

<b>HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD</b>			
<b>Report Title</b>	Update on Autism in Lewisham		
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<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	
<b>Strategic Context</b>	The report provides an update on work being undertaken to support the Health and Wellbeing strategic aim of improving mental health and wellbeing; and delaying and reducing the need for long term care and support		
<b>Pathway</b>	<p>3 July 2014 – Health and Wellbeing Board (Progress Report on Implementing the National Autism Strategy in Lewisham)</p> <p>4 March 2015 – Mayor and Cabinet – Contracts (Using the DoH Autism Innovation Capital Grant to support local work on implementing the National Autism Strategy in Lewisham).</p> <p>12 March 2015 - Adult Joint Strategic Commissioning Group (Future Commissioning Arrangements for Burgess Autistic Trust).</p>		

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the work undertaken by Lewisham to continue and strengthen the implementation of the National Autism Strategy “Think Autism” in Lewisham.

## 2. Recommendation/s

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

- Note NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group’s intention to renew the Burgess Autistic Trust contract for the Information advice and Support Service for Adults with Autism/Asperger syndrome in Lewisham for another year from July 2015- June 2016.
- Note how the £18,500 Autism capital grant was awarded and details of spend.
- Note the outcome of the Autism Self-assessment framework and the main areas of self-assessment where Lewisham rated itself Red including planned actions.

### **3. Policy Context**

3.1 The contents of this report are consistent with the Council's policy framework. It supports the achievements of the Sustainable Community Strategy policy objectives:

- Ambitious and achieving: where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential.
- Empowered and responsible: where people can be actively involved in their local area and contribute to tolerant, caring and supportive local communities.
- Healthy, active and enjoyable: where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being, supported by high quality health and care services, leisure, culture and recreational activities.

3.2 The content is also in line with the Council's policy priorities:

- Strengthening the local economy – gaining resources to regenerate key localities, strengthen employment skills and promote public transport.

3.3 The content also supports the Health and Wellbeing strategy priorities areas of:

- improving mental health and wellbeing; and
- delaying and reducing the need for long term care and support

### **4. Background**

4.1 Lewisham has the highest prevalence of children with Asperger's Syndrome Disorder (ASD) known to schools of all local authorities in England (1.74%). As a result, there is strong advocacy for this population group via the presence of several active and vocal campaign groups in Lewisham.

4.2 In response to the Autism Act 2009 and Autism Strategy in 2010 (later updated in 2014), a secondary care ASD diagnostic service was commissioned with South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust; and an Information Advice and Support Service for Adults with Autism/Asperger syndrome was commissioned with Burgess Autistic Trust (BAT) from July 2012 to June 2015. BAT's service was mainly for FACs ineligible Autistic adults in Lewisham.

4.2.1 Since commissioning the service with BAT, over 300 people and families have accessed the service and currently 180 clients are accessing on-going support. The service has delivered in four broad areas for the client group as follows:

- information development pre and post diagnosis ;
- facilitated peer support and shared social activities
- provided support in decision making and accessing generic services
- provided an advisory function on Autism for Health and Social Care professionals

4.2.2 BAT's achievements based on evidence and feedback from service users include:

- Accessing the service has improved the mental well-being of majority of service users by helping them understand and cope better with the condition.
- The socialising activities delivered by BAT have made service users and their families feel less isolated. It has also resulted in greater proportions of Autistic adults in Lewisham regularly socialising with both other Autistic people and a 25% increasing in those who are socialising with non-Autistic people.
- The independent living and budget skills training has also improved Autistic adults' independence. Consequently, some are now able to cook, manage their personal financial affairs and undertake other independent living activities. This has increased confidence in service users and given carers more time to themselves which makes them feel less stressed and burdened.
- The employment support service has resulted in several service users having gained and maintained employment since accessing BAT.
- BAT has also developed a strong relationship with service users and their families who are actively engaged in future service development.

4.3 On 7 November 2014, the Department of Health wrote to all Local Authorities including Lewisham Council to advise that a non-recurrent Autism Innovation (Capital) Grant of £18,500 would be made available to Local Authorities during 2014/15. The communication made it clear that the funding should support work on implementing Think Autism, the recent update to the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy for England; and that the grant should be used to purchase Capital, IT developments, or for improving environments used by people with autism.

## **5. Progress Report**

5.1 On 4 March 2015, the Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) Committee approved the award of the £18,500 DoH Autism Capital Grant to Burgess Autistic Trust (BAT) in order to purchase Autism friendly technology and equipment. BAT has purchased the relevant equipment and service users are now able to access additional training opportunities.

5.2 On 13 March 2015, Lewisham submitted a completed Self-Assessment to assist the Department of Health in assessing progress against the implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy.

- 5.2.1 There were 24 questions in the SAF that attracted a RAG rating. Lewisham rated itself Green on 5 questions, Amber on 15 questions and Red on 4 questions. The four areas rated Red were:
- Making reasonable adjustments to general council services to improve access and support for people with autism.
  - People diagnosed with autism accessing post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted occupational therapy assessments
  - Engaging with the Criminal Justice Services (police, probation and, if relevant, court services) as key partners in planning for adults with autism.
  - Availability of access to an appropriate adult service for people on the Autistic Spectrum in custody suites and nominated 'places of safety'.
- 5.2.2 The SAF exercise also highlighted issues around unavailability of information regarding numbers of Autistic people in various categories including:
- the numbers assessed as having autism but not meeting eligibility criteria for social care
  - total number of people currently known to social care services with a diagnosis of autism (whether new or long-standing) meeting eligibility criteria for social care (irrespective of whether they receive any)
  - the total number of people meeting social care eligibility criteria with autism
  - the number of people meeting social care eligibility criteria with autism who also have learning disabilities
  - the number of people meeting social care eligibility criteria with autism who also have mental health problems
  - the number of children with autism who are currently identified and receiving assistance in the transition ages (14 to 17) in 2013/14
  - the number of children with autism who have been through the transition process in 2013/14
- 5.2.3 There are on-going discussions on effective ways to identify issues and challenges listed above including improve the data collection of the various categories of Autistic people in Lewisham. A progress update will be provided in 6 months.
- 5.3 To further support the local work on implementing Think Autism, NHS Lewisham CCG undertook a service review of the Information Advice and Support Service for Adults with Autism/Asperger syndrome in Lewisham. Part of the reason for the review was that the current contract expires in June 2015 and that provided an opportunity to identify any gaps in the service and determine future provision. The findings from the review based on the current demand, projected needs and feedback from service users highlighted that the service provides a cost-effective intervention for this client group and should therefore be re-commissioned. As there were no local comparable competitor, NHS Lewisham CCG confirmed its future commissioning intention by

renewing the contract with the current provider, BAT, for another year until June 2016. BAT has been contacted and the formal contract, terms and conditions will soon be in place.

## **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1 NHS Lewisham CCG has agreed to renew the contract with Burgess Autistic Trust for Information, Advice and Support Service at a cost of £60,763 per annum for a period of one year from July 2015 – June 2016.
- 6.2 The £18,500 Autism capital Grant awarded to Burgess Autistic Trust was a one-off grant which was funded by the Department of Health.
- 6.3 No other financial implication has been identified.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 Members of the Board are reminded that under Section 195 Health and Social Care Act 2012, health and wellbeing boards are under a duty to encourage integrated working between the persons who arrange for health and social care services in the area.

## **8. Crime and Disorder Implications**

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

## **9. Equalities Implications**

- 9.1 Lewisham has the highest prevalence of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) known to schools of all local authorities in England (1.74%). People with ASD who have other conditions including mental health and learning disabilities are supported by the services commissioned for those conditions. However, those autistic people who have no other condition apart from autism tend to have little or no support as there are usually no definitive services available to meet their needs. It is predicted that there are 1,963 Autistic adults in Lewisham but the number / proportion who are not FACS (Fair Access to Care Services) eligible is unknown.
- 9.2 The decision to renew BAT's contract means continued provision of the local Information Advice and Support service for adults in the borough with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who are not FACS eligible. In

addition, the award of the capital grant to BAT will help to increase support to this client group.

- 9.1 Furthermore, the work that is planned to be undertaken around data collection of the various categories of Autistic people in Lewisham and the support they may require, will inform future commissioning plans for this client group to ensure that they are not marginalised and/or inadequately cared for.

## **10. Environmental Implications**

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

## **11. Conclusion**

- 11.1. Lewisham is looking to establish a community that accepts and understands Autism and which has an infrastructure that provides opportunities for adults with Autism/Asperser's syndrome to live fulfilling and rewarding lives.
- 11.2 The Council will continue to work with partners in Health, Voluntary Sector and those with Autism and their Carers to ensure we maximise opportunities to achieve the above aim.

## **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

Lewisham Sustainable Community Strategy

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/strategies/Documents/Sustainable%20Community%20Strategy%202008-2020.pdf>

Lewisham Health and wellbeing Strategy

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myserices/socialcare/health/improving-public-health/Documents/Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Strategy.pdf>

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