

<b>Item No.</b> 7.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 23 February 2016	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Southwark's All Age Autism Strategy and How This Impacts Looked After Children	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Senior Commissioning Manager	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That it be noted that officers will undertake an audit to understand the numbers of Southwark looked after children and care leavers with autism. The audit will then be followed by a review of the support needs of those children, and the support and training needs of those providing the support.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The council and Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have committed to ensuring that local people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (autism) of all ages are able to fulfill their potential, with the care and support they need to lead safe, healthy, independent lives as part of their local communities.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The strategy aims to deliver better outcomes for local people with autism throughout their lives. The success of the implementation of the strategy will be measured against national 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 planning these services.

6. An initial draft strategy was developed and a formal consultation held between 31 July and 23 October 2015.
7. The final strategy was presented and adopted by cabinet in December 2015.

### **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

8. 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 and adults in Southwark. This will enable services to be commissioned appropriately.
9. The majority of looked after children are placed out of the borough and this makes it more challenging to monitor and address issues in relation to their health and wellbeing. Further work will be undertaken to improve oversight of children on the autistic spectrum so that their longer term needs are identified and that there is a smooth transition to adults' services.
10. 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 which meets four times annually.

### **Policy implications**

11. The development of the strategy has been shaped by the National Autism Strategy for Adults: *Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*<sup>1</sup> and the refreshed national strategy *Think Autism* (2014).
12. The statutory guidance<sup>2</sup> 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)<sup>3</sup> confirms the need to put people and their carers in control of their care and support, which is further supported by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Guidelines<sup>4</sup>.

### **Community impact statement**

13. 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**

14. There are likely to be resource implications that arise from this strategy, particularly relating to training and development for staff across the council and CCG.

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

<sup>2</sup> Adult Autism Strategy Statutory Guidance (2015). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-autism-strategy-statutory-guidance>

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

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

15. Recommendations that arise from the implementation of the strategy will be submitted in accordance with decision making requirements, and it is understood that these will be considered within the context of reducing budgets, but also a full understanding of the expected benefits and the potential impact any changes will have on future use of services.

**Consultation**

16. An initial draft strategy was developed and a formal consultation held between 31 July and 23 October 2015. 56 individual responses were received, plus 3 summary responses from teams who support people with autism (approximately 25 people) and 14 attendees at consultation events. These responses have been reviewed and the strategy has been updated to respond to the key issues raised.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

**APPENDICES**

No.	Title
None	

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Peta Smith, Commissioning Manager	
<b>Report Author</b>	Simon Mitchell, Senior Commissioning Manager	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	10 February 2016	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
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