

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
FROM:	Steve Tingle, Director of Commissioning and Adults
DATE:	January 20 th 2014

SUBJECT: National Autism Self-Assessment Framework (2013)

1. PURPOSE

- To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the completion of the Autism Self-Assessment Framework (October 2013) to Public Health England and next steps in delivering the National Autism Strategy in Blackburn with Darwen.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the contents of the report.

3. BACKGROUND

Autism is a developmental disability that can have a significant impact on an individual and their family carers.

It is a spectrum condition, which means that, while all people with autism share certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways. Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent lives but others may have accompanying learning disabilities and behaviours that need a lifetime of specialist support.

In particular people with autism frequently face challenges around communication, social and emotional interaction and managing the world around them. Given all these factors, some people require very high levels of specialist support that require significant resources.

Recent estimates suggest that in England approximately one person in every hundred is on the autism spectrum. It is estimated that one third of people with autism also have learning disabilities and two-thirds are of average or above average intellectual ability. National research evidence shows that 90% of people with autism will not do well in life; over two thirds have no work and a third have experienced severe mental health difficulties because of lack of support.

There have been a number of policies and publications over the past five years either specifically focused on the needs of people with autism or including them alongside other disabilities. Many people with autism are still experiencing inequalities however, and are socially excluded and dependent upon families for support to cope with their everyday lives.

In 2009, The Autism Act (2009) was passed and then followed by the National Autism Strategy "Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives" (2010) which aims to address these issues. Autism is the only

condition that this is supported by primary legislation.

The strategy and statutory guidance requires local authorities to look at several key areas, including:

- Diagnosis and the care pathway;
- Planning and leadership;
- Training;
- Transitions;

4. RATIONALE

Blackburn with Darwen has been working closely with the Pan-Lancashire Autism Partnership Board to support the implementation of this strategy, focussing on a number of key areas above, including:

- Increasing awareness and understanding of autism among frontline professionals;
- Developing a clear, consistent pathway for diagnosis in every area, which is followed by the offer of a personalised needs assessment for adults with autism and their carers;
- Identifying the numbers of children and young people with autism and opportunities to support better transitions;
- Improving access for adults with autism to the services and support they need to live independently within the community;
- Helping adults with autism into work;
- Enabling local partners to plan and develop appropriate services for adults with autism to meet identified needs and priorities;

Clearly the challenges faced by people on the autistic spectrum and their family carers require an integrated approach across all aspects of life.

Whilst the legislation is primarily concerned with adults with autistic spectrum disorders Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group are working to ensure that the needs of all people affected by this condition are identified and supported e.g. The Blackburn with Darwen 0 – 25 Complex Needs Strategy.

5. KEY ISSUES

In April 2011, the Department of Health provided all local authorities in England with a template to assess progress with the National Autism Strategy. This survey was followed up in 2013 with the completion and submission of the Autism Self-Assessment Framework (October 2013) that analysed progress around a number of key areas, including:

- Planning for services;
- Workforce training and Development;
- Diagnosis pathways;
- Care and Support;
- Housing and Accommodation;
- Employment;
- Criminal Justice;

Feedback from Public Health England will be provided to all councils and a collated national report will be published in early 2014 and Health and Wellbeing Boards are asked to note progress towards meeting the National Autism Strategy.

To further implementation of this important area a number of actions have been undertaken with the Pan Lancashire Autism Board and a local Blackburn with Darwen project team is being set up to co-ordinate key actions and activities, including:

- To establish the current position on autism activity and expenditure and outcomes for individuals and family carers;
- To incorporate feedback from Public Health England on the Autism Self-Assessment return (2013) in current business planning processes;
- Implementing a co-ordinated diagnostic pathway for all ages;
- To create a Blackburn with Darwen Autism Partnership Board, linked to the Blackburn with Darwen Learning Disability Partnership Board and Pan-Lancashire Autism Board;
- To develop an integrated local strategy, based on consultation with people with autism and family carers, that will support people on the autistic spectrum to access preventative and universal services and were required additional targeted support;
- To promote and encourage self-help and user led and community service developments;

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This approach will continue to enable Blackburn with Darwen Council and partner organisations to meet the requirements of the National Autism Strategy.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The increasing number of individuals of all ages diagnosed with Autistic spectrum conditions will lead to additional demand pressures on public sector commissioning organisations. The potential demand pressures will be scoped as part of the over-arching development of a local Autism Strategy.

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8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This approach will continue to enable Blackburn with Darwen Council and partner organisations to meet the requirements of the National Autism Strategy and underpinning legislation (Autism Act, 2009).

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

This project will be carried out within current project resource identified across partner organisations including the appointment of a designated joint post-holder between Blackburn with Darwen Adult Social Care and Health and Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group (January 2014).

10. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Delivery of the National Autism Strategy is aimed to ensure that health inequalities for people with autism are reduced through full access to services, advice and guidance.

11. CONSULTATIONS

Consultation has been had with the Pan Lancashire Autism Board and Blackburn with Darwen Learning Disability Partnership Board.

The Autism Self-Assessment and requirements have been reported through the Adults and Health portfolio area.

VERSION:	3.0
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Peter Dillon, Head of Strategic Commissioning and Procurement
DATE:	02.01.2013
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Autism SAF return to PHE October 2013

