

4. Alternative options considered

4.1 Not applicable. The statutory guidance accompanying the Autism Strategy states that Health and Wellbeing Boards will play a key part in the planning, commissioning and reviewing of services for people with autism.

5. Background information

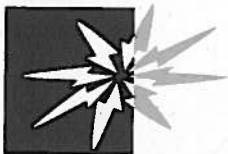
5.1 Following the Autism Act 2009, Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives (2010), a strategy aimed at improving outcomes for adults with autism, was launched. In 2013, Haringey was asked to submit a self assessment evaluation outlining progress on the implementation of the Strategy. This self assessment is attached as Appendix 1. Key areas covered are planning, training, diagnosis, care and support, housing and accommodation, employment, and engagement with the criminal justice system.

5.2 A summary of key developments in Haringey is also given below:

- There is a specific chapter on autism in the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA);
- Haringey's local Housing Strategy specifically identifies autism;
- Specialist Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) Training Programme developed with the National Autistic Society (NAS) and delivered to staff in Haringey's Learning Disabilities (LD) Partnership;
- Improvements in transition planning to support people with ASC;
- Projects to support housing for people with ASC (Autism in Haringey Housing Strategy);
- Running of a pilot tri-borough ASC diagnostic service;
- JSNA includes a chapter on autism;
- Advocacy for personalisation: Haringey Association for Independent Living (HAIL) commissioned;
- Supported living options, which support people with autism and a learning disability including people in the Winterbourne cohort; and
- For people with autism and a learning disability, there is a single pathway in terms of initial assessment, with specialist multi-disciplinary input from the LD Partnership.

5.3 As importantly, the self assessment has highlighted areas for future focus:

- Database of all people with a diagnosis of autism to be developed;
- The need to address the needs of people with autism who are high functioning;
- It is also acknowledged that in order to address the needs of high functioning autism (HFA)/Aspergers, there is the need for improved working with Mental Health Services;
- The requirement is for the mainstream Mental Health Trust (MHT) to be skilled to respond to these needs;



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- Consideration for the particular needs of older people with autism;
- Use the learning form the local autism assessment pilot project to establish an assessment pathway;
- Promotion of employment opportunities;
- Engagement with the criminal justice system in support for people with autism; and
- The Autism Self Assessment Evaluation 2013 provided an opportunity to rethink and reinvigorate the borough's response to implementation of the Autism Strategy. To this end, an Autism Working Group has been set up with a clear remit to develop and inaugurate an Autism Partnership Board, with clear aims and objectives which are aimed at improving outcomes for people with autism. This Working Group, which is made up of representatives from NAS, Haringey Autism, CCG commissioning, Local Authority commissioning, parent and carer, has met regularly since submission of the self assessment and, to date, has developed a Terms of Reference for an Autism Partnership Board, and is developing plans which will allow for user representation.

6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

- 6.1 There is no specific budget for services for people with autism; services are funded from within the Learning Disability budget. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report which describes the current provision. If new or expanded services are put in place in future, funding will need to be identified for them.

7. Assistant Director of Corporate Governance Comments and legal implications

- 7.1 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted on this report. There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

- 8.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising out of this report.

9. Head of Procurement Comments

- 9.1 Head of Procurement notes the contents of this report. At this stage there no are procurement issues identified within this strategy.

10. Policy Implication

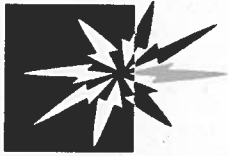
- 10.1 Please see Autism Strategy 2010 for further policy details.
10.2 Please see Statutory Guidance for the Autism Strategy.

11. Reasons for Decision

- 11.1 This is a non-key decision. However, as the Autism Strategy guidance is statutory, local Councils and local health bodies have a legal duty to implement it.

12. Use of Appendices

- 12.1 Appendix 1 - Autism Self Assessment.



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13. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

13.1 N/A.