



Public Health
England

Autism self-assessment exercise 2013

Harrow

About Public Health England

Public Health England's mission is to protect and improve the nation's health and to address inequalities through working with national and local government, the NHS, industry and the voluntary and community sector. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

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Local authority area

1. How many Clinical Commissioning Groups do you need to work with to implement the Adult Autism Strategy in your local authority area?

1

Comment

Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group

2. Are you working with other local authorities to implement part or all of the priorities of the strategy?

- Yes
 No

If yes, how are you doing this?

We are working with the West London Alliance on a project on complex needs which includes some adults with autism. This involves development of the market for care and cross-borough specialist commissioning. (Project initiation document available if required)

Planning

3. Do you have a named joint commissioner/senior manager of responsible for services for adults with autism?

- Yes
 No

If yes, what are their responsibilities and who do they report to? Please provide their name and contact details.

The Head of Commissioning and Partnerships who reports to the Director of Adult Social Services and Sue Whiting, Head of Commissioning, Mental Health, Learning Disabilities & Carers, NHS Harrow

Their responsibilities are to:

- lead on the development of services for adults with autism in the local area
- participate in relevant local and regional strategic planning groups and partnership boards
- ensure that personalisation is addressing the needs of adults with autism

4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

As part of the JSNA refresh we are having a rolling programme of thematic updates. We are putting together a report specifically on autism.

5. Have you started to collect data on people with a diagnosis of autism?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Comment

Adult diagnostic figures are monitored by the CCG. Young people with a diagnosis of autism is shared annually in order to plan effective transition to adult social care services. Autism is not currently recorded as a category on our client record system.

6. Do you collect data on the number of people with a diagnosis of autism meeting eligibility criteria for social care (irrespective of whether they receive any)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, what is

the total number of people?

the number who are also identified as having a learning disability?

the number who are identified as also having mental health problems?

Comment

These figures are not yet obtainable due to system changes needed. Autism is not currently recorded as a category on our client record system. Work is underway to make this possible.

7. Does your commissioning plan reflect local data and needs of people with autism?

- Yes
- No

If yes, how is this demonstrated?

Our strategy contains information on local needs and includes detailed GP data on the numbers of people with Aspergers Syndrome. We also have detailed local information on children and young people with autism which informs our commissioning for future support.

Information on needs and gaps in provision has been gathered from people with ASC, carers, support organisations and other stakeholders.

8. What data collection sources do you use?

- Red
- Red/Amber
- Amber
- Amber/Green
- Green

Comment

We have used local prevalence estimates, GP patient data, records of children with SEN, young people approaching transition and diagnostic figures.

9. Is your local Clinical Commissioning Group or Clinical Commissioning Groups (including the Support Service) engaged in the planning and implementation of the strategy in your local area?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Comment

The local autism strategy is a joint strategy and the Autistic Spectrum Conditions Project Board is run in partnership with the local authority and the CCG. The CCG commissioner is co-chair and there is also CCG GP representation.

10. How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their carers in planning?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Please give an example to demonstrate your score.

People with autism and their carers were part of a large consultation event to gather views to develop the strategy. Views were also gathered from people with ASC as part of attendance at support groups. Carers and advocates of people with autism are well represented on the ASC Project Board which steers the implementation of the strategy. Harrow Council's Carers Lead officer provides information, advice and support to carers of people with autism. The officer is autism aware and is able to provide information on support and services available.

11. Have reasonable adjustments been made to everyday services to improve access and support for people with autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please give an example.

Harrow Council's access criteria are universal and people are supported by social work teams based on their need rather than their client group. Access Harrow, will be part of the awareness training programme as they are the first point of contact for all Council issues.

12. Do you have a Transition process in place from Children's social services to Adult social services?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please give brief details of whether this is automatic or requires a parental request, the mechanism and any restrictions on who it applies to.

We have a clear transition protocol in place and a well established and dedicated transition team. They work closely with Children's Services from the early stages of approaching adult social care.

In order to ensure a smooth transfer between the service areas, there is early communication between the relevant teams and timely planning. All young people who are likely to require support from Adult Services are considered at Transition Case Conferences.

A decision is be made as early as possible about which of the two Adult Services teams will take responsibility for each case. The relevant Children's and Adult Services staff ensure that the young person and their parents/carers are informed and involved, and their interests are at the centre of all that is done.

The team has had very good outcomes, such as finding supported accommodation for young people in transition (see advocate story).

13. Does your planning consider the particular needs of older people with Autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Our autism care pathway is inclusive of older people. Social care teams are generic and are all part of our autism training programme, as well as the Council's older people's day service. Personal budgets allow for tailored support and we have also commissioned a 65+ floating housing support service that can be provided for people with autism. The needs assessment contains GP data on the numbers of people with Aspergers Syndrome in Harrow in each age group, including 65+. Data collection will be improved as part of preparation for the JSNA thematic needs assessment process.

Training

14. Have you got a multi-agency autism training plan?

- Yes
 No

15. Is autism awareness training being/been made available to all staff working in health and social care?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment: Specify whether Self-Advocates with autism are included in the design of training and/or whether they have a role as trainers. If the latter specify whether face-to-face or on video/other recorded media.

A multi-agency training needs assessment has been carried out and training will be run collaboratively. We are receiving autism training from a local organisation which employs people with autism to self-advocate and help to deliver the face to face training as well as the National Autistic Society.

We also have a member of staff with a high level of expertise around autism who has received autism trainer development and accreditation from the National Autistic Society. She provides ongoing training to her own team and we are rolling this out to our other residential services.

16. Is specific training being/been provided to staff that carry out statutory assessments on how to make adjustments in their approach and communication?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comments

Staff who carry out community care assessments are part of a programme to deliver both autism awareness training and training on how to effectively support people through social care assessments. In addition, our reablement staff, financial assessors and Client Liason Officers will receive autism training.

17. Have Clinical Commissioning Group(s) been involved in the development of workforce planning and are general practitioners and primary care practitioners engaged included in the training agenda?

- Yes
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

The CCG is a key part of the training agenda. We have carried out a multi-agency training needs assessment and we have GP involvement in planning the training programme which includes GPs and primary care practitioners.

18. Have local Criminal Justice services engaged in the training agenda?

- Yes
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

Our training programme covers plans for training our local team that works with mentally disordered offenders and the Youth Offending Team. In addition, an ASC Project Board representative has met with the Borough Commander to discuss their training needs.

Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please provide further comment.

Yes we have an established local diagnostic pathway. The pathway has now been reviewed and revised following an increase in referrals and lengthening waits for assessment with an outcome to deliver reduced waiting times and identification of outcome and on-going need

20. If you have got an established local diagnostic pathway, when was the pathway put in place?

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

1

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

2010

Comment

21. How long is the average wait for referral to diagnostic services?

Please report the total number of weeks

4

Comment

From implementation of the new service this will be 4 weeks. The local assessment pathway has been re commissioned to ensure a measurable referral to assessment KPI.

22. How many people have completed the pathway in the last year?

11

Comment

Issues arising from referral pathway identified a need to redefine the service specification and referral pathway. This is now complete- new pathway will be in place from October 2013.

23. Has the local Clinical Commissioning Group(s)/support services taken the lead in developing the pathway?

- Yes
 No

Comment

Harrow CCG has an identified a clinical director who leads on Autism, who has been fully engaged in the development of the new assessment pathway which has been presented to and signed off at CCG board level. The lead is also a member of the joint Autism Board and is working to implement the action plan from the Adult Autism Strategy.

24. How would you describe the local diagnostic pathway, ie Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis or a specialist autism specific service?

- a. *Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis*
 b. *Specialist autism specific service*

Please comment further

The ASC Project Board are working towards delivery of a more integrated service provision.

25. In your local diagnostic path does a diagnosis of autism automatically trigger an offer of a Community Care Assessment?

- Yes
 No

Please comment, i.e. if not who receives notification from diagnosticians when someone has received a diagnosis?

This element of provision is part of the new service specification.

26. What post-diagnostic support (in a wider personalisation perspective, not just assuming statutory services), is available to people diagnosed?

Additional requirements are commissioned on a case by case basis.

Care and support

27. Of those adults who were assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and are in receipt of a personal care budget, how many people have a diagnosis of Autism both with a co-occurring learning disability and without?

a. Number of adults assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and in receipt of a personal budget

b. Number of those reported in 27a. who have a diagnosis of Autism but not learning disability

c. Number of those reported in 27a. who have both a diagnosis of Autism AND Learning Disability

Comment

This data is not currently available as autism is not yet detailed on our system. Work is underway to change this so that analysis can be carried out.

28. Do you have a single identifiable contact point where people with autism whether or not in receipt of statutory services can get information signposting autism-friendly entry points for a wide range of local services?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please give details

29. Do you have a recognised pathway for people with autism but without a learning disability to access a community care assessment and other support?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please give details

As part of our Autism Care Pathway for adults, people with autism but no learning disability are referred in to the Assessment and Brief Treatment Team at Harrow CNWL for a health and social care assessment. Where assessed as eligible, this may lead to the allocation of a personal budget to provide services to meet the person's needs.

30. Do you have a programme in place to ensure that all advocates working with people with autism have training in their specific requirements?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Key advocacy organisations have been covered in the training needs assessment and plans are in place to work together on training.

31. Do adults with autism who could not otherwise meaningfully participate in needs assessments, care and support planning, appeals, reviews, or safeguarding processes have access to an advocate?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Harrow Mencap provide advocacy services and support people who have a learning disability in Harrow to access services.

Loud and Clear Advocacy in Harrow provides support to people who are accessing services via the mental health route. They help people to take an active and informed role in determining their care and treatment. This also includes an advocacy service at Northwick Park Hospital, offering support to people during ward rounds and care planning meetings.

These organisations have been covered in the training needs assessment and will be part of the training programme.

32. Can people with autism access support if they are non Fair Access Criteria eligible or not eligible for statutory services?

- Yes
 No

Provide an example of the type of support that is available in your area.

All non FACS eligible people are able to access information, advice and signposting from Harrow Council. In addition, we have two organisations in Harrow that provide support to people with autism and their carers.

- ADHD & Autism Support Harrow supports parents, carers, professionals and individuals affected by a diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). They provide information, training, support groups and practical help.
- ASC The Centre is a centre for adults aged 18 - 60 years old with autistic spectrum conditions, mainly Aspergers Syndrome and High Functioning Autism. They offer a wide variety of sessions and activities to meet our clients' needs and interests to help them to live as independently as possible.

33. How would you assess the level of information about local support in your area being accessible to people with autism?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Comment

The Autism Centre and ADHD and Autism Support provide information on non statutory services available, such as advocacy, social groups and support for carers. Statutory organisations provides information on a range of both statutory and non-statutory services including day services, residential care, respite and housing support.

Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Comment

The Housing Strategy 2013 - 2018 covers the needs of people with disabilities more generally rather than specifically mentioning autism. In particular, the strategy outlines that we are targeting social housing at vulnerable groups. In reviewing the Council's allocations scheme, and introducing a Tenancy strategy, we will be giving priority to people with additional needs where their current home is unsuitable because of those additional needs. We provide supported housing and floating accommodation support to people in their homes, this has worked well for individuals with autism. As part of a review of Harrow Council's in-house residential services a decision has been made to develop a new autism-specific supported living plus service for adults with autism who require support. This will be developed during 2013/14.

Employment

35. How have you promoted in your area the employment of people on the Autistic Spectrum?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Harrow Council is currently supporting people with autism into employment via its in-house employment service. Representatives from JobcentrePlus are on the Autistic Spectrum Conditions Project Board and this will form a work stream when implementing the strategy.

36. Do transition processes to adult services have an employment focus?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The transition process involves comprehensive support planning. Support plans are very detailed and cover service user's future aspirations thoroughly.

Criminal Justice System (CJS)

37. Are the CJS engaging with you as a key partner in your planning for adults with autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The Board has liaised with the borough commander about processes and training around autism and appropriate adults.

This marks the end of principal data collection.

Can you confirm that the two requirements for the process to be complete have been met?

a. Have you inspected the pdf output to ensure that the answers recorded on the system match what you intended to enter?

- Yes

b. Has the response for your Local Authority area been agreed by the Autism Partnership Board or equivalent group, and the ratings validated by people who have autism, as requested in the ministerial letter of 5th August 2013?

Yes

The data set used for report-writing purposes will be taken from the system on 30th September 2013.

The data fill will remain open after that for two reasons: to allow entry of the dates on which Health and Well Being Boards discuss the submission and to allow modifications arising from this discussion to be made to RAG rated or yes/no questions.

Please note modifications to comment text or additional stories entered after this point will not be used in the final report.

What was the date of the meeting of the Health and Well Being Board that this was discussed?

Please enter in the following format: 01/01/2014 for the 1st January 2014.

Day

9

Month

1

Year

2014