

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 15 March 2018
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: All-Age Autism Strategy
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Board on the new Halton All-Age Autism Strategy at the Appendix.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- 1) Note the contents of the report and associated appendices; and**
- 2) Provide comment on the draft Strategy and its associated Delivery Plan.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The current Autism Strategy was developed in 2012. Since then there has been a number of national publications relating to Autism including: Think Autism: fulfilling and rewarding lives, the strategy for adults with autism in England, update 2014; Statutory guidance for local authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the adult autism strategy (2015); and progress report on Think Autism (2016).

Halton also took part in the Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF) which was completed at the end of 2016.

3.2 In order to move forward with planning a new All-Age Autism Strategy, a working group was established in July 2017 with the following membership:

Patrick Frost – Principal Manager - CCW (Chair)
Maria Saville – Principal Manager – PBSS, HBC
Ami McNamee - Specialist Teaching Lead (HBC Education)
Sam Murtagh - Commissioning Manager (HBC Children's Services)
Catrin Williams - Community LD Team (North West Boroughs NHS Trust)
Jane Morris - Principal Manager, LD Nursing Team (HBC Adult

Social Care)

Jane Birchall-Smith - Community LD Team (North West Boroughs NHS Trust)

Lisa Birtles-Smith, Clinical Lead LD (Halton CCG)

Alison Sutch, Children's Complex Needs Nurse (Halton CCG)

Emma Sutton-Thompson, Practice Manager (HBC)

Natalie Johnson, Policy Officer (HBC)

3.3 Autism Questionnaire

As part of the initial consultation, the group devised a short questionnaire which was posted out to 230 adults identified from CareFirst as having a diagnosis of Autism, and also the survey has been disseminated within children's as follows:

- Brookfields School, the Resource Bases, Cavendish School and Ashley School, Parent Partnership and Assessment Co-ordinator for those with EHC Plans;.
- Members of staff gave out to parents and to Mal Hampson at Halton Speak Out;
- In addition, the survey was added to the Local Offer in mid-September.

3.4 Draft Strategy

The group agreed that the main part of the strategy document would focus on the statutory guidance and Halton's position with specific areas (draft attached at Appendix 1). Contributions to the strategy were from a range of staff across HBC, HCCG and NW Boroughs NHS Trust.

The Delivery Plan has been developed jointly with service-users and stakeholders based on their experience of services and identifying areas for improvement. The Delivery Plan will be a "live" document that will drive priority areas for improvement forwards, ensure continuity and be led by a dedicated group, an Autism Action Alliance, which will be the first priority to establish, based on National guidance.

3.5 Consultation/Co-design of Delivery Plan

The consultation/co-design of the delivery plan has been undertaken by a combination of methods to suit different groups of people, including:

- Linking in with schools – parents coffee mornings;
- Experienced-based co-design event for Adults was held on 5th December 2017;

- Direct meetings with parent support groups – HAFS, ChAPS, Face to Face SCOPE;
- Linking in with IMPART (parent partnership);
- Involving Halton Speak Out.

Children’s representatives of the working group lead on the children’s side of the consultation/co-design.

A provider consultation event for adults was held on 10th January 2018 with other groups that are linked to Autism to identify actions to be included within the Delivery Plan.

This report is being presented to the Health Policy and Performance Board on 27th February 2018.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 An Autism Action Alliance will be established to take responsibility for moving the Autism-agenda forward, implementing and monitoring the Delivery Plan. This will be the first action on the Delivery Plan.

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 To ensure continuity of the Autism Strategy and Delivery Plan, the first priority is to establish Autism Action Alliance to lead on the implementation and monitoring of this. The Alliance would bring together different organisations, services and stakeholders and adults/children with autism and their families to set a clear direction for improved services.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Developing an All-Age Autism Strategy aims to take a more joined-up and holistic approach to developing opportunities and realising potential for people with Autism at every stage of their lives.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

National guidance states that an Adult Autism Strategy is a statutory requirement and there are certain criteria we should be implementing as a Local Authority and in partnership with other agencies. The development of an All-Age Autism Strategy goes above and beyond this requirement.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**
None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**
None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 It is vital that the needs of people with Autism in Halton are met. This is strengthened by National legislation detailing clear areas to be included and addressed.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None identified.