

REPORT FOR: HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date of Meeting: 9 January 2014

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT** – Autism Self Assessment

Responsible Officer: Bernie Flaherty, Director of Adult Social Services, Harrow Council

Javina Sehgal, Chief Operating Officer,
NHS Harrow CCG

Exempt: No

Enclosures: Harrow Autism SAF

Section 1 – Summary

As part of the Department of Health review process Health and Wellbeing Boards are expected to discuss the second autism self assessment by the end of January 2014.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

Adult Autism Strategy *Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*.

Reason for Proposal

As part of the Department of Health review process Health and Wellbeing Boards are expected to discuss the second self assessment submitted by the end of January 2014.

Proposal

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to confirm a commitment to the direction that the Harrow Autism Spectrum Conditions Project Board (SCPB) is taking.

Purpose of the Report

The Department of Health is currently leading on a formal review of progress against the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy “Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives” to assure itself that Local Authorities and the NHS are making progress and to assess whether the objectives of the Strategy remain fundamentally the right ones.

Harrow Council on behalf of the Autism SCPB has submitted a self assessment which will be published in full on line (see Appendix 1). The Department of Health will review the returns and the strategy will be revised as necessary by April 2014.

As part of the process, there is an expectation that the self assessment is discussed by the local Health and Well Being Board by the end of January 2014 to provide evidence for local planning and health needs assessment.

Background

The Adult Autism Strategy

The Adult Autism Strategy *Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives* was published in 2010. It is an essential step towards realising the Government’s long term vision for transforming the lives of and outcomes for adults with autism. The Department of Health is the lead policy department for the Strategy but with delivery shared across a range of government departments and agencies, and local health and social service providers.

The Autism Strategy has five areas for action aimed at improving the lives of adults with autism:

- increasing awareness and understanding of autism;
- developing a clear, consistent pathways for diagnosis of autism;
- improving access for adults with autism to services and support;
- helping adults with autism into work; and
- enabling local partners to develop relevant services.

The Strategy is not just about putting in place autism services but about enabling equal access to mainstream services, support and opportunities through reasonable adjustments, training and awareness raising.

Review of the Strategy

The Department of Health is currently leading a formal review of progress against the Strategy. This is an opportunity for Government to assess whether the objectives of the Strategy remain fundamentally the right ones, to be assured of the progress that is being achieved by Local Authorities and the NHS, and consider what should happen to continue to make progress. The investigative stage of the Review will last until the end of October and the Strategy will be revised as necessary by March 2014.

The Self-Assessment

Local Authorities play a key role in implementing the recommendations of the National Autism Strategy and the statutory guidance that supports it. The purpose of the self-assessment is to:

- assist Local Authorities and their partners in assessing progress in implementing the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy;
- see how much progress has been made since the baseline survey, as at February 2012;
- provide evidence of examples of good progress made that can be shared and of remaining challenges.

On-line returns were required to be submitted to Public Health England by **Monday 30th September 2013**.

The questionnaire this year has 37 questions spread across six pages reflecting the different areas of the Autism framework:

1. Planning
2. Training
3. Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner
4. Care and support
5. Housing & Accommodation
6. Employment
7. Criminal Justice System (CJS)

The assessment also has an optional section for self-advocate stories. Some questions have a RAG rating system with scoring criteria for that question. If a question is scored Red or Amber, respondents are asked to say what is stopping progress and for Green scores there will be the opportunity to say what actions have enabled progress.

Examples of good practice and where actions have made a positive impact on individuals are also being sought.

The assessment is a multi-agency perspective and the Council has liaised with the Clinical Commissioning Groups, to reflect the requirements of the implementation of the strategy.

The returns will be analysed by the Public Health England learning disabilities observatory and published in full online.

RAG Status Improvements:

The percentage of Green rated results has improved significantly to 58.82% (13.11% increase) over the two year period since the first self assessment. There are still no Red rated indicators.

RAG Ratings	Green	Amber	Red
2012/13	58.82%	41.18%	0%
2010/11	45.71%	54.29%	0%

Strengths

The self assessment identified a number of strengths:

- **Joint Strategy** - The local autism strategy is jointly led and the Autistic Spectrum Conditions Project Board is run in partnership with the local authority and the CCG.
- **User Involvement** - People with autism and their carers have a direct influence on the local strategy. This included a large consultation event to gather views to develop the strategy and input was collated from people with ASC as part of attendance at support groups.
- **Training and Awareness** – Autism awareness training has been made available to all staff working in health and social care and key advocacy organisations. GPs are involved in planning the training programme which includes GPs and primary care practitioners.
- **Diagnostic Pathway** – Harrow has established a local diagnostic pathway led by the NHS Commissioner and with an outcome to deliver reduced waiting times and identification of outcome and on-going need.
- **Information about local support** – The Autism Centre and ADHD and Autism Support provide information on non statutory services available, such as advocacy, social groups and support for carers. The Council, GPs and primary care provide information on statutory and non statutory services and support.

Areas for Development

The self assessment identified a number of areas where work is still needed to deliver against the National Strategy, including:

- **IT Systems** – IT systems still need to be improved to allow the collection of data on people with a diagnosis of autism eligible for social care. Data collection will be improved as part of preparation for the JSNA thematic needs assessment process. From April 2014, the Council's systems will have been updated to be able to record data necessary in an easily reportable format.
- **Housing & Accommodation** – the Housing Strategy 2013-18 covers the needs of people with disabilities more generally. As part of Harrow Council's in-house residential services a decision has been made to develop a new autism-specific supported living plus service.

- **Local employment support services** – Harrow Council is supporting people with autism into employment via its in-house employment service. More opportunities are needed externally and representatives from JobCentrePlus are now on the Project Board to implement the strategy.

Conclusion

The Autism Self Assessment was submitted to Public Health England in September 2013. There is some good progress in Harrow that has been highlighted by the self assessment. Areas of further work identified as: improving data (including coding both health and social care), a better understanding of the needs of people on the autistic spectrum in Harrow, further work is needed with housing and local employment support services to ensure that reasonable adjustments are being made where appropriate.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

The work to ensure that the Autism Strategy is delivered in Harrow fits within one of the Council's key priorities, namely, "Supporting and protecting people who are most in need".

Section 3 – Further Information

Further updates will be submitted regarding progress of Harrow's autism strategy.

Section 4 – Financial Implications

This paper is for information on the autism self-assessment. Any financial implications will be developed as part of the Autism Strategy.

Section 5 - Equalities implications

No Equality Impact Assessment was required for the completion of a self assessment. An EqIA will be completed for subsequent implementation of Harrow's autism strategy.

Section 6 – Priorities

This report updates the Board on the progress of the autism strategy in Harrow which, by improving services for people with autism, contributes to the priority of a fairer Harrow.

STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE

(Council and Joint Reports)

Name: Donna Edwards

on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 18 December 2013

Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Chris Greenway, Interim Head of Safeguarding Assurance & Quality Services, 020 8424 1043

Background Papers: List **only non-exempt** documents relied on to a material extent in preparing the report. (eg previous reports) Where possible also include electronic link.

Harrow Autism SAF.pdf attached