

Item No. 10.	Classification: Open	Date: 8 December 2015	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Agreement of a New All Age Joint Autism Strategy	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Stephanie Cryan, Adult Care and Financial Inclusion	

FOREWORD – COUNCILLOR STEPHANIE CRYAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Autism is a condition that can have a huge impact on a person's life, not necessarily because it inherently limits their options, but rather that the society we live in does not always respond to the needs of people with autism to provide them with an enabling environment to help support their needs and opportunities.

One of our five Fairer Future principles is working for everyone to realise their own potential and this new strategy will help to remove some of the barriers that prevent people with autism achieving this.

The strategy will also focus on achieving the core priorities that were identified from the consultation responses around education, employment and training which will link in with our Fairer Future promise and commitment to support 5,000 local people into jobs and create 2,000 new apprenticeships.

This strategy also sets out how Southwark can provide a more enabling environment for people with autism and also addresses some of the key concerns people with autism, their families, careers and professionals have raised about the current systems and the changes that need to be made to deliver better outcomes for people with autism.

The strategy focuses on five key priorities - lifelong care and support, choice and control, education, employment and training and living in the community. We will be developing an implementation programme to achieve the aims of the strategy which will be closely monitored by the Learning Disability Partnership Board and I look forward to receiving and sharing regular updates on how this is progressing.

I am pleased to be able to recommend this strategy to cabinet and would like to thank everyone who contributed to the consultation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the draft Southwark All Age Joint Autism Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed.
2. That cabinet note the actions from the strategy will be implemented through the new 0-25 years disabilities care pathway.
3. That cabinet note that for those over 25 years, development work will follow on from the changes implemented through the 0-25 years care pathway, to ensure

consistent and cohesive transition and support to Adults.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. The council and Southwark NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have committed to ensuring that local people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (autism) of all ages are able to fulfil their potential, with the information, support and care they need to lead safe, healthy, independent lives in their local communities.
5. Five strategic priorities were identified through the consultation process as being core to achieving this:
 - Lifelong Care and Support;
 - Choice and Control (including Health and Wellbeing);
 - Education;
 - Employment and Training;
 - Living in the Community.
6. These priorities have formulated the structure of an all age joint Autism Strategy, capturing the local level of need/demand; understanding where the gaps in support are now and likely to be in the future and incorporating what parents and young people have said works for them.
7. The strategy aims to deliver better outcomes for local people with autism through their life course. The success of the implementation of the strategy will be measured against nationally set quality outcomes, ensuring that people with autism:
 - Have better health outcomes;
 - Are included and economically active;
 - Live in accommodation which meets their needs;
 - Benefit from the personalisation agenda in health and social care and can access personal budgets;
 - Are satisfied with local services - as are their families and carers;
 - Are involved in the planning of services.
8. An initial draft strategy was developed, followed by a formal consultation held between 31 July 2015 and 23 October 2015. 56 individual responses were received, plus three summary responses from teams who support around 25 people with autism, and 14 participants at consultation events. These responses were reviewed and the strategy updated to respond to the key issues raised.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Policy implications

9. The development of this strategy has been shaped by the National Autism Strategy for Adults: *Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*¹ which identifies five key areas:

¹ Adult Autism Strategy (2014). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/think-autism-an-update-to-the-government-adult-autism-strategy>

- Increasing general awareness as well as public and professional understanding of Autism;
 - Developing pathways for diagnosis and personalised needs assessment;
 - Improving access to support services in the local community;
 - Helping people with autism into work;
 - Enabling local partners to plan and develop appropriate services.
10. The refreshed National Strategy *Think Autism* (2014) clarifies further the responsibilities of the council and NHS to:
- Provide autism awareness training for all staff and specialist training for key staff;
 - Provide a community care assessment (these cannot be declined based on IQ);
 - Have an autism lead;
 - Have a clear pathway to diagnosis and assessment;
 - Commissioning services based on adequate population data.
11. The statutory guidance² requires implementation of the adult autism strategy and provides clear requirements for local authorities, NHS bodies and NHS Foundation Trusts on what they need to do to meet the needs of people with autism living in their area. The Care Act (2014)³ confirms the need to put people and their carers in control of their own care and support, which is further supported by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Guidelines⁴.
12. Current information suggests that there are roughly 1,100 children and approximately 3,229 people (or 1.1% of the population) in Southwark who are living with autism. However, this data is based on best analysis of current populations and national comparators. One of the primary aims of the strategy is to develop a much greater understanding of the prevalence of autism in both children's and adults in Southwark. This will enable services to be commissioned appropriately.
13. This all age Joint Autism Strategy sets out the full aims for working with people with autism and it is intended both to enable the council to meet its statutory obligations, and also provide clear, useful and accessible information and support to people with autism and to their family carers.

Approach

14. The development of the all age Joint Autism Strategy is the first step in setting out a comprehensive approach to how people with autism are supported in Southwark. It will need to be implemented so people with autism and their family carers are fully involved and experience a difference in their lives. During the consultation, people with autism, their family carers and professionals all expressed the view that they wanted to see a real change of approach and not only a change in paperwork.

² Adult Autism Strategy Statutory Guidance (2015). Available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-autism-strategy-statutory-guidance>

³ Care Act (2014). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-statutory-guidance-for-implementation>

⁴ NICE Guidelines (2011-2014). Available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/conditions-and-diseases/mental-health-and-behavioural-conditions/autism>

15. The change of approach will need to be made and perceived at all levels, as part of the day-to-day work, and that initiatives designed to offer further care and support are developed within the context of existing pathways. It is therefore proposed that implementation sits within the 0-25 years disabilities care pathway programme.
16. For those over 25 years, development work will follow on from the 0-25 years care pathway programme, to provide a better experience of transition for people with autism, their family carers and provide clear, accessible and practical pathways for practitioners to support them.
17. To ensure there is oversight of the delivery on the short and long-term goals, targets will be set from January 2016 and these will be monitored by the Learning Disability Partnership Board at their quarterly meetings.
18. Feedback will be sought from people with autism and their families through the 0-25 years care pathway to understand whether or not there is a perception that there is progress against the Strategy and their needs are being met. The Strategy will be formally updated twice by 2021 and incorporate these views and any required changes to the programme.

Community impact statement

19. The strategy and action plan will affect people across the borough from all equality groups, with a particular focus on disability, gender and age. However, the aim of the strategy is to improve access to diagnosis and support. The intention is to improve the life outcomes achieved by residents with autism, thereby increasing the independence, inclusion and wellbeing of these equality groups.

Resource implications

20. There are likely to be resource implications that arise from this strategy, particularly relating to awareness training and development for staff across the council and CCG.
21. Recommendations that arise from the implementation of the strategy will be submitted in accordance with decision-making requirements. It is understood that these must be considered within the context of Southwark's budget challenge across council and NHS, but also take into account a full understanding of the expected benefits and the potential impact any changes will have on future use of services.

Consultation

22. Consultation on this strategy sought feedback from local people with autism, parent carers and professionals.
23. The full strategy and a summary document were circulated with a link to an online survey. Hard copies of the survey were also made available. Email comments were encouraged.
24. In addition, four consultation meetings were held on 16 September 2015. One meeting was specifically for professionals; one for parent carers and people with autism; and two other open access meetings.

25. 70 people responded to the consultation. There were 14 attendees at the consultation meetings, 49 online survey responses, and seven email comments.
26. Table 1 below outlines the respondents by groups. The table may show some double-counting due to people having mixed roles. It is possible more people with autism did respond, but if this was the case they did not self-identify.

Table 1: Consultation respondents by group:

	People with autism	Parent carers	Professionals	Organisations
Total	2	31	44	16

27. The majority of respondents had a white background (British or other), but 19% who completed the online survey had a differing ethnic identity (9% African, 4% Caribbean, 2% Bangladeshi and 4% other).
28. The responses received through the consultation have influenced the structure of the strategy, including focus on key themes. A summary of the feedback received is contained in Appendix 2.
29. The strategy will be updated twice before 2021, to reflect the developing views of stakeholders, particularly as changes from the strategy have an impact and other issues may become apparent or affect the prioritisation of certain areas.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Draft Autism Strategy	Commissioning Unit Southwark Council 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Peta Smith 020 7525 3629
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=38322		
Joint Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Strategy	Commissioning Unit Southwark Council 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Peta Smith 020 7525 3629
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5407		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	All Age Autism Strategy (circulated separately)
Appendix 2	Southwark Autism Strategy Consultation (circulated separately)

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Stephanie Cryan, Adult Care and Financial Inclusion	
Lead Officer	David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director of Children's and Adults' Services	
Report Author	Peta Smith, Commissioning Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	18 November 2015	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	N/a
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	N/a
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	27 November 2015	