in need of support as she was isolated and unoccupied at home and on her own all week. The council's Supported Employment team supported Rita to do voluntary work in a charity shop, and worked closely with the manager to ensure that Rita could develop her skills. Rita did a range of tasks including pricing, sorting stock, and her favourite task was working on the till. This demonstrated that Rita had the skills to work in retail, and it greatly increased her confidence. Rita worked in the charity shop for 5 months, and then did an unpaid work experience at a major high street retailer 2 days per week for 3 months. Rita did very well in her work experience, so well in fact that she was offered paid employment by the manager in July 2013. Rita was successful at getting this paid job by showing the employer what a good worker she is, something she would have struggled to do in an interview situation due to her Autism. Rita continues to receive support from the Supported Employment Team even now that she is settled in her job. This is mainly to deal with her anxiety and to support her with any changes or issues that arise at work. With this on-going support she continues to succeed at her job and is a valued employee who has achieved her goal of working in the retail industry.

Self-advocate story two

Question number

192129

Comment

1. Although I have had poor health all my life, I was close to 50 before a clinical psychologist suggested I might have an autism spectrum problem. Later (in 2008) I asked my GP to refer me to the Neurobehavioural clinic at Brighton General Hospital. Although I eventually received a diagnosis of high functioning autism in 2009, the process took well over a year. I first had to see a psychologist at Hove Polyclinic before being referred on to the Neurobehavioural clinic with a long waiting list.

2. At present I live with my mother, who is very old and disabled. I have been promised help from Social Services to move into extra care accommodation after she dies. Naturally, there some uncertainty about funding and organisation of this at an unknown time in the future.

3. Basically, I have had to leave employment services behind after some earlier attempts, because my combination of health difficulties and intellectual ability (I have an M. A., and Ph.D) has meant my only option was to write.

I hope that will be helpful, and maybe even point up a few problems in the way things operate where services are concerned.

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

Month

Year

