

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD			
Report Title	Autism Self Assessment Framework The 2010 Adult Autism Strategy <i>Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives – Evaluating Progress</i>		
Contributors	Corinne Moocarme – Joint Commissioning	Item No. 9	
Class	Part 1	Date: 19 November 2013	

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Directors of Adult Social Services were requested by the Department of Health to take forward the second self-assessment exercise for the implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy.
- 1.2 It is a requirement of this process that submissions are discussed by the Local Health and Wellbeing Board by the end of January 2014.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:
 - Discuss and note the content of the Lewisham Autism Self Assessment Framework.
 - Support local implementation work.
 - Determine if further planning/health needs assessment is required to support implementation of the strategy.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 The Autism Act 2009 was the first legislation designed to address the needs of Adults on the Autism Spectrum. It placed a duty on the Secretary of State to prepare and publish a Strategy for improving the provision of relevant services to meet the needs of this client group. It also required the Secretary of State to issue Guidance to Local Authorities and to NHS bodies and Foundation Trusts about the exercise of their functions concerned with the provision of these services.
- 3.2 Subsequently, *“Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives – Strategy for Adults with Autism in England”* was published by the Department of Health in March 2010. This was followed by Implementing *“Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives”, Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and NHS Organisations to Support Implementation of the Autism Strategy* in December of the same year.
- 3.3 The Strategy set out the key areas for local and national work and focused on laying the foundations for change which involved raising awareness of autism, particularly across public services; increasing the availability and consistency of diagnosis; taking steps to make services more accessible for adults with autism, personalisation across all services and looking directly at the challenges faced by adults with autism in getting into work and keeping a job, as part of the wider goal of achieving full employment.
- 3.4 The activity of the Health and Wellbeing Board is focused on delivering the strategic vision for Lewisham as established in *Shaping*

our Future – Lewisham’s Sustainable Community Strategy and in Lewisham’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

- 3.5 The work of the Board directly contributes to *Shaping our Future’s* priority outcome which states that communities in Lewisham should be *Healthy, active and enjoyable - where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and wellbeing.*

4. **Background**

- 4.1 As a response to “*Implementing Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*”, Lewisham PCT identified development funding to support local implementation.
- 4.2 Prior to the Strategy, Lewisham had conducted an Autism Needs Analysis (March 2009). This focused on adults (over 18) in Lewisham who had an Autistic Spectrum Disorder but did not have a learning disability. This established a baseline on prevalence and the needs of this group. Key needs identified for Lewisham were Practical Life Skills, Further Education, Employment and Housing.
- 4.3 To identify what was currently provided in Lewisham a Process Mapping Event was held on the 31st March 2010. The event was well attended by Service users and Service providers from both statutory and Third Sector organisations. Key themes to emerge from the Process Mapping Event were:
- a) Diagnosis
 - b) Training/Awareness Raising
 - c) Information and Support
 - d) Advocacy
- 4.4 These events supported the Joint Commissioning Team to undertake a gap analysis between what was required and what was already available, and from this, develop a coherent Commissioning Plan for this client group.
- 4.5 Following the stakeholder engagement events noted above, Lewisham recognised that services needed to be developed to improve equity of access for diagnosis in adulthood, and to provide information and support for people with ASD both before and after diagnosis. This mirrored two of the priorities identified in the National Strategy.
- 4.6 In response to the issue of diagnostic equity, South London and Maudsley Mental Health Trust was commissioned to deliver a secondary care ASD diagnostic service. This began operating in June 2011.
- 4.7 A specification for a Lewisham Information, Advice and Support Service for Adults with Autism was developed (in consultation with key stakeholders and service users during 2011). The four main outcomes expected from the service were:
- Information Development
 - Facilitate Peer Support
 - Support in decision making and accessing generic services
 - Provide an advisory function on autism for health and social care professionals.

- 4.8 Procurement took place in accordance with the London Borough of Lewisham procurement procedures and following a robust tender evaluation process, it was agreed to award the a 3 year contract to Burgess Autistic Trust.
- 4.9 To meet the requirements of the Strategy with regards to raising awareness of Autism, in early 2012 Lewisham commissioned Endersby Training to deliver Autism awareness training to a wide range of staff across the London Borough of Lewisham. To date training has been delivered to over 150 staff across health and social care with more training planned for 2013/14.

5.0 Self Assessment Framework

5.1 Review of the Strategy

The Department of Health is currently leading a formal review of progress against the Strategy. This is an opportunity for Government to assess whether the objectives of the Strategy remain fundamentally the right ones, to be assured of the progress that is being achieved by Local Authorities and the NHS, and consider what should happen to continue to make progress and what barriers could be resolved. The investigative stage of the Review will last until the end of October and the Strategy will be revised as necessary by March 2014.

5.2 The Self-Assessment Exercise

5.2.1. This exercise builds on the first self assessment exercise which looked at what progress had been made since February 2012. This was based around the self-assessment framework which the Department of Health launched in April 2011 to support localities with the delivery of the Adult Autism Strategy and the statutory guidance for health and social care which was issued in December 2010. The individual returns received and related reports from February 2012 can be found at www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/projects/autsaf2011.

5.2.2 The purpose of the self assessment is to:

- assist Local Authorities and their partners in assessing progress in implementing the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy;
- see how much progress has been made since the baseline survey, as at February 2012;
- provide evidence of examples of good progress made that can be shared and of remaining challenges.

5.2.3 The list of questions was more focused than last time but should still enable a comparison with results from the 2012 exercise. For some questions there was a RAG rating system with scoring criteria for that question. If a question is scored Red or Amber, respondents were asked to say what was stopping progress and for Green scores there was an opportunity to say what actions have enabled progress.

5.2.4 There were 17 questions in total that attracted a RAG rating. Lewisham rated itself Green on 6 questions and Amber on the remaining 11. There were no red ratings. Some of the main areas rated Amber requiring further work to progress were:

- The inclusion of Autism in the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Improving the data collected regarding numbers of adults with Autism in the Borough.

- The level of information about local support in the area being accessible to people with Autism.
- Promotion of employment of people on the Autism Strategy
- Specific identification of adults with autism in the local housing strategy.

5.2.5 During September 2013 the Lewisham Self Assessment Framework was shared with key stakeholders and agreed by the Adult Joint Strategic Commissioning Group. It was also validated by a group of people with Autism. It was submitted online on the 30th September (in line with deadline) and a copy of the full submission plus a summary of the RAG ratings is attached.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 The data fill has remained open to allow modifications arising from the Health and Wellbeing Board discussion to be made to RAG rated or yes/no questions.
- 6.2 The returns will be analysed by the Public Health England learning disabilities observatory. All local responses will be published in full online.
- 6.3 The Joint Commissioning Plan for Adults with Autism may need refreshing in line with gaps in provision identified in the SAF and during the Health and Wellbeing Board discussion.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 None at this stage. There is no funding allocated specifically to meeting the requirements of the Autism Strategy or supporting developments/expansion of services, other than that which is assigned to South London and Maudsley for the Secondary Care ASD Diagnostic Service and to Burgess Autistic Trust for the provision of the Information, Advice and Support Service. Both of these services are funded by NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group. Any funding/resource implications of a refreshed Commissioning Plan will need to be considered by the London Borough of Lewisham and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

9. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 9.1 There are no Crime and Disorder Act implications arising from this report.

10. Equalities Implications

- 10.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) brings together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act includes a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty), replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. The new duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 10.2 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 10.3 The tender process for the Information, Advice and Support Service included evaluating potential providers and ensuring that adequate equal opportunities policies and procedures were in place. Burgess Autistic Trust is required to demonstrate diversity in providing a service that matches the culture, race, gender and disability of service users living in Lewisham.
- 10.4 The equalities implications of subsequent revisions to the Adults with Autism Commissioning Plan will be considered prior to implementation.

11. Environmental Implications

- 11.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

12. Conclusions

- 12.1 Lewisham is looking to establish a community that accepts and understands autism and which has an infrastructure that provides opportunities for adults with Autism/Asperger's syndrome to live fulfilling and rewarding lives.
- 12.2 There have been several exciting and innovative developments in response to the National Strategy. The Self Assessment Framework is an opportunity for the Health and Wellbeing Board to recognise achievements, take stock of our current position and agree next steps.

If there are any queries on this report, please contact Corinne Moocarme, Joint Commissioning Team on 020 8314 3342. corinne.moocarme@nhs.net

Background Documents

Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives

<https://www.gov.uk/.../fulfilling-and-rewarding-lives-the-strategy-for-adults-with-autism-in-england>

Autism Needs Analysis – London Borough of Lewisham

The needs of adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (particularly Asperger syndrome)
Sadie King, Policy Officer, Strategy and Policy, Directorate for Community Services.
March 2009

Self Assessment Frameworks submitted in 2011

www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/projects/autsaf2011

Self Assessment Frameworks submitted in 2013

www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/projects/autism2013