

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

Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel – November 2012

1. PUBLIC ISSUES

Services for Adults with Autism

Representatives from The National Autistic Society (NAS) along with adults with autism, their families and carers, and some professionals last week attended a consultation event in late September on how the Adult Autism Strategy can be implemented effectively.

The event offered the opportunity for people to find out more about the Council's Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives Autism Strategy and put forward comments and suggestions they had on how to improve services and support for adults with autism in the area. People were able to share their experiences and help influence the way that people with autism access vital diagnosis, support, employment, education and housing services in the community.

Diana Elliott, Branch Officer of the NAS Avon Branch, said: "This meeting was a real opportunity for parents, carers and people with autism to make an impact on the Bath & North East Somerset adult autism strategy. It was a great turn out and we hope that the Council will take forward the views expressed to help shape the future of autism services in the area. If the right help and support is not available, it can have a profound and sometimes devastating effect on people with autism."

Martin Hedley, a local singer-songwriter who has Asperger syndrome, spoke at the event about his personal perspective and said: "I suffered a breakdown last year as a direct result of a lack of appropriate support, even after I had established myself within my local community by setting up an arts community project and was about to go self employed as a musician and campaigner"

Anyone who was not able to attend the event but who would like to see details of the draft Strategy can contact Diana Elliott, email: avon@nas.org.uk or mob: 07825 227026. Alternatively the Strategy can be accessed via the Council's public consultation page: www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/adult-social-care-and-health.

2. PERFORMANCE

Independent Living Service National Award

The Independent Living Service (ILS) commissioned by the Council and provided by Curo Housing has won the National Housing Federation South West Community Impact Award for Better Health.

Curo was also overall winner for the South West beating the winners of all the other categories (improving neighbourhoods, safer streets & building futures) and now goes forward to the national awards – which will be judged in January 2013.

Substance Misuse Services

The National Treatment Agency (NTA) has acknowledged the significant improvement in substance misuse treatment services in Bath & North East Somerset. In particular, as part of its review of performance the NTA has commented: “...*this is a rebalanced, recovery orientated system that could enter the top quartile performance range in 12 months if this progress continues.*”

3. SERVICE DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Dementia Challenge Fund

NHS South of England announced the successful bids against the Dementia Challenge Fund. Three out of the five submitted by B&NES were successful amounting to £455k. These include the RUH, Sirona Care & Health and Curo. The PCT has agreed to fund the other two unsuccessful bids from Age UK B&NES and The Carers' Centre (joint) and AWP on a 12 month non-recurring basis as they were felt to be integral to improving services for people with dementia.