

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Response to the Scrutiny Panel Report: Services for Children with Autism</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>29 July 2014</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director Children's Services</b>		
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 This report sets out the initial response to the Scrutiny Report into services for children with autism and details progress to date.
- 1.2 A Scrutiny Panel comprising of cross-party City councillors was set up in July 2013. The Scrutiny Panel's report was published in April 2014, setting out 20 recommendations for further development of services for children with autism across health services, the council and schools.
- 1.3 Recommendations range in terms of complexity and scale and some will require further consideration before a plan for implementation can be agreed.
- 1.4 However there has been progress at a strategic level and some actions have been identified for swift implementation. Examples detailed within this report include the extra funding found for support to schools and families with autism and the new extended tiered training offer for schools and parents.
- 1.5 The recommendations from the Scrutiny Report are part of the remit of the current Disability and SEN Review which is due to report by January 2015 so an update on this report will be available at that point.
- 1.6 A table of acronyms is included in Appendix 1.
- 1.7 A response to each of the 20 recommendations in the Scrutiny report is summarised in Appendix 2.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board:
- 2.2 Agrees the responses to the individual recommendations as set out in Appendix 2
- 2.3 Notes that as the Disability & Special Educational Needs Review will be focused on all aspects of disability & SEN, the report will include further recommendations that respond to the scrutiny panel report

### 3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Commissioning arrangements for integrated health, disability and care services for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are governed in Brighton and Hove currently by a section 75 agreement. This agreement authorises the council to commission on behalf of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for services for disabled children and those with special needs. These services are provided largely by Sussex Community Trust (SCT) at Seaside View Integrated Child Development and Disability Service and by Sussex Partnership Trust in relation to CAMHS tier 3 mental health services.
- 3.1.1 In addition a separate section 75 provider agreement enables an integrated professional delivery model across Health and Council Services at Seaside View with support services across the city and a jointly funded management post for the service.
- 3.1.2 These integrated commissioning and delivery arrangements require close partnership working. Although the commissioning Section 75 agreement is under review, both the council and the CCG are committed to joint commissioning into the future
- 3.1.3 A paper for the Health and Well-Being Board on the 'Commissioning of Children's Services in Brighton and Hove' jointly written by the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Chief Operating Officer of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) sets out the proposed future direction for joint commissioning arrangements.
- 3.1.4 The new SEND legislation in the Children and Families Act due to be implemented from September puts a statutory requirement in respect of joint commissioning arrangements for services for children eligible for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- 3.1.5 The provision of services for children with autism already has a high profile in the council's **SEN Partnership Strategy 2013 – 2017**. Autism is one of the key areas of focus and there is a specific autism plan sitting below the strategy
- 3.1.6 An **Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) working group** was established in the spring 2013, with representation from parents, the voluntary sector and professionals from education, health (including the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)) and social work services. This group has been instrumental in taking forward a partnership approach to developing services for ASC.
- 3.1.7 This ASC working group monitors the progress of the Autism Plan and under recent arrangements reports into the newly formed multi-agency Disability and SEN Partnership Board.
- 3.1.8 The ASC plan was produced in liaison with Brighton and Hove Adult Services and links to the national Adult Autism Strategy published by the government in 2010.
- 3.1.9 Both the Autism Plan in Children's Services and recommendations in the Scrutiny Panel report need to be considered within the context of the Disability and SEN Review (DSEN review), currently on-going and set to make initial recommendations by the New Year 2015.
- 3.1.10 Recommendations presented in the ASC Scrutiny Panel report also need to be considered within the context of the Children and Families Bill and consequent sweeping changes to legislation and practice from September 2014.

## 3.2 RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS TO DATE

3.2.1 The 20 recommendations in the report are set out in full in Appendix B.

3.2.2 Recommendations in the report are divided into three sections concerned with:

- **Support and assessment** (recommendations 1-10 - mainly for integrated health and disability services at Seaside View and for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS))
- **Education** (recommendations 11-15 - mainly in relation to schools and school governors plus the ASC Support Service)
- **Linking Strategies and 'Other Issues'** (recommendations 16-20 - ensuring various plans, practice and strategies links across Health, Children's and Adult Services and that there are no gaps)

3.2.3 Recommendations are summarised under each of the three areas followed by the response so far.

## 3.3 SUPPORT AND ASSESSMENT

3.3.1 Summary of Scrutiny Report Recommendations 1 to 10:

- Nominated key workers for all children with ASC
- A pathway for children with autism but neither learning difficulties nor mental health issues
- Improved home support for families
- CAMHS and Seaside View services to put parents at the heart of their provision
- CAMHS and Seaside View to have open and accountable monitoring frameworks
- Clearer accountability lines for all tiers of CAMHS
- Improve links between Health Visitors and GPs

### 3.3.2 RESPONSE TO DATE

3.3.3 Recommendations in the area of family support and assessment are currently being considered as part of the review of disability and SEN services and provision across the City. The review will put forward proposals for a way forward by the New Year 2015. One of the key challenges for the Disability and SEN review is to ensure that there is equity in support available to all children and young people with an ASC diagnosis. Currently we know that those children with ASC and more significant learning difficulties have greater access to family support services by virtue of being able to access the social work services with Seaside View.

3.3.4 Within this time frame, any immediate actions that will result in rapid improvement of services to families will be implemented while more complex changes to thresholds, accountability lines and structures will be considered in more depth.

3.3.5 Early identification of 'quick wins' include **extending the keyworker scheme** to more families with children with ASC and **extending the capacity of the ASC Support Service** (ASCSS) to work with families as well as schools.

3.3.6 In terms of extending the keyworker scheme, consideration is being given to whether professionals not only within CAMHS and Seaside View but across other services working with children with ASC may be able to fulfil a key worker role. The intent is to

secure for as many families as possible a key point of contact with a professional who is knowledgeable in terms of systems and sources of support.

3.3.7 All responses above will aim to extend support to high functioning young people with ASC, recognising that they face unique difficulties in managing a mainstream environment where they will inevitably be a small minority in relation to their developmental condition.

3.3.8 In terms of recommendations relating to Seaside View and CAMHS, the review of disability and SEN services is considering the future direction for:

- Joint commissioning between the council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for services for disability and SEN and for mental health
- Integrated service delivery of assessment and support services mainly delivered by Sussex Community Trust (SCT) from the Seaside View Integrated Child Development & Disability Service
- Mental health services for children with disabilities and SEN mainly delivered through the Sussex Partnership Trust (tier 3 CAMHS) and the council (tier 2 community CAMHS)
- Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) services commissioned by the council to provide mental health and disability services
- Further improvement to the alignment and integration of services such that families receive holistic support at each stage of their child's life

3.3.9 The DSEN review will make further recommendations in relation to establishing **clearer lines of accountability** for all services working with children with disabilities and SEN including autism. These recommendations will ensure **open and transparent monitoring systems** are in place and that practice and strategic developments are informed by feedback from parents and young people as well as other service users and schools.

3.3.10 The new legislation regarding SEND requires all LAs to provide a '**Local Offer**' of relevant services and provision across all agencies and the CVS. Brighton and Hove has recently published phase 1 of our 'Local Offer' on the council website. This is quite comprehensive already. Future work will focus on improved accessibility of information as well as extending and updating phase 1. For phase 2, a 'searchability' function will be introduced which will enable families to see all services relating to autism with one search.

## **3.4 EDUCATION**

3.4.1 Summary of Scrutiny Report Recommendations 11-15

- All schools take up training to become 'autism aware'
- All Governing Bodies to undergo SEN training and be given copies of Scrutiny Report
- Consideration to be given to increasing funding of ASC support service
- Monitoring of all relevant plans and strategies including those for transition to adulthood

### 3.5 RESPONSE TO DATE

- 3.5.1 Considerable progress has been made on providing an extended and comprehensive **tiered training offer** to schools and families. This offer is detailed on the council website and circulated to schools. Options range from 'autism aware' training at the universal tier 1 to very specialist advice and guidance for young people facing the greatest challenges at tier 3.
- 3.5.2 From the autumn term 2014, all schools and education providers will be encouraged to undertake at least tier 1 training.
- 3.5.3 The training will be delivered by Brighton and Hove professionals specialising in autism. Training from the Autism Education Trust (AET) will also be on offer.
- 3.5.4 Training and support opportunities are being offered to parents as well as schools where appropriate and plans are being discussed for some joint delivery of training between parents and professionals.
- 3.5.5 The '**Autism Aware Award**' accredited by Sussex University is being piloted at Downs View Special School and by the Autistic Spectrum Support Service. This award is undertaken over two terms to demonstrate awareness of autism and how this may impact on the pupils and families in the school
- 3.5.6 Close links have been established with Brighton University. The Local Authority has representation on the University SEND steering group and provides information to inform the delivery of SEN specific training on teacher training courses.
- 3.5.7 Preliminary discussions with the governor support team have taken place with a view to having a focus on ASC as part of the **governor training programme**.
- 3.5.8 A major City-wide **conference on autism** is currently being planned for the Spring 2015. All schools in the city have published their 'Local Offer' that details the training undertaken by staff in SEN, including training in ASC.
- 3.5.9 **Increased funding (£70K)** has been secured from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant to **extend the services provided by the ASCSS** and others from 2014 in response to Scrutiny Report recommendations.
- 3.5.10 This additional funding will support plans to secure a more **holistic integrated network of support** that crosses the boundaries of school, home and care arrangements and caters for all children and young people whether additionally learning disabled or not. The ASCSS has already benefited from a temporary appointment of a **family support and liaison worker** and this appointment will be extended.
- 3.5.11 There is a strong view in this response that advice, training, support and guidance must be offered consistently across families, professionals and providers to maximise the benefits for young people of consistent messages and approaches.
- 3.5.12 Additionally a **specialist Educational Psychologist** has been appointed with immediate effect, initially to the end of March 2015, from within the Educational Psychology Service to focus on ASC. This post will extend and enhance the planned provision of integrated home and school support services. A specialist ASC speech and language therapist has been appointed within the integrated health services at Seaside View and this post will link closely with the diagnostic pathway and the post diagnosis support.

### **3.6 LINKING STRATEGIES**

#### 3.6.1 Summary of key recommendations 15-20

- Appoint an Autism Champion
- ASC working group to oversee Scrutiny Panel recommendations
- Joint Strategic Needs Review (JSNR) to include a section on services available for children with autism
- Creation of a youth club for young people with autism

#### 3.6.2 **RESPONSE TO DATE**

3.6.3 The suggestion from Children's Services with regard to the appointment of an **Autism Champion** is that is already the Executive Director of Children's Services, whose role is to champion all children in the City.

3.6.4 Currently it is the Disability and SEN review that is overseeing Scrutiny Panel recommendations at a strategic level. Operational improvements that can be actioned quickly are being overseen by the ASC working group.

3.6.5 The **JSNR** will signpost services needed for children with autism as recommended.

### **4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION**

4.1 Care will be taken in responding to recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel to ensure full engagement and consultation with parents and children and young people/

4.2 The ASC working group continues to have parental representation as does the Disability and SEN Partnership Board, which oversees all developments in SEND

4.3 As part of the Disability and SEN review, there is a **young people's engagement strategy** which will encompass children and young people with ASC also.

### **5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 All services supporting families of children with SEND and all provision comes within the scope of the Disability and SEN Review (DSEN review), including services for children with ASC

5.2 The DSEN review is looking at achieving best value in all SEND services and provision while aiming to preserve and improve provision to children and families as far as possible. Further consideration of the financial implications of this review will be required.

5.3 Notwithstanding the on-going review which may change the structure and alignment of all SEND services for the future, an additional £70K has been secured, on a permanent basis, from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant with immediate effect to improve holistic support, advice and guidance to schools and families for children and young people with ASC.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steve Williams 9 July 2014

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The response to the Scrutiny Report will span the introduction of wide ranging new SEN reforms contained in the Children and Families Act 2014 which are due to come into force on 1 September 2014. Any new initiatives introduced as a result of the Report will therefore need to take into account any new relevant provisions contained in the Act.
- 6.2 Furthermore many of the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny Report are also being considered as part of the ongoing Disability and Special Educational Needs Review which is being carried out under section 315 of the Education Act 1996 (which will be replaced by section 27 Children and Families Act 2014 as from 1 September 2014).
- 6.3 The new Act also places greater emphasis on support that enables those with SEN to succeed in their education and make a successful transition into adulthood. Local authorities have a duty under the Autism Act 2009 to have a strategy and plan for services for adults with ASC. Whilst this does not directly apply to children, Children's Services will be working in close alignment with Adult Services particularly with regard to transition post 19, and so will need to be aware of and take into account the local authorities duties under this legislation.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston      Date: 09/07/2014

## **7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been produced for the review of all Disability and SEN services
- 7.2 Children with ASC are included within the DSEN review EIA scope and remit.

## **8. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no specific sustainability implications

## **9. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications

## **10. RISK AND OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no specific Risk and Opportunity Management implications

## **11. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Public Health are represented on the governance board for the DSEN review and thus in overseeing the response to the Scrutiny Report recommendations as they come within the scope of the review.

## **12. CORPORATE / CITYWIDE IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 The response to the Scrutiny Report aims to further corporate priorities as follows:

12.1.1 Tackling inequality: the gaps in achievement, health, well-being and longer term life chances for children and young people with ASC are too wide still and the response to the Scrutiny Report aims to improve outcomes via improved sustainable and integrated support for ASC

12.1.2 Engaging people who live and work in the city: the response will engage parents/ carers and CYP at its heart

## **13. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 The report is outlining an initial response to the recommendations of a Scrutiny Panel into provision for children and young people with ASC.

13.2 A further response will be provided as a specific part of the recommendations of the Disability and SEN Review set to report early in the New Year 2015.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices**

1. Table of Acronyms
2. Detailed responses to scrutiny panel recommendations

### **Documents in Members' Rooms**

None

### **Background Documents**

Report of the Scrutiny Panel on Services for Children with Autism <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-committees/health-wellbeing-board>



## **APPENDIX 1**

### Key to acronyms

SEND	special educational needs and disabilities
ASC	autistic spectrum condition
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
SCT	Sussex Community Trust
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
DSEN review	Disability and special educational needs review
CAMHS	Community Adolescent Mental Health Service
EIA	Equalities Impact Assessment
AET	Autism Education Trust

## Appendix 2 – Full list of recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel Report: Services for Children with Autism – April 2014

No	Recommendation	Response
	<b>Support and assessment</b>	
1	The Panel recommends that both Seaside View and CAMHS should have a nominated Keyworker specifically to help parents and carers of children and young people with autism. This named person would be the first – and final – point of contact for people using the services of either Seaside View or CAMHS. (p16)	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> The principle of extended key working for families of children with autism is accepted subject to further consideration and recommendations from the Disability and SEN Review reporting by January 2015.</p> <p>There are capacity issues for professionals particularly at Seaside View and CAMHS but it is noted that this role could be shared amongst a number of related services allied to key working in the new SEN reforms linked to Education, Health and Care plans.</p>
2	A clear pathway needs to be created for children and young people who have autism but neither learning disabilities nor mental health issues. If there is no clear support in place, children and young people run the risk of returning to CAHMS and other services in crisis. (p17)	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted in principle subject to further consideration and recommendations from the Disability and SEN Review reporting by January 2015.</p> <p>There is a consensus that young people with autism of mainstream ability can face particular challenges in terms of social integration in particular and that that there needs to be an effective offer of support in order to overcome these.</p>
3	The Panel recognises that a key gap in services provided is in the area of home support. The Panel strongly recommends that funding is reconfigured to include home support packages. Parents should be consulted over what they feel would be most beneficial and initiatives put in place to help parents access support at home. (p21)	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted in principle subject to further consideration and recommendations from the Disability and SEN Review reporting by January 2015</p> <p>Early gains in this area include the recruitment of a parent liaison worker to the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Support Service (ASCSS) and the identification of further funding for this and related home support services.</p>

		The views of parents and young people are central to the work of the Disability and SEN (DSEN) review.
4	Current service providers such as Seaside View and CAHMS need to examine the strategies they have in place to ensure parents are at the centre of their services. This should include looking at new ways of getting feedback from service users – particularly parents of children with autism – and reflecting this in their services. This feedback should be open and transparent and externally monitored. (p22)	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted in principle subject to further consideration and recommendations from the Disability and SEN Review reporting by January 2015.</p> <p>The DSEN review is currently seeking feedback from all service users and will specifically take feedback from parents and children in relation to autism. Systems will be devised to ensure all commissioned services receive regular and transparent feedback.</p>
5	Monitoring is crucial. CAMHS and Seaside View must have robust and publicly available monitoring procedures. Working with parents and children, CAMHS and Seaside View need to review their monitoring procedures and put in place a transparent, comprehensive feedback system for parents of children with autism. (p24)	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted in principle subject to further consideration and recommendations from the Disability and SEN Review reporting by January 2015.</p> <p>New joint commissioning arrangements being considered as part of the DSEN review will ensure all services and provision commissioned and delivered for children with mental health, health and care needs associated with autism are subject to effective monitoring and evaluation systems informed by feedback from all stakeholders.</p>
6	The Panel recommends that there is a clear and unambiguous statement of where the responsibility lies for the performance of all tiers of CAMHS and the systems in place for addressing any problem areas. In addition, the Director of Children’s Services, after consultation with the CCG who are ultimately accountable for Tier 3 CAMHS, must work to ensure that an Annual Report is produced detailing performance against a clear and relevant set of indicators. Parents and young people should be actively involved in determining key	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted in principle subject to further consideration and recommendations from the Disability and SEN Review reporting by January 2015.</p> <p>There is internal clarity about the responsibility for the tiers of CAMHS but this should be more clearly articulated and disseminated to all stakeholders as part of a wider and more cohesive ‘Local Offer’ in relation to mental health services.</p> <p>Current commissioning arrangements</p>

	performance indicators and contributing to the assessment and monitoring against them. (p24)	<p>require regular reporting from CAMHS and improvements to reporting requirements are under discussion.</p> <p>A widely representative CAMHS Partnership Board is now meeting to consider all aspects of mental health provision and progress in relation to young people with autism will be a standing item on the Board's agenda until the recommendations from the Scrutiny report are embedded.</p> <p>The principle of close involvement of parents and young people in the monitoring and evaluation of all services is accepted.</p>
7	The Panel recommends that any assessment of a child's needs must not be purely clinic-based but also include assessments in the home and social environments. (p25)	<b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted in principle subject to further consideration and recommendations from the Disability and SEN Review reporting by January 2015.
8	The Panel believe that, where appropriate, private Educational Psychologists reports should be accepted by CAMHS as a valuable source of information, particularly if services are stretched. (p25)	<b>Recommendation:</b> A response to this recommendation is subject to further consideration by and recommendations from the Disability and SEN Review reporting by January 2015.
9	The Panel recommends that consideration is given to allow for the council's Standards and Complaints team to act as a mediator between service providers such as Seaside View and CAMHS and complainants if appropriate, or refer complainants on to Brighton & Hove Healthwatch who have a statutory role as advocates for those going through the health system. (p26)	<b>Recommendation:</b> A response to this recommendation is subject to further consideration by and recommendations from the Disability and SEN Review reporting by January 2015.
10	The Panel recommends that the CCG, Public Health and Children's Services work together to put a strategy in place to ensure there are strong and coherent links between Health Visitors and GPs across the city. (p27)	<b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted in principle subject to further consideration and recommendations from the Disability and SEN Review reporting by January 2015.

	<b>Education</b>	
11	<p>It is imperative that all schools in the city are fully signed up to being 'autism-aware'. The Panel recommends that steps are taken to ensure that schools are encouraged to take up training, and to make publicly available a list of what training has been undertaken, by whom and how often it is refreshed. This will also aid parents in choosing schools for their children. (p35)</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted</p> <p>An extended 'tiered training offer' has been produced for schools and for parents. This has been published on the council website as part of our 'Local Offer' and will be available from September 2014. All schools will be encouraged to undertake 'autism-aware' training.</p> <p>This is the first time that parents have had a tiered training offer in parallel to that offered to schools. There are also in-built opportunities for joint school staff and parent/ carer training and also for parents and professionals to co-train where appropriate in the future.</p>
12	<p>All Governing Bodies of Schools must undergo SEN training - which should include autism awareness training - to ensure they are able to fulfil their role in providing effective challenge to the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team and be confident that provision is available for all children, including those with SEN, to learn successfully. In addition, the local authority should use its role in approving local authority governors to monitor what training these governors have undertaken. (p38)</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted</p> <p>The ASC training offer will be extended to governors from September 2014 and there will be encouragement as part of the council's autism plan for all governors to attend.</p>
13	<p>The Panel recommends that the Director of Children's Services ensures that this report is drawn to the attention of all Governing Bodies of schools in the city. (p38)</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted.</p> <p>This work is in progress currently. All governing bodies should be aware of the recommendations by September 2014.</p>
14	<p>The Panel recommends that the Director of Children's Services considers increasing the funding of the ASC Support Service. (p40)</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted</p> <p>This has been actioned and a further £70K put towards extending the offer from the ASCSS working with home support services.</p>

15	<p>The Panel recommends regular monitoring reports are produced detailing progress on the Transitions Strategy, the Adult ASC Strategy, the Children with Autism Plan, and the work on the Education, Care and Health Plans to ensure there is no duplication or gaps. The committee with responsibility for children's care and health in the city should take an active role in reviewing these reports. (p44)</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted</p> <p>All the areas above with the exception of the Adult ASC Strategy sit within the council's SEND Partnership Strategy 2013-17 and are subject to six monthly reporting which will be published and disseminated on the council's website.</p> <p>Children's and Adult Services are working closely together in relation to strategies for young people particularly around transitions post 16.</p>
<b>Linking strategies</b>		
16	<p>The Panel recommends an Autism Champion is appointed for the city. This named individual will be tasked with monitoring the agreed recommendations and actions from the Panel's report and the action plan resulting from the draft Children with Autism Strategy.</p> <p>In addition, as there are a number of relevant strategies and documents already in place, (e.g. draft Children with Autism Plan, Adults with Autism Strategy, Early Start, B&amp;H SEN Partnership Strategy) it is imperative that there are clear links between them. The 'Autism Champion' can ensure a coherent approach is taken with strategies dovetailing and not duplicating. (p47)</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> This recommendation is under consideration. It is felt that the Executive Director of Children's Services is the 'champion' in effect for all vulnerable children within the City and therefore the champion for children with autism.</p>
17	<p>The Panel recommends that the ASC Working Group takes a proactive role in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations in this report. This would feed into the standard monitoring report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) in 12 months time. (p47)</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted</p> <p>The Scrutiny recommendations are being discussed and implementation planned within the DSEN review which also encompasses and reviews the work of the ASC working group.</p>
18	<p>In order to fully reflect the needs of children with autism in the city, the Panel recommends that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is updated to include a section on what services are currently available for</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted in principle</p>

	children with autism, where the gaps are, and how they can be filled. (p48)	
	<b>Other issues</b>	
19	The Panel recommends that the Director of Children's Services draws this report to the attention of the head of the Family Law Courts in the city. (p49)	<b>Recommendation:</b> Accepted  This will be actioned by September 2014.
20	The Panel recommends that the Youth Service and/or Youth Collective considers whether there is enough demand to merit the creation of a youth club aimed at young people with autism, and if so, which organisation may provide this. (p50)	<b>Recommendation:</b> A response to this recommendation is subject to further consideration by and recommendations from the Disability and SEN Review reporting by January 2015.  As part of the DSEN review, the demand for such a provision will be considered and whether this is the best way forward.