

Report for: Health and Wellbeing Board – 22 September 2021

Title: Haringey All Age Autism Strategy 2021-2031

Report

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1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopmental disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. Through co-production, this Strategy has sought to reframe autism in Haringey and to set out changes which it is believed will benefit autistic and other neurodivergent people whether or not they choose to have a diagnosis. This is an inclusive strategy to improve outcomes for all autistic children, young people and adults with or without a diagnosis and their families and supporters and it is for this reason that the Strategy is coming to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval.

2. Recommendations

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked:

- 2.1 To approve the draft All Age Autism Strategy 2021-2031 attached as Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2.2 To agree to updates on progress against the Strategy to come back to the Health and Wellbeing Board at regular intervals.

3. Background Information

3.1 The Haringey All Age Autism Strategy has been co-produced through a multi-disciplinary strategy group involving autistic residents and parent carers of autistic children, young people and adults. There has been considerable codesign and engagement with a broad range of stakeholders over the past two years to develop a shared understanding across partners and with residents of where we are now and where we need to get to. The group has led the development of an inclusive and person-centred approach which is reflected in the draft Strategy before the Board.

- 3.2 The vision set out in the Strategy is that Autistic children, young people and adults have equal opportunities for a happy and healthy life in Haringey. To achieve this vision, the Strategy requires all borough partners to commit to embedding a neurodiverse understanding of autism within their organisations. This Strategy therefore signals a move away from a deficit model that needs to 'fix' autistic people to fit within a neurotypical world. It puts an emphasis on all local organisations and systems moving to autism acceptance and accessibility for all residents and their families. It is believed that in this way it will be possible to have the meaningful support for and positive attitudes towards autistic people locally, meaning that autistic people will in turn feel empowered to be themselves, lessening their chances of developing poor mental health and avoiding a lifetime of stigma and masking.
- 3.3 The Haringey All Age Autism Strategy is committed to the following outcomes for autistic children, young people and adults:
- I can get a diagnosis in a timely way with an offer of some pre or post diagnostic support locally
 - I can get the right support at the right time
 - I feel accepted by an autism friendly community
 - I can access education and help if I need it in my local community and do not have to travel far away to have my needs met
 - I have opportunities to lead a fulfilling life
 - I have good access to physical and mental health services and expect good outcomes if I need these services
 - I feel encouraged to speak up and be me
 - I feel safe from bullying, hate crime and harassment
 - My family, my friends, my teachers and others I trust know how to help me best when I need extra support. They create spaces for me or with me that help me learn and thrive.
 - My friends and family have access to support, information and advice as part of their journey alongside me
- 3.4 In addition, there are significant cross-cutting themes which will underpin the improvements mapped out above. They are:
- Workforce Development and Training – for which needs are high across the system.
 - Support and intervention – this have historically been reactive rather than proactive with children, young people and adults often heading into crisis before help is available, the Strategy aims to turn this around: identify need earlier and respond swiftly and flexibly.
 - Transition Pathways and handover points – there are a number of points of handover which need to be smoothed and support e.g. from Children's to adults, psychiatric hospital to the community, education to employment, health to social care.
- 3.5 This is a high level 10-year strategy (2021-2031) which is underpinned by three schedules of improvement plans each focused on tackling three of the nine priorities at a time in three year blocks. There is considerable work set out in each schedule, the first of which will tackle the 3 priority areas selected by the

Autism Strategy Group, where some of the detail has already been co-produced through working with autistic residents and other stakeholders. The three areas represent significant programmes of work, which will require extensive multi-agency working:

3.5.1 Improving diagnostic services for autistic children, young people and adults

- 3.5.1.1 Improved children's diagnostic pathway which is clear and accessible, close to home with reduced waiting times
- 3.5.1.2 Adult Neuro-diverse diagnostic services in-borough, close to home
- 3.5.1.3 Greater collaboration across CAMHS and Autism diagnostic providers for Children and Young People. Joint multi-disciplinary clinics and creation of neurodevelopment pathways to diagnose co-morbid conditions such as ADHD
- 3.5.1.4 Defined Pre and post diagnostic support offer for all ages
- 3.5.1.5 Support Pathways linked to #ActuallyHaringey hub

3.5.2 Improving complex care and crisis care services for autistic children, young people and adults

- 3.5.2.1 Improved access to a wide range of complex and crisis care services based on a preventative, rather than reactive, approach.
- 3.5.2.2 Reduced Inpatient admissions
- 3.5.2.3 Increased numbers of autistic people able to live in and access education in borough, without the need for high cost out of area residential care

3.5.3 Improving care and support for autistic children, young people and adults

- 3.5.3.1 Young people and families at point of transition feel aware, informed and supported.

4. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 4.1 The All Age Autism Strategy represents a significant contribution to improve health, wellbeing and broader outcomes for local autistic residents of all ages in the borough. The Strategy will lead to a body of work which will continue to be co-produced by autistic residents, parent carers and partners covering a wide range of areas. There are opportunities through this approach to reduce inequalities, to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and to build a new approach to autism in Haringey.

5. Statutory Officer Comments (Legal)

- 5.1 The Strategy is a health and social care partnership document and aligns with the Board's function of encouraging health and social care services to work in an integrated manner to advance the health and wellbeing of people in its area.
- 5.2 The Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy (March 2015) which local authorities and NHS bodies are obliged to have regard to provides that "Health and

Wellbeing Boards have a crucial role to play in overseeing implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy. As a local health and wellbeing system leader, bringing together partners from NHS England, CCGs, HealthWatch and Local Authorities, the Health and Wellbeing Board is central to ensuring the needs of people with autism are addressed locally.”

6. Use of Appendices

6.1 Draft All Age Autism Strategy

7. Background Papers

None