

Subject:	Joint Commissioning Strategy for Adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) 2012-2015 (DRAFT)		
Date of Meeting:	November 16 2011		
Report of:	Director Adult Social Services/Lead Commissioner People		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Angela Flood	Tel: 29-0790
		Diana Bernhardt	29-2363
	E-mail:	angela.flood@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
		diana.bernhardt@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Joint Commissioning Strategy for Adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions 2012-2015 (DRAFT) (referred to in this document as “the strategy”) (**Appendix 1**), sets out the longer-term direction and scope of how health and social care services and associate organisations can achieve improved outcomes for adults with autism, their families and carers in the City of Brighton & Hove.
- 1.2 The strategy has been developed in response to national level legislation and strategy as well as local level evidence which has raised the profile of autism in adults and shown that adults with autism face significant challenges due to: lack of awareness and understanding of autism amongst frontline staff and the wider public; a complex care pathway that impacts on diagnosis, assessment and support; the transition from childhood to adulthood and accessing services which can lead to other health problems, increasing the emotional cost to the individual and their carers and the financial cost to health and social services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That members:

- (1) Note the contents of the strategy (**Appendix 1**) and its proposed strategic objectives, actions and outcomes (**Appendix 1 of the strategy**).
- (2) Agree the strategy and proposals.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 It is estimated that within Brighton & Hove the numbers of adults with autism will rise by 2020. However, as there is no statutory requirement for services to record or code a diagnosis of autism on databases the number of people recorded as known to services is much lower than the expected prevalence.

3.2 Unless diagnosed in childhood, adults with Asperger Syndrome (AS) and High Functioning Autism (HFA) find it difficult to receive the support they need which is easier to access if they are diagnosed with a co-occurring condition such as a learning disability or mental health problem.

3.3 The key drivers for change include:

- The Autism Act 2009ⁱ
- Fulfilling and rewarding lives: the national strategy for adults with autism (2010)ⁱⁱ
- Implementing fulfilling and rewarding lives: Statutory guidance for local authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the autism strategy (2010)ⁱⁱⁱ
- Scrutiny Panel on Services for Adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions Report (March 2011)^{iv}
- Adults with autistic spectrum conditions needs assessment (May 2011)^v(JSNA) (**see Background Documents**)
- Adult Autism Strategy Stakeholder Group.

3.4 Local consultative action in particular enabled further evidence to be gathered about the challenges and services for adults with autism in Brighton & Hove as well as informing and shaping future services and support. Evidence shows that adults with autism in the City face difficulties not only due to the condition itself, but also because of the additional challenges associated with: lack of awareness and understanding of autism especially amongst frontline staff; a complex care pathway (diagnosis, assessment, support); transition planning from

childhood to adulthood; planning and commissioning of services and support for adults with autism.

- 3.5 The strategy has been informed and developed in response to national statutory requirements, local level evidence as described in the Scrutiny Panel and JSNA reports and recommendations as well as the ongoing feedback from the cross-sector Stakeholder Group (which continues to meet monthly).
- 3.6 Reflecting national strategy and local evidence, the strategy aims to support adults with autism through improvement of four key areas that will have a positive impact on the quality of care, health and wellbeing and social inclusion of adults with autism:
 - A. Increasing awareness and understanding of autism through training of frontline staff and reasonable adjustments
 - B. Developing a more joined up care pathway (diagnosis, assessment and support)
 - C. Improving the transition process from childhood to adulthood
 - D. Ensuring that local planning and leadership underpins and enables the development and commissioning of quality services and support.
- 3.7 The strategy is outcomes focussed and actively promotes a collaborative, partnership approach across all stakeholder groups to support implementation and delivery. It also recognises that public sector finances are already under severe pressure and aims, wherever possible, at *changes or modifications to existing services* through building on existing good practice and via a longer-term integrated, collaborative approach to service planning and delivery that will result in increased efficiency and effectiveness and improved outcomes for service users.
- 3.8 Although focussed on health and social care outcomes, the strategy also incorporates other areas where additional consideration and action would have a positive impact on the health and social wellbeing of adults with autism: housing; employment; education; community safety and social and leisure activities.
- 3.9 Approval of the strategy will:
 - a) Enable *actions to be carried out* that will move towards achieving the stated objectives under the four key areas of activity (**Appendix 1 of the draft strategy**).

- b) Serve as a *framework and foundation* for joint development and decision making linked to the development and commissioning of services relevant to adults with autism, their families and carers.
- c) Provide a *basis for more detailed planning* linked to annual operational and work plans that are focused, deliverable and measurable (outcomes and outputs), to enable achievement of the stated objectives.
- d) Assist *benchmarking* and *performance monitoring* linked to the strategy itself and to other related plans, either current or future.
- e) Stimulate *change* and become a *building block* for future plans.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Development of the draft strategy has already involved extensive consultation with key stakeholders including: service users; carers; health and social care professionals; members of the public (Overview & Scrutiny Panel Report; Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; Adult Autism Strategy Stakeholder Group).
- 4.2 In addition, the draft strategy will be submitted to further consultative processes including: 12-week consultation period with the wider public; Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee Chair's and full Meetings (4 November and 16 November 2011 respectively); Learning Disabilities Partnership Board (12 December 2011); Mental Health Commissioning Board (date tbc); Cabinet Members Meeting (16 January 2012); Joint Commissioning Board (20 February 2012); the Brighton & Hove City Council Forward Plan (December 2011 – March 2012).

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 Any financial implications arising from the proposals included in the strategy would need to be met from existing resources and included in the budget strategies, as appropriate.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The statutory guidance for the implementation of the autism strategy (referred to in paragraph 3.3) has been issued under section 2 of the Autism Act 2009. The Council must follow the statutory guidance unless there is a good reason not to do so.

The guidance seeks to make existing policies and public services work better for adults with autism. Each local area should develop its own commissioning plan around services for adults with autism that reflects the output of its Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and all other relevant data around prevalence. The local strategy should reflect local needs.

The Joint Commissioning Strategy for Adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) 2012-2015 (DRAFT) is the local response to the statutory guidance. Local consultation has been done on a regular basis in the development of the local strategy.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 It is believed that adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) face many difficulties in their daily lives including lack of awareness and understanding of the condition, public misconceptions, barriers to accessing services, difficulties linked to post-school education and learning, gaining long-term and meaningful employment as well as having a good quality of life. This also impacts on the families and carers of adults with autism.

The evidence found that people with ASC often do not have equality of access to, and quality of response from, local services and health care. This is a national issue and not just one for Brighton & Hove. However, the development of a local joint commissioning strategy will aim to address many of the issues highlighted. This will help to ensure that people with an ASC have fair and equal access to services.

The draft strategy will undergo an Equality Impact Assessment led by the Equalities Co-ordinator, Communities and Equality Team, together with members of the Adult Autism Strategy Stakeholder Group (11 and 24 November 2011).

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 None identified.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Carrying out of strategic actions outlined under *Key Area of Activity C: Planning in relation to the provision of services to people with autism as they move from being children to adults (Community Safety)* (**page 19 of the draft strategy**), would have a positive impact including: autism awareness training for staff working in the Criminal Justice System (CJS), resulting in adults with autism no longer managed inappropriately within the system; conflict minimised in difficult situations.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 None identified.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 The Intelligent Commissioning model will provide opportunities to look at how services for people with ASC are provided and commissioned across the authority.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Joint Commissioning Strategy for Adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) 2012-2015 (DRAFT)

Documents in Members' Rooms: None

Background Documents:

ⁱ The Autism Act 2009. HM Government
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/15/pdfs/ukpga_20090015_en.pdf

ⁱⁱ Fulfilling and rewarding lives: the national strategy for adults with autism (2010)
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_113369

ⁱⁱⁱ Implementing fulfilling and rewarding lives: Statutory guidance for local authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the autism strategy (2010)
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122847

^{iv} Scrutiny Panel on Services for Adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions Report (March 2011)
http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/democracy/FINAL_REPORT_18_MARCH_.pdf

^ Adults with autistic spectrum conditions needs assessment (May 2011)



FINAL DRAFT ASC
needs assessment M2

