

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD			
Report Title	Progress Report on Implementing the National Autism Strategy “Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives” in Lewisham		
Contributors	Corinne Moocarme – Joint Commissioning Laura Harper – Housing, Health and Social Care Integration Project Manager	Item No.	13
Class	Part 1	Date:	3 July 2014
Strategic Context	Please see body of the report		

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides a six monthly update for the Board focusing on the main areas of the Self Assessment where Lewisham had rated itself Amber. As requested there is a particular emphasis on the specific identification of adults with Autism in the local housing strategy and more detail on how Lewisham Housing is working to identify a range of housing to support residents with particular needs.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Discuss and note the content of this update
- Support local implementation work
- Agree for another update to be submitted in January 2015.

3. Strategic 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 “*Think Autism*” – *Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives, the strategy for adults with Autism in England: an update* was published by the Department of Health, Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnership Directorate in April 2014.
- 3.5 The “*Think Autism*” strategy identified three reasons for its publication:
- It was a requirement in the Autism Act for the Autism Strategy to be reviewed and to reflect what was heard from people with Autism, their families and from services during this review.
 - A huge amount has been done nationally to deliver on the strategy and it was necessary to take stock and move on.
 - Many things have changed in services since 2010 with widespread transformation programmes taking place across public services. There is a need to take account of these reforms and how they can be used to improve the lives of people with Autism.
- 3.6 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*.
- 3.7 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 Directors of Adult Social Services were requested by the Department of Health in 2013 to take forward the second-self assessment exercise for the implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy.

- 4.2 Lewisham completed its submission at the end of September 2013. As a requirement of the process it was discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board on 19 November 2013.
- 4.3 At the November meeting, the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board requested six monthly updates on progress in implementing the National Autism Strategy.
- 4.4 Lewisham participated in the Self-Assessment Exercise - the purpose of which was to assist the Department of Health in assessing progress against the implementation of the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy. Lewisham completed the submission in September 2013 and this was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 19 November 2013.
- 4.5 There were 17 questions in the Self Assessment Framework (SAF) 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. Progress Report

- 5.1 In line with the Board's request, this report focuses on the main areas where Lewisham rated itself Amber in the 2013 SAF.
- 5.2 **The inclusion of Autism in the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Improving the data collected regarding numbers of adults with Autism in the Borough.**
- 5.2.1 These two areas are combined as there is a need to have better systems in place for recording number of adults with Autism before we can include Autism in the local JSNA.
- 5.2.2 In June 2013 Dr Ratna Ganguly, GP Vocational Trainee, Lewisham Public Health produced a report making recommendations for improvements to data collection for adults with Autism. She recommended that there should be a regular audit of people diagnosed with Autism utilising the "READ" codes for Autism that all GPs in Lewisham enter onto the EMIS system. However, to ensure

that this audit is as accurate as possible there needs to be more training for GPs and Practice staff in recognising and identifying Autism, and appropriate referral routes to Autism specific services. The Council is working with Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to determine how the training can most effectively be delivered.

5.2.3 Both the SLAM Diagnostic Clinic and the Lewisham Information Advice and Support Service are required to collect information on diagnosis as part of their key performance indicators. In addition, from April 2014, local authorities have to now record information about a person's primary reason for support and whether the person has reported certain other health conditions, such as Autism. Over time this will lead to a better understanding of our local population of adults with Autism.

5.3 The level of information about local support in the area being accessible to people with Autism.

5.3.1 The Lewisham Autism Information, Advice and Support Service commissioned from Burgess Autistic Trust worked hard during 2013/14 to increase the levels of information available. They have worked with the Local Authority Social Care Advice and Information Team (SCAIT) and many other local organisations (including Job Centre Plus).

5.3.2 Referral pathways have been developed with the National Autism Society Family Service (on transition to adulthood) as well as the Community Mental Health Teams and Learning Disability Services.

5.3.3 The Lewisham Autism Information, Advice and Support Service has received approximately 250 enquiries since its launch in 2012 with the majority of initial enquires being requests for information on available support.

5.4 Promotion of employment of people on the Autism Strategy

5.4.1 There are a number of employment schemes within the Borough for young people aged 16-25 with learning disabilities/learning difficulties not in education or training. There is also a specific scheme for young people with Autism (Care Trade – Autism Project). All schemes will work with adults with Autism. A company called Aurora Options has worked with LeSoCo targeting young people with Learning Disability who are in their last year of college to develop employment pathways and supporting them into employment.

5.4.2 The Lewisham Information and Advice Service have an employment worker who is able to support service users looking for work. Burgess Autistic Trust has delivered Autism awareness training to Jobcentre Plus which included the positive aspects of employing adults with

ASD. They are regularly approaching local Organisations with a view to building links and arranging work placements etc.

5.5 Specific identification of adults with Autism in the local housing strategy

5.5.1 The Housing and Autism Project Group has met twice in 2014 with meetings planned for the remainder of the year at six weekly intervals. The purpose of the group is:

- To better understand and document the level and nature of Autism in the Borough
- To investigate existing housing services and placements for autistic children and adult
- To investigate potential sources of funding – current and future sources – revenue and capital
- To investigate the options for the provision of an Autism housing scheme for local adults either within existing stock or new supply
- To pull out of the needs assessment, various development opportunities into an Autism housing strategy
- To link the Autism housing strategy into the wider learning disabilities strategy and health and wellbeing strategy.

5.5.2 During 2014 the Council has worked with the Campaign for Lewisham Autism Spectrum Housing (CLASH) and Burgess Autistic Trust (BAT) to carry out assessments on seven young people nominated by CLASH to determine their housing need. The Group is currently considering the analysis of these assessments to inform the level of support that young adults with Autism may require to obtain and sustain tenancies.

5.5.3 None of the seven interviewees were currently registered for social housing and work is underway to support those that want help with applications. All wanted to remain living in Lewisham close to family support networks. All felt that they would need support to live independently particularly around shopping, cooking, budgeting and home maintenance.

5.5.4 In addition to the assessments, the Group has been considering various models of supporting adults with Autism in other boroughs with a view to what might work best in Lewisham.

5.5.5 The London Borough of Lewisham Housing Department is working closely with Social Care and Health to identify a range of housing which can support residents with particular needs. Small project groups have been set up to explore housing and support solutions which maximise independence. It is anticipated that initial proposals for improving housing for people with Mental Health issues, Young Adults in Transition and People with Learning Disabilities will be

developed by October 2014. There are also three new build extra care schemes in development for older people. Whilst there may be an element of new provision within future proposals, there will be a focus on maximising the use of existing housing stock to better meet identified needs.

6. Think Autism and the Autism Innovation Fund

6.1 As referenced in Sections 3.4 and 3.5 Think Autism is the Government's update on progress in delivering the National Autism Strategy. The Government carried out a review in 2013/14 and from this fifteen priority challenges for action are listed in Think Autism.

These are:

- **An equal part of my local community**

I want to be accepted as who I am within my local community. I want people and organisations in my community to have opportunities to raise their awareness and acceptance of Autism.

I want my views and aspirations to be taken into account when decisions are made in my local area. I want to know whether my local area is doing as well as others.

I want to know how to connect with other people. I want to be able to find local Autism peer groups, family groups and low level support.

I want the everyday services that I come into contact with to know how to make reasonable adjustments to include me and accept me as I am. I want the staff who work in them to be aware and accepting of Autism.

I want to be safe in my community and free from the risk of discrimination, hate crime and abuse.

I want to be seen as me and for my gender, sexual orientation and race to be taken into account.

- **The right support at the right time during my lifetime**

I want a timely diagnosis from a trained professional. I want relevant information and support throughout the diagnostic process.

I want Autism to be included in local strategic needs assessments so that person centred local health, care and support services, based on good information about local needs, is available for people with Autism.

I want staff in health and social care services to understand that I have Autism and how this affects me.

I want to know that my family can get help and support when they need it.

I want services and commissioners to understand how my Autism affects me differently through my life. I want to be supported through big life changes such as transition from school, getting older or when a person close to me dies.

I want people to recognise my Autism and adapt the support they give me if I have additional needs such as a mental health problem, a learning disability or if I sometimes communicate through behaviours which others may find challenging.

If I break the law, I want the criminal justice system to think about Autism and to know how to work well with other services.

- **Developing my skills and independence and working to the best of my ability**

I want the same opportunities as everyone else to enhance my skills, to be empowered by services and to be as independent as possible.

I want support to get a job and support from my employer to help me keep it.

6.2 The Government is keen to support the delivery of some of the key themes set out in *Think Autism* and as part of this has launched a time limited **Autism Innovation Fund**. The aim of the fund is to help drive creative and cost effective solutions and identify good models of practice that can be replicated in other areas.

6.3 There are four areas (aligned with the priority challenges listed above) where the Government is inviting proposals. These are:

- Advice and Information
- Gaining and growing skills for independence
- Early intervention and crisis prevention
- Employment, particularly involving the use of apprenticeships

Proposals will need to demonstrate the following core characteristics:

- Involvement of people with Autism
- Innovation
- Partnership

Further information about the Autism Innovation Fund is expected by the end of June 2014.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The Government has announced that there will be available revenue and capital funding of £4.5 million to support the delivery of *Think Autism*. Part of this will be used to launch the Autism Innovation Fund.
- 7.2 Further details are awaited about the bidding process for this fund and once this is received work will begin with key stakeholders (including adults with Autism and their families) to gather ideas for possible bids and agree those that fit in with local priorities.
- 7.3 It is expected that all bidding proposals will be able to evaluate and evidence outcomes, including cost-benefit or cost-comparators.

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 All commissioned services for adults with Autism are 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 any bids submitted to the Autism Innovation Fund and 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 The Self Assessment Framework (2013) provided a good opportunity to recognise our achievements, take stock of our current position and understand where further work was required.
- 12.3 Presentation and discussion of the SAF in November 2013 provided an opportunity to ensure Autism was on the Health and Wellbeing Board Agenda and the request to provide regular updates is welcomed.
- 12.4 This update to the Health and Wellbeing Board is timely in that it coincides with the publication of Think Autism and the launch of the Autism Innovation Fund. We look forward to providing further updates as we progress with work in these areas.

Background Documents

Think Autism

<https://www.gov.uk/>

Think Autism Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives, the strategy for adults with Autism in England: an update. April 2014

Self Assessment Frameworks submitted in 2013

www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/projects/Autism2013

Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives

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

Autism in Lewisham

Dr Ratna Ganguly – GP Vocational Training Scheme (GPVTS) in Public Health – June 2013

If you have any difficulty in opening the links above or those within the body of the report, please contact Kalyan DasGupta (kalyan.dasgupta@lewisham.gov.uk; 020 8314 8378), who will assist.

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