



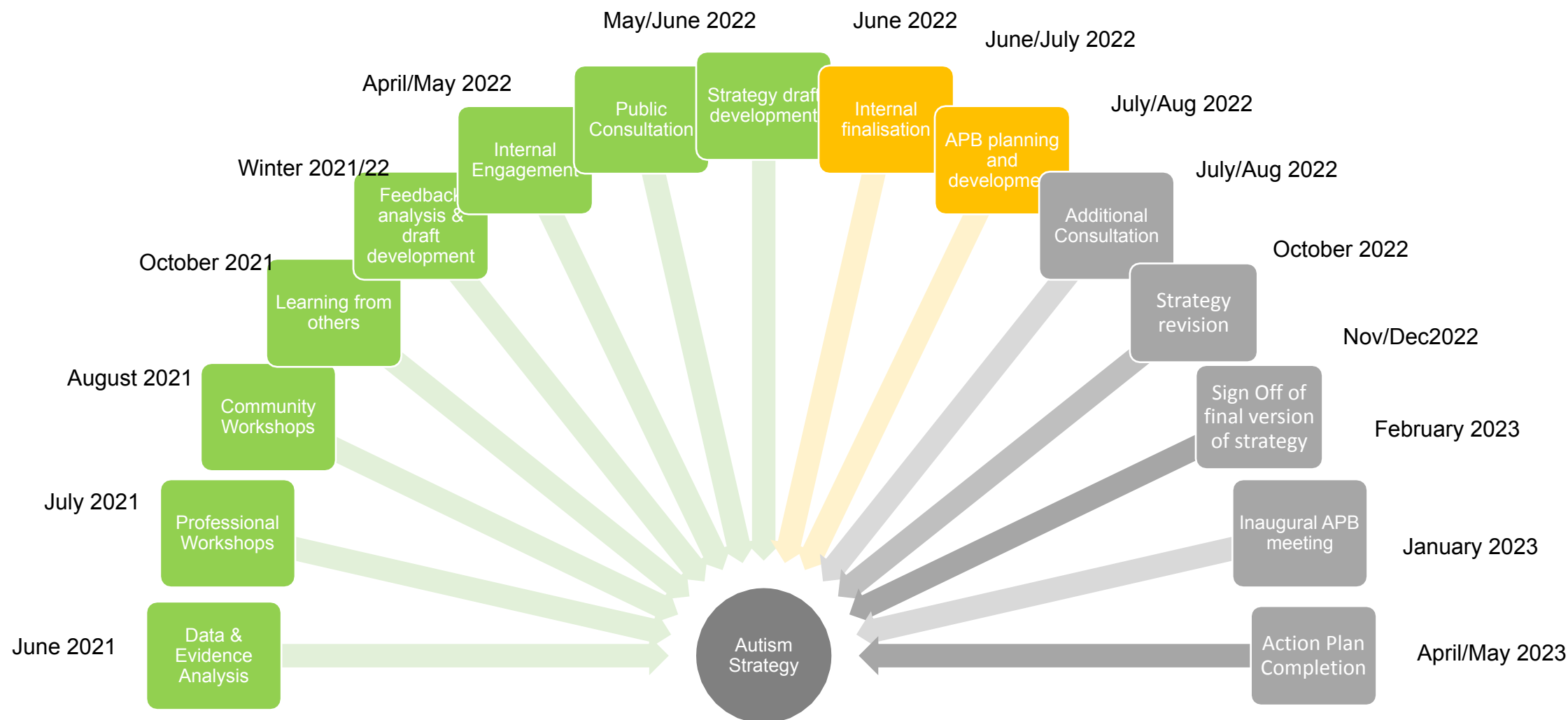
working together

Lewisham All Age Autism Strategy

Healthier Communities Select Committee

January 2023

Strategy Development



Priorities

- Improve understandings of autism within society
- Improving autistic children's and young people's access to education
- Improving diagnostic pathways and autism support services
- Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people
- Supporting more autistic people into employment
- Reducing mental health admissions & supporting quality inpatient care
- Improving support within the criminal and youth justice systems
- Improving experiences of caring

Vision statements

Our vision is that Lewisham is an inclusive borough in which autistic people can lead fulfilling lives.

- I feel safe and welcomed in the community, including public services, schools and in my workplace.
- I have access to reliable information about autism; and have access to diagnostic services.
- I can ask for help whilst I am waiting for an autism assessment.
- My family, carers, and I are supported to understand autism and what it means for me
- I can learn in ways that work for me; my teachers understand how to support me.
- I am supported to make my own decisions about my future, my views are taken seriously no matter what sex, gender, ethnicity, sexuality or disability I have.
- I have access to services and therapies based on my needs. Health and service providers understand how to make reasonable adjustments so that I can access these services.
- My family and carer(s) receive the help they need to care for me and for themselves.

What will change as a result of the strategy?

- Increased access to reliable information about autism in the borough
- Professionals (health and social care, schools, potential employers, police) and community members will be offered training and awareness in the borough to increase understanding of autism
- Improved patient experience for people with Autism when attending health and care appointments
- Reduction in variation of young people's experience of school for people with autism
- Increased employment opportunities (including apprenticeships) for people who live in Lewisham
- An improved and more streamlined local offer to support both children and adults pre and post diagnosis of autism
- Reducing Health Inequalities (e.g. annual physical health checks, reasonable adjustments).

Our commitments in the first year

We will...

- Establish the Lewisham Autism Partnership Board
- Work collaboratively in establishing any plans and actions with other services and support across Lewisham to ensure that we work as part of a local care system and not in silos.
- Co-produce an action plan that has realistic timescales and that we put a system in place so that we are able to monitor the impact of these actions and share the progress publicly.
- Ensure that we have processes in place so that services and support across social care, schools, primary care and hospitals are improving the information they collect so that we are able to measure the impact on the strategy action plan