

**Cllr Simon Allen, Cabinet Member for WellBeing
Key Issues Briefing Note**

Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel – November 2011

1. PUBLIC ISSUES

Autism Strategy

The Autism Act was passed by Parliament in 2009. The Act puts a legal duty on PCTs and local authorities to provide an appropriate range of services for adults with Autism Spectrum Conditions. Subsequently the Department of Health published in 2010, The National Autism Strategy – and the first year delivery plan. The National Autism Strategy and delivery plan sets the direction for long term change.

In response to this, a Local Autism Partnership Group was formed in B&NES in July 2010. Key aims of the group are the development of an integrated strategy, identifying local commissioning priorities and to provide a more strategic approach to developing better outcomes for people with autism.

In addition to the multi-agency group there is an Autism Providers Group in B&NES. The group membership consists of local service providers and carers who work together to improve the quality and range of local services.

The learning from both groups and the completion of a self-assessment has confirmed that, in line with national findings:

- more information is needed about our population with autism. Overall numbers and needs are not known and therefore it is difficult to plan the right services and support for the future
- the numbers of people with autism who are on the caseload of the specialist mental health teams is known and the associated spend on services is quantifiable – however as the client group is “hidden” in mental health services we do not use this information properly to improve planning.
- some, but not all, people with learning disabilities or mental health conditions, who also have autism, receive a service but those services are sometimes not ideal
- people on the autistic spectrum who do not have a learning disability or a mental health condition are even less well-supported
- assessment and diagnosis services have no clear pathway for referral

- B&NES does not understand the full range of autism/Asperger specific services or non-specific services with the experience and expertise to support people with autism well
- The workforce in both statutory and independent sectors needs further training and support to understand and meet the needs of people with autism
- We need to continue to strive to help people with autism live in appropriate accommodation and to take up employment opportunities.

This information has formed the basis of the strategy development and a 5 year draft strategy has been produced. The key strategy areas have designated lead officers who are responsible for the development and implementation of action plans in line with the commissioning intentions in the strategy. The group are currently planning the consultation process on the draft strategy, which is planned for early 2012.

2. PERFORMANCE

First Annual Adult Social Care Survey & Annual Account

This annual survey is a key element of the government's new Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF). The survey was completed for the first time in Q4 of 2011/12 and preparations for the administration of the second survey in Q4 of 2011/12 are now underway.

The 2011 survey was the first of its kind to cover all service users aged 18+ who receive a social care service, either in a residential/nursing home or as a package of care in the community. The aim was to learn more about whether or not the services help people to live safely and independently in their own home and how they affect their quality of life. The table below provides comparator data for all key outcome measures. Overall the survey results for B&NES are better than the average for England as a whole although they are very slightly below the average for the South West region. In relation to benchmark Local Authorities, B&NES results are slightly better than average.

Key Outcome Measure	B&NES	All England	South West	Benchmark
Social Care Related Quality of Life	18.8%	18.7%	18.9%	18.75%
Proportion of people who use services who have control over their daily lives	77.5%	75%	77.4%	77.9%
Overall satisfaction with care & support services	63.9%	60.9%	62.1%	60.6%
Overall satisfaction with care & support serves (LD specific question)	75.8%	69.4%	71.2%	73.7%
People who use services who find it easy to find information	58.6%	55%	55.2%	55.9%
People who use services who feel safe	64.3%	62.4%	64.2%	62.9%

In addition to the survey each Local Authority must produce an annual 'Local Account' or narrative to describe key areas of good performance as well as areas for improvement. The local account will form the basis of a peer review process which will replace the previous Annual Performance Assessment visits carried out by the CQC. In preparing our first local account in B&NES it will be important to capture all issues across the social care system including equalities, financial, demographic and performance themes. A draft outline local account will be produced by December 2011.

3. SERVICE DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Care Home with Nursing Local Enhanced Service

A care home local enhanced service has recently been offered to GP practices in B&NES. Practices have been asked to express an interest in providing this service to local care homes with nursing care, by 18th November, with the aim of implementing the service from January 2012. This service seeks to:

- Deliver pro-active health care based on a minimum of weekly routine visits to the care home;
- Provide high quality care in the care home setting, working in partnership with staff in the care home and other health and social care providers to prevent inappropriate admissions to hospital; and
- Enhance the quality of medical cover for the residents of the care home.