

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>B&amp;NES HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>29/01/2019</b>
<b>TYPE</b>	<b>An open public item</b>

<b><u>Report summary table</u></b>	
<b>Report title</b>	Bath and North East Somerset Autism Services Self-Assessment – December 2018
<b>Report author</b>	Mike MacCallam, Senior Commissioning Manager
<b>List of attachments</b>	Autism Self-Assessment (summary) – December 2018
<b>Background papers</b>	None
<b>Summary</b>	This paper provides an overview of the recently completed Autism Self-Assessment detailing local progress in the implementation of the national Autism Strategy, highlighting key areas of strength and need for improvement, and identifying future priorities for the commissioning and provision of services to children and adults with Autism
<b>Recommendations</b>	The Board is asked to note the content of this paper and the self-assessment evaluation -attached as Appendix 1 – and make any recommendations for further development of the local autism strategy and its implementation.
<b>Rationale for recommendations</b>	The recommendations of this report contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Board's following aims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved support for families with complex needs</li> <li>• Improved support for people with long term conditions</li> <li>• Promoting mental wellbeing and supporting recovery</li> <li>• Improve skills and employment</li> <li>• Take action on loneliness</li> </ul>
<b>Resource implications</b>	None identified
<b>Statutory considerations and basis for proposal</b>	1.1 The Autism Act (2009) 1.2 NICE Autism Quality Standard (QS51) January 2014 1.3 Think Autism (2015) 1.4 Care Act 2014
<b>Consultation</b>	As outlined in the Appendix to this report
<b>Risk management</b>	A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

## THE REPORT

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Autism Act (2009) places a duty on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to publish a strategy for meeting the needs of autistic adults in England, and to review it from time to time. England's first Adult Autism Strategy, Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives, was published in 2010, with commitment from Ministers across government to transform the support for and experience of autistic people.
- 1.2 In April 2014, the Strategy was updated with the publication of Think Autism, supported by revised Statutory Guidance in March 2015.
- 1.3 In 2017, it was agreed that the arrangements for overseeing implementation of the Strategy should be refreshed. A revised governance model to oversee implementation of the Strategy was established, which centred on 19 overarching strategic objectives grouped into five domains: Measuring, Understanding and Reporting the needs of people with autism; Workforce Development; Health, Care and Wellbeing; Specific Support; and Participation in the Local Community.
- 1.4 Since 2013, (with the exception of 2017) the Department of Health and Social Care has asked each local authority to complete an Annual Self Assessment, to enable local strategy groups to review their current progress in the implementation of the Autism Statutory guidance and Autism Strategy locally and to identify future priorities and plan in partnership with health partners, other key organisations and local autistic people and their families.
- 1.5 The findings from this self-assessment (which will be published online and in full) will be included within the process of the upcoming government review of the Autism Strategy expected to happen in 2019, which also marks ten years since the Autism Act 2009. As in previous years the information submitted will be collated and analysed by Public Health England, before being shared widely.

### 2. Bath and North East Somerset – summary of provision of services for people with Autism

#### Children and Young People

- 2.1 The Local Authority has begun a review of the Children's Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Outreach Service (currently provided by Fosseway School) and the service will be reprocurd by September 2019. The Children's ASD Strategy Group is leading on this work and is also reviewing the diagnostic tools currently used in and refreshing the ASD pathway in its totality.
- 2.2 Whilst the commissioning structure in Bath and North East Somerset changes over the next 6 months and new arrangements are put in place, the aspiration is that the Adult and Children's Autism Strategy Groups will amalgamate from September 2019 to become an ageless strategic alliance.
- 2.3 ASD diagnosis pathway timeliness in Bath and North East Somerset continues to compare favourably at national benchmarking levels and commissioners together

with our children's health services ( notably Speech and Language Therapy) continue to monitor performance.

- 2.4 The LA delivers an Education Inclusion Service to oversee its statutory responsibilities for children missing education and children with SEND. The service ensures all children have access to a school place and oversees the council responsibilities for delivering Education Health & Care Plans to deliver resources to support children's additional needs in schools. The service works within its resources to promote inclusion in schools for all children. The LA commissions additional services to ensure children can access their education; this includes a service for children with Autism and a service for children with sensory support needs. A SEND Strategy group oversees services for children with SEND to promote good practice and access to services.

### **3 Adults**

#### **Bath and North East Somerset Autism Spectrum Service (BASS)**

- 3.1 This is a service commissioned from Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust (AWP) to provide a specialist assessment, diagnostic and post diagnostic support service for adults with autism.
- 3.2 The BASS service also provides a weekly advice service, with one to one appointments to offer support on a range of issues such as: housing, education and training, job coaching, relationships, managing emotions and signposting to other services, and a social links workshop that is designed to provide a space where people with autism can meet to explore different resources that make meeting and interacting with new people easier and what social and community opportunities are available locally.

#### **Care Act and adults with Autism**

- 3.3 Virgin Care is commissioned to provide an autism case management service. The service provides care assessments and support planning to people on the autistic spectrum; this includes people with Asperger's. The offer of a Care Act Assessment is often the first point of contact with people; this will identify eligible care and support needs. The team then carries out the support planning to identify what services or support is required in order to meet these needs including the setting up of direct payments. The teams can also offer advice and guidance on issues around benefits, housing, employment, education and training and signposting to other services

#### **Training**

- 3.4 The BASS service is commissioned to provide training to any frontline mental health and social care staff in Bath and North East Somerset. Training is also offered to anyone who might come into contact with people with autism as part of their work, i.e. the Police, Court/Prison staff, voluntary sector providers, housing/employment support providers, GPs and practice staff, CCG, nursing/clinical psychology training courses etc. Training is offered as: one hour awareness-raising, half day and full day bespoke training or specifically designed to meet the learning needs of individual professional groups.

## Housing support

- 3.5 This includes a short term accommodation based service for eight people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions in particular Asperger's Syndrome living in the centre of Bath. As a short term accommodation service the service is designed to support people for up to two years to develop their independent living skills and enable them to move on into their own properties and live safely and independently in the community. The services has been successful in moving people on into their own homes and has established strong partnerships with the Housing, employment and other local Autism services.
- 3.6 In the last twelve months Bath and North East Somerset has also commissioned an outreach service from Julian House who are the support provider at Henrietta Street, the outreach service is in place to support the individuals moving on from Henrietta Street into further independence. The service is provided for a time limited transition period to provide support such as setting up utility bills, applying for benefits and tenancy support. This service has been put in place to ease transition from a supported living service into further independence and provide continuity of support over this period of transition.

## Employment Support

- 3.7 This includes Project SEARCH - an employability programme based at Bath and North East Somerset Council, which helps young adults with learning disabilities and/or autism to gain the skills they need to become employed. It is a programme of work based experience, which sees a Business (in our case the Council) team up with an Educator (Bath College) and Supported Employment provider (Virgin Care) to run the programme. It provides a mixture of structured work placements and classroom learning and it all happens in the work place. The aim is paid employment (with any business) for young people at the end of their yearlong programme. For further information see:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/skills-and-local-employment/Ways-Into-Work/project-search>

## 4 Bath and North East Somerset Self-Assessment 2018 - summary

- 4.1 Local authorities were required to complete and submit their response to the Self-Assessment via an online link following guidance and instruction provided by Public Health England, no later than the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
- 4.2 In total there were 129 questions to be answered within the Self-Assessment, some of which contained numerical data such as numbers of adults with autism, and some which were answered on a Red/Amber/Green RAG rating. Guidance was provided for what constituted a RAG rating for each of the questions, and this is re-stated in the Self-Assessment summary attached as an Appendix to this report.

NB the summary is extrapolated from the online submission and whilst it contains a summary of all answers provided, it is not an exact copy of the format of the submission itself.

- 4.3 In summary – 32 questions were answered with a Red/Amber/Green rating, which breaks down as follows:

Red:	-	1
Amber	-	20
Amber/Green	-	1
Green	-	10

For information, the Red rating was for the following question:

Q;When will your area be able to meet NICE recommended [QS51] waiting time and expect to be able to keep within them?

A: Red: We do not anticipate being able to reach NICE recommended waiting times sustainably by March 2019

This answer relates to the question “In weeks, how long is the average wait between referral and assessment? (for an Autism diagnosis) -the current waiting time for an assessment in Bath an North East Somerset is reported as 20 weeks, against the NICE recommended waiting time (QS51) of 3 months.

The assessment and diagnosis service commissioned by Bath and North East Somerset is currently piloting a screening clinic to triage assessments in order to reduce waiting times, and anticipate being able to reach NICE recommended waiting times sustainably by March 2020 depending on stability of referral rates.

#### 4.4 Key areas of improvement include:

- An overall reduction in waiting times from referral to assessment for a diagnosis, compared to previous years
- An increase in participation and attendance at the Information and Advice drop in sessions run by the BASS service
- Continued rollout of Autism Awareness training, particularly to front line staff including members of the primacy care team and Council staff
- An increase in Awareness training for police and members of the criminal justice system
- Access to specialist health input including speech and language therapy and psychology for adults with autism from the Virgin Care Complex Health Needs service
- A clear diagnostic pathway including post diagnostic support to individuals and practitioners
- Improved transition pathways for young people with autism moving into adulthood
- Increased range of housing options including access to shared ownership scheme, floating support and outreach services for adult with autism

#### **4.5 Priority areas of improvement needed include:**

- Urgent need to re-establish an Autism Partnership Board to develop and deliver local strategy in line with national guidance
- Further work to reduce the waiting times for an assessment in line with NICE guidance
- Greater engagement with people with autism of all ages and their families/carers
- Continued work to promote reasonable adjustments for people with autism in service areas including the spectrum of health and social care
- Clarification of mental health pathways for adults with autism who do not have a learning disability including those subject to detention under the Mental Health Act

4.6 Further information is contained within the detailed summary of the Self-Assessment attached as an Appendix to this report

#### **5 Recommendations:**

- 5.1 Further analysis will be undertaken to develop a comprehensive strategy and implementation plan for 2019/20 onwards, based on the findings from this self-assessment
- 5.2 As a matter of urgency it is proposed that a revised Autism Partnership Board, bringing together Children's and Adults services along with key stakeholders, is established under the new commissioning management structure currently being put in place by the Council and CCG, to oversee this work.
- 5.3 In addition, it is recommended that Bath and North East Somerset Council/CCG explore all opportunities for joint working across the STP with colleagues in Swindon and Wiltshire to develop best practice and outcomes for all people with an autism diagnosis.

**Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format**