



Autism Self Evaluation

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

We are working with the Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG)

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?

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 Local Authority is the lead commissioner for Learning Disability Services (adults of working age and older adults), and autism is incorporated into these responsibilities.
Mental Health commissioning is not covered by joint arrangements however the commissioning plans of partner organisations are aligned*

4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Steps are in place to include Autism in the 2014 JSNA - aka 'Understanding Herefordshire'

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

*Currently there is no systematic recording of this data for Herefordshire.
 From 2014 we are planning to collect data on health conditions (including autism) as part of the new Equalities and Classifications Framework (EQ-CL) data for the adult social care national data collections.*

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

*We currently have no systematic way of collecting data on the health conditions (such as autism) which may give rise to a client's need for social care. In some cases details will be recorded in case notes by care managers as part of the care assessment and planning process where they judge it relevant, but not in any way that can be summarised or reported on.
 From 2014 we are planning to collect data on health conditions (including autism) as part of the new Equalities and Classifications Framework (EQ-CL) data for the adult social care national data collections.*

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

- Yes
 No

If yes, how is this demonstrated?

8. What data collection sources do you use?

- Red
 Red/Amber
 Amber
 Amber/Green
 Green

Comment

We maintain a Transition Register which aims to ensure no young person is lost through the transition process, and we also employ 2 FTE SEN Personal Assistants to carry out the S139a LDD assessments. The register uses information from schools but does not receive information from GPs.

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 CCG were involved in the development of our Autism Strategy and they have also been part of the approval process. The CCG will also be part of the Partnership Board which will oversee the implementation of the Strategy.

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.

There was a limited amount of consultation during the recent production of our Autism Strategy. This consultation included people with autism. It is intended that people with autism will be asked to play an active role in the newly created Partnership Board which will oversee the implementation of the strategy

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.

Currently we only have anecdotal examples of adjustments being made to everyday services in order to improve access and support for people with autism

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.

The process does not require a parental request. The process identifies young people with a potential need for adult social services as they approach transition. The process, which is described in detail in the Transition Protocol, takes the young person through to an Adult Social Care Panel 6 months prior to the young person's 18th birthday.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Currently there is no dedicated collection of data, assessment of need or specific training in dealing with autism in older people's services.

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 day's training entitled 'Autism Awareness' is currently delivered on a regular basis. This training is facilitated by members of the ALD team and coordinated by HOOPLÉ (our strategic training partner). It is open to anyone supporting an adult with a learning disability and autism in Herefordshire and is free of charge.
 Video clips are used to provide the perspective of a self-advocate with autism on the one day training.*

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

Over 75% of social care staff who carry out statutory assessments have attended 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.

To date they have not been involved in the development of workforce planning or the training agenda. There are currently plans to include the CCG in a Task & Finish group which will have been asked to develop an Integrated Adult Social Care Workforce Plan

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

- Yes
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

Although the Local Criminal Justice System have not been engaged in the training agenda they have been engaged in the development of the Autism Strategy and they will be asked to participate in the newly created Partnership Board which will oversee the implementation of the strategy.

[Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner](#)

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please provide further comment.

A local diagnostic pathway is not available for LD services in Hereford.

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

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

Comment

Please see response to question 19

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

Please report the total number of weeks

Comment

Please see response to question 19

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

Comment

Please see response to question 19

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

- Yes
 No

Comment

Please see response to question 19

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

Please see response to question 19

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?

Please see response to question 19

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

Please see response to question 19

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

It is not possible to answer question 27 - please see response to question 6

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

No - however, improved signposting of services for people with autism is a key aspect of our recently created autism strategy. This process will include employing the services of local third sector experts in signposting people with autism, their carers and their families to local services

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

No - however, the creation of such a pathway will be considered as part of our new autism strategy

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

There is an advocacy programme in place however, currently, not all advocates have yet received training in their specific requirements.

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

There are mechanisms in place to ensure that those who require a service can be referred to an advocate.

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.

No - to access adult social care personal budgets clients must be Fair Access Criteria eligible. Broader information, advice and guidance services are available for people who are not eligible but these are not Autism specific.

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

Currently there is a minimal amount of information regarding appropriate local provision and choice however an improved level of information and signposting of services for people with autism is a key aspect of our recently created autism strategy.

Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

There is no mention of Autism within the current local housing strategy. However, housing requirements of people with autism is a key theme within our autism strategy and they will be more fully reflected in future versions of the housing strategy.

Employment

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

To date, there has been minimal work in this area. However, improving employment opportunities and better training of staff involved with people with autism is a key theme within our autism strategy. This will include engagement with the local Job CentrePlus service.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Our recently agreed Transitions Protocol highlights the roles of post 16 education and training providers, Job CentrePlus and schools in preparing and supporting young people for transition into paid employment or volunteering, the provision of information and advice on the range of programmes and grants available to support people into employment or gain new skills and to identify further education opportunities and provision.

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

Representatives from the Local Criminal Justice System were engaged in the development of the Autism Strategy and they will be asked to participate in the newly created Partnership Board which will oversee the implementation of the strategy. This process has yet to begin.

Optional Self-advocate stories

Self-advocate stories.

Up to 5 stories may be added. These need to be less than 2000 characters. In the first box, indicate the Question Number(s) of the points they illustrate (may be more than one). In the comment box provide the story.

Self-advocate story one

Question number

Comment

Self-advocate story two

Question number

Comment

Self-advocate story three

Question number

Comment

Self-advocate story four

Question number

Comment

Self-advocate story five

Question number

Comment

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:

1. to allow entry of the dates on which Health and Well Being Boards discuss the submission and
2. 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

Month

Year