

Autism in Derby

SUMMARY

- 1.1 In November 2017, the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) received a paper providing an overview of the Derbyshire Autism Strategy 2017-2020. The Strategy sets out our local approach and priorities to improving our understanding and support of people with autism.
- 1.2 Whilst improvements have been made in our understanding of autism, its diagnosis and the range of support individuals with autism may require, those with autism continue to experience poorer mental and physical health than average, have higher levels of loneliness and isolation and experience very low rates of employment.
- 1.3 A recent Parliamentary debate on Autism Community: Mental Health and Suicide, in November of last year raised a range of ongoing issues and challenges.
- 1.4 World Autism Awareness Week takes place next week, 26 March - 2 April 2018. Now is the ideal time to challenge ourselves to consider whether we are targeting local support and resources in the most effective way for this group of people.
- 1.5 To provide constructive challenge, the HWB will receive, alongside this paper, a presentation by a local health professional who will talk about the effects of autism on the individual, their families and the wider community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 For the Board to consider our understanding and support of local people with autism and consider whether we can do things differently.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To better identify, understand and support local people with autism.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 In November 2017, the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) received a paper providing an overview of the Derbyshire Autism Strategy 2017-2020.
- 4.2 The strategy outlined:
- What we know about how we are progressing against local need and national requirements.
 - The priorities for 2017-20 and how they can be best achieved.
 - The separate and shared responsibilities for partner agencies.
 - What this means for Derby City and how we will know if we have achieved them.

National context

- 4.3 Autism is unique in that it is the only lifelong condition to be underpinned by statute, the Autism Act 2009 and by statutory guidance most recently Think Autism 2014 and subsequent guidance issued in 2015.
- 4.4 There is a Department of Health and Social Care-led Autism Strategy Board. Five task-and-finish groups report to a quarterly Executive Board and annual Minister Accountability Board, and are concentrating on:
- Data and Research.
 - Workforce Development for health and social care staff and staff in public facing organisations.
 - Health, Care and Wellbeing including Diagnosis, Assessment and Prevention.
 - Specific Support focusing on Work and Benefits, Criminal Justice and Public Transport.
 - Participation in the Local Community.

Ongoing challenge

- 4.5 Significant strides have been taken in recent years in terms of diagnosis rates, assessment and support of those with autism. Despite this, and ongoing work as set out in both the national and local strategies, substantial challenges remain.
- 4.6 Autism is a lifelong condition that effects how an individual communicates and interacts with other people and the wider world. Autistic people will have both sensory and cognitive difficulties and approximately half of people with autism will also have a learning disability. Autism is a life-long condition.
- 4.7 This means that autistic people can find it difficult to understand social rules, experiencing hyper (high) or hypo (low) sensitivity to sensory inputs and delays and delays or disruption to cognitive processing. Those without a learning disability can appear to be 'high functioning' but can struggle in everyday living as much as people thought to have more 'complex needs'.

- 4.8 The accepted current ratio for autism is 1:100 so in a city the size of Derby, there will be at least 2500 autistic people.
- 4.9 Only 16% of autistic people gain full-time employment and many experience higher than average levels of anxiety and depression, higher levels of loneliness and isolation, Autistica (2017) reported higher levels of suicide. The Westminster Commission on Autism (2017) reported that autistic people experience higher than average levels of physical ill health quoting studies which evidence a life expectancy of 12 years less than average.
- 4.10 In April 2016, MP's held a three and half hour debate on autism in the House of Commons. The debate raised a number of key issues including the need for: improved diagnosis, the collection of data on autism, and the need to fill the gulf between the public's awareness of autism and the lack of actual understanding of how autism affects individuals and families.
- 4.11 In November of last year, a further debate was held in Parliament on mental health and autism. The debate was put forward by Heidi Allen MP, Lisa Cameron MP and chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Autism, the Rt Hon Cheryl Gillan MP. Whilst autism is not a mental health condition, over 70% of autistic people develop a mental health problem in their lifetime. Lisa Cameron MP asked about NHS England's mental health plan which proposes the development of a new 'care pathway' for autism. The debate also raised the need for improved recording in GP records, reduced waits for autism diagnosis, and the need for a national autism and education strategy to identify gaps in the system and enable autistic children to get the support they need.
- 4.12 Given the national debate, the development of our local Autism Strategy and upcoming World Autism Awareness Week on 26 March - 2 April 2018 we should challenge ourselves to consider whether we are targeting our help and resources in the most effective way and are we fulfilling our STP aims of supporting people at home or closer to home wherever safe and possible to do so.
- 4.13 To provide constructive challenge, the HWB will receive alongside this paper, a presentation by a local health professional who will talk about the effects of autism on the individual, their families and the wider community.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Director(s) Other(s)	.
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Perveez Sadiq, 01332 643550, Perveez.sadiq@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1: Implications
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 To consider whether we are most effectively utilising existing resource. There is currently no request for increased resource.

Legal

- 2.1 Autism has a statutory basis, the 2009 Autism Act with supporting guidance, Think Autism, issued by the Department of Health in 2014 and reinforced in 2015.

Personnel

- 3.1 None.

IT

- 4.1 There are no IT implications from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The customers who use Autism services are amongst the most potentially vulnerable individuals in the City, many with complex needs. The Learning Disability and Autism SAF Action Plans will increase the quality of the lives of local people with autism and their families. Capacity to co-ordinate these initiatives, particular access to universal services, health checks, timely diagnosis and subsequent post diagnosis support would contribute to wider Parity of Esteem objectives
- 5.2 Our new Equality, Dignity and Respect Policy specifically includes a section on people living with autism under the section 'Equality target groups and key areas'.
- 5.3 To mark World Autism Week we are putting on an event with DWP on 28 March 2018 to encourage more employers to sign up to the Disability Confident Scheme and to raise awareness of autism friendly workplaces. Our Lead on Equality and Diversity and our Lead on Autism are both presenting at the event and Councillor Martin Repton, Cabinet Member for Integrated Health & Care, is opening the event.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 There will be a strong focus on the delivery of services which are safe and sustainable. The quality assurance processes in place have a strong emphasis on safeguarding and provider development work will take place to increase the capacity to deliver services safely

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 There are no Environmental sustainability implications from this report

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 There are no Property and Asset implications from this report

Risk Management and Safeguarding

- 9.1 Safeguarding will continue to be a key area in which we support individual's in choosing their care and shapes how we support local providers. SAF Action Plan priorities and time scales are monitored by the separate City: County: CCG Joint Commissioning Boards for Autism and for Learning Disabilities

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 This report supports the Council objectives that all people in Derby will enjoy good health and wellbeing via good quality services that meet local needs