

MEETING:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
MEETING DATE:	28th January 2014

TITLE OF REPORT:	Autism Strategy 2014-2017
REPORT BY:	Commissioning Support Officer

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not a key decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

The Board is asked to note and approve the strategy document.

5. Recommendation(s)

THAT:

(a) **The Board note and approves the Autism Strategy**

6. Alternative Options

6.1 There are no Alternative Options

7. Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 The Board is asked to approve the strategy to enable the council to meet its obligations under the 2009 Autism Act and subsequent legislation.

8. Key Considerations

8.1 The 2009 Autism Act and subsequent legislation required all local authorities to have a strategy for dealing with people who are diagnosed with Autism. The attached document outlines how Herefordshire Council and the CCG, working with partners organisations in Health and the Third Sector, will develop services and provision for adults and children with autism in the county. The strategy highlights the need for improvement diagnosis for people with autism, improved training for those who

come into contact with those who have the condition as well as better support for those with autism, their families and their carers. The strategy also considers how those with autism can be helped to access employment opportunities, legal advice and suitable housing.

9. Community Impact

- 9.1 The Strategy seeks to help those with autism, together with families and carers, across the county. It is estimated that approximately 1% of the adult population has some form of autism. Detailed figures on the estimated numbers in Herefordshire can be found in the appendices to the Strategy.

10. Equality and Human Rights

The strategy will enable the Council to address issues of discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct as prohibited by or under Equalities Legislation.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 There are no financial implications identified.

12. Legal Implications

- 12.1 The approval and implementation of this strategy will enable the Council to meet its obligations under the 2009 Autism Act and subsequent legislation.

13. Risk Management

- 13.1 There are no risks identified

14. Consultees

- 14.1 The draft document has been agreed by the relevant Cabinet Leads for Adults and Children.

15. Appendices

- 15.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Autism Strategy

16. Background Papers

- 16.1 None identified.