

2014 Autism Self-Assessment Framework – Word version of the submission

1. Introduction		
Question 1:	How many Clinical Commissioning Groups do you need to work with to implement the Adult Autism Strategy in your local authority area?	One (1)
	Supplementary: Please indicate which ones these are	Not applicable
Question 2:	Are you working with other local authorities to implement part or all of the priorities of the strategy?	No
	Supplementary: If yes, name these local authorities and identify which priorities, including how you are doing this. What partnership representative sits on the Autism Partnership Board or equivalent?	Not applicable
2. Planning		
Question 3:	Who is the joint commissioner/senior manager responsible for services for adults with autism? Please provide their name and contact details and who they report to.	Name; Mr Ewan Archibald Contact details; Ewan.Archibald@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel; 01432 261970 Reports to; Mr Robert Vickers
Question 4:	What is the name of the post for the joint commissioner/senior manager of responsible for services for adults with autism?	Lead Commissioner
Question 5:	What are the responsibilities of the joint commissioner/senior manager of responsible for services for adults with autism?	To commission services for adults with Learning Disabilities including Autism.
Question 6:	Is Autism included in the local JSNA?	Amber Steps are in place to include in the next JSNA.
Question 6.01:	Does your local JSNA specifically consider the needs of children and young people with autism?	Our Children's Integrated Needs Assessment feeds into our JSNA which will in future specifically include Autism
	Supplementary: Provide a web link and page references.	Not applicable
Question 7:	Have you now started to collect data on those people referred to and/or accessing social care and/or health care and does your information system report data on people with a diagnosis of autism, including as a secondary condition, in line with the requirements of the social care framework?	Red Data recorded on adults with autism is sparse and not collected methodically. Clients with autism are not routinely currently identified within our case recording systems. Generally, autism is only recorded where the adult is also LD. This is something which needs development in the coming months in order to improve our reporting capabilities to support better commissioning activity data.
Question 8:	Do you collect data on the total number of people currently known to social care services with a diagnosis of autism (whether new or long-standing) meeting eligibility criteria for social care (irrespective of whether they receive any)	No
	Supplementary: Comment briefly if you wish on how you collect these numbers locally. If so, what is: (Note: Some people may be counted in both groups 2 and 3)	Clients with autism but without LD are not routinely identified within our case recording systems. This is something which needs development in the coming months in order to improve our reporting capabilities to support better commissioning activity data.
Question 8.02	The total number of people meeting social care eligibility criteria with autism?	107
Question 8.03:	The number of people meeting social care eligibility criteria with autism who also have learning disabilities?	89

Question 8.04	The number of people meeting social care eligibility criteria with autism who also have mental health problems?		0
Question 8.05	The numbers assessed as having autism but not meeting eligibility criteria?		3
Question 9:	Does your Local Joint Strategic Commissioning Plan reflect local data and needs of people with autism?		No
	Supplementary: Clients with autism are not routinely identified within our case recording systems. This is something which needs development in the coming months in order to improve our reporting capabilities to support better commissioning activity data.		
Question 9.01:	What data collection sources do you use?	Amber	We have made a start in collecting data and plan to produce a better level of detail within it. The data that we do collect, for example for the SAF does contain data on those with ASD and LD however these two groups are not separated out. We are working with Taurus – the local GP group to develop the use of specific common codes for the identification of these groups.
	Supplementary: Provide a web link to a local published summary of numbers or say where this can be obtained. Not applicable		
Question 10:	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?	Amber	Representatives from CCG and / or the support service sit on autism partnership board or alternative and are in regular liaison with the LA about planning and implementation
Question 11:	How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their carers in planning?	Amber	Some autism specific consultation work has taken place. The Chair of the Autism Partnership Board is on the spectrum and is a parent/Carer of someone on the spectrum. The group is also regularly attended by a number of people on the spectrum as well as their parents/Carers
	Supplementary: We consulted with a range of people with autism and their carers when writing our strategy. People with autism and their carers are members of our Autism Partnership Board. Members of The Partnership Board, including those with Autism have acted as an Editorial Team in writing this self-assessment.		
Question 12:	Have reasonable adjustments been made to general council services to improve access and support for people with autism?	Red	Only anecdotal examples.
	Supplementary: Specify what you did to demonstrate your score. Not applicable		
Question 13:	In your area have reasonable adjustments been promoted to enable people with autism to access public services?	Amber	There are some examples of reasonable adjustments being made to public services to improve access for people with autism, across a small range of services
Question 14:	How do your transition processes from Children's services to Adult services take into account the particular needs of young people with autism?	Green	Transition process automatic. Training inclusive of young people's services. Analysis of the needs of population of young people, including those without education health and care (EHC) plans and specialist commissioning where necessary and the appropriate reasonable adjustments made
Question 14.01:	How many children with autism are currently identified and receiving assistance in the transition ages (14 to 17) in the year to the end of March 2014?		30 in the age range specified with statements or EHC plans with primary or secondary need of ASD (hence will have transition plans)
Question 14.02:	How many children with autism have been through the		2 YP turned 18 in that year with statements or EHC plans with primary or secondary

	transition process in the year to the end of March 2014?	need of ASD (hence will have transition plans). A further 5 YP turned 19.	
Question 15:	How does your planning take into account the particular needs of older people with autism?	Red	We do not currently collect this data.
	Supplementary: Comment - This is an issue that we will be addressing in our action plan which will follow this self-assessment		
Question 16:	How do your planning and implementation of the strategy take into account the particular needs of women with autism?	The planning and implementation of our strategy seeks to address the needs of all people on the spectrum in our county regardless of gender.	
Question 17:	How do your planning and implementation of the strategy take into account the particular needs of people who have autism in BME communities?	The planning and implementation of our strategy seeks to address the needs of all people on the spectrum in our county regardless of ethnic origin	
3. Training			
Question 18:	Have you got a multi-agency autism training plan?	We have a multi-agency training plan which includes autism	
	Supplementary: What staff groups and agencies are included?	Provide a link if necessary	
Question 19:	Is autism awareness training being/been made available to all staff working in health and social care?	Amber	Autism awareness training is not currently made available to all staff working in health and social care separately but is included as part of our focus on improving outcomes
	Supplementary: The raising of autism awareness amongst all of our front line staff including those who deliver health and social care is a key priority in our local Strategy. Plans are in place to ensure that when services such as our diagnostic pathway (which is currently under construction) are made available for tender, all prospective bidders will be required to offer awareness training to all of their staff. We are also working with our local GP group to ensure that autism awareness is included in locally provided training for staff. A day's training entitled 'Autism Awareness' is currently delivered on a regular basis to staff in our children's services and we are looking to expand this course to include staff working with adults.		
Question 20:	Is specific training being/been provided to staff that carry out statutory assessments on how to make adjustments in their approach and communication?	Amber	No specific training is currently being offered however staff can access specialist advice and support through our Learning Disability Health Team on a case by case basis
	Supplementary: The raising of autism awareness amongst all of our front line staff including those who deliver health and social care is a key priority in the Strategy. Plans are in place to develop training for staff involved in the assessment process. This will include training in ensuring that the Care Act is fully implemented in respect to the rights of the carers of those with Autism.		
Question 21:	Do Clinical Commissioning Group(s) ensure that all primary and secondary healthcare providers include autism training as part of their ongoing workforce development?	No	
	Supplementary: All providers produce and deliver equality and diversity training for their staff. We are working with them to ensure that Autism is part of this training offer. This will make autism awareness training mandatory for all health staff in the area.		
Question 22:	Criminal Justice services: Do staff in the local police service engage in autism awareness training?	Yes	
	Supplementary: West Mercia Police ensure that officers receive training on dealing with Autism and people on the spectrum. In 2013, all officers underwent training on autism awareness and this had been followed up by mandatory E-Training.		
Question 23:	Criminal Justice services: Do staff in the local court services engage in autism awareness training?	No – as part of our Autism Strategy we are seeking to engage with the local court service to improve level of autism awareness training that is offered	

Question 24:	Criminal Justice services: Do staff in the local probation service engage in autism awareness training?	No – as part of our Autism Strategy we are seeking to engage with the local probation service to improve level of autism awareness training that is offered
4. Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner		
Question 25:	Have you got an established local autism diagnostic pathway?	Red We currently spot purchase provision on a case by case basis. Although we have an identified pathway this needs to be brought in-house and we are currently working to achieve this through the development of an agreed diagnostic pathway.
	Supplementary: This issue is something that we need to ensure is addressed in our work in developing a diagnostic pathway	
Question 26:	If you have got an established local autism diagnostic pathway, when was the pathway put in place?	Not applicable
	Supplementary: Not applicable	
Question 27:	In the year to the end of March 2014, how many people were referred out of area for diagnosis, despite a local diagnostic pathway being in place?	Number 8
	Supplementary: 4 of the people were referred for Aspergers. 4 of the people were referred for Autism	
Question 28:	In weeks, how long is the average wait between referral and assessment? (Note, this should include all people referred irrespective of prioritisation streams)	Number - Not known
	Supplementary: We do not have data on average waiting times. This is an area that we are starting to monitor and will build it into the diagnostic pathway which we are currently developing	
Question 29:	How many people have been referred for an assessment but have yet to receive a diagnosis?	Number - 1
	Supplementary: Comment	
Question 30:	In the year to the end of March 2014 how many people have received a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum condition?	Number - 8
	Supplementary: We expect to be able to monitor this more closely next year once our pathway is place.	
Question 31:	How many of the people receiving a diagnosis in the year to end March 2014 had moved on to appropriate services by end September 2014?	Number - 0
	Supplementary: We do not currently have appropriate services in place. Our current pathway goes as far as diagnosis but not onto aftercare. This situation will be improved once our diagnostic pathway has been implemented	
Question 32:	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?	
	Supplementary: Our pathway is still under development and yet to be located within mainstream services. Once it has been developed and approved it will be integrated into mainstream statutory services with specialist awareness of autism within the diagnosis process.	
Question 33:	In your local diagnostic pathway does a diagnosis of autism automatically trigger an offer of a Community Care Assessment (or re-assessment if the person has already had a current community care assessment)?	No
	Supplementary: Our pathway will have this trigger in place to ensure an offer of a Community Care Assessment	
Question 34:	Can people diagnosed with autism access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted psychology assessments?	Red Only people diagnosed with autism with LD can access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted psychology assessments
Question 35:	Can people diagnosed with autism access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted speech and language therapy	Red Only people diagnosed with autism with LD can access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted speech and language therapy assessments

	assessments?		
Question 36:	Can people diagnosed with autism access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted occupational therapy assessments?	Red	Only people diagnosed with autism with LD can access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted occupational therapy assessments
Question 37:	Is post-diagnostic adjustment support available with local clinical psychology or other services?		No - Only people diagnosed with autism with LD can access post-diagnostic adjustment support available with local clinical psychology or other services
5. Care and support			
Question 38	Of those adults who were assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and who are in receipt of a personal budget, how many have a diagnosis of Autism both with a co-occurring learning disability and without?	(Where respondents are able to answer questions 2 and 3, the total should equal the total for question 1)	
Question 38.01:	Number of adults assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and in receipt of a personal budget		75
Question 38.02:	Number of those reported in 1 who have a diagnosis of Autism but not learning disability		60
Question 38.03:	Number of those reported in 1 who have both a diagnosis of Autism AND Learning Disability		15
Question 39:	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?		We provide a general entry point level of service. We plan to develop more autism specific points of access in future. We are commissioning a new information, advice and guidance hub and service and will expect the provider to provide access to specific autism information
	Supplementary: We are currently working with our partner Herefordshire Carers Support, our Childrens Team and our Web Team to design an autism-friendly entry point for local services which will include provision such as the 'Local Offer'.		
Question 40:	Do you have a recognised pathway for people with autism but without a learning disability to access a community care assessment and other support?		No
	Supplementary: We are currently working with our local NAS branch office to design and implement a pathway for people with autism to access a community care assessment and other support		
Question 41:	Do you have a programme in place to ensure that all advocates working with people with autism have training in their specific requirements?	Amber	There is an advocacy programme in place. We are currently working to ensure that all advocates receive training to meet their specific requirements
	Supplementary: Training in awareness and support for families and carers are two key priorities within our strategy towards which we are currently working		
Question 42:	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 appropriately trained advocate?	Amber	There are mechanisms in place to ensure that those who require a service can be referred to an advocate. Local advocacy services are continually working at becoming more autism-aware
	Supplementary: Comment:		
Question 43:	Can people with autism access support if they are non Fair Access Criteria eligible or not eligible for statutory services?		Yes
	Supplementary: Provide an example of the type of support that is available in your area and how you measure if it is successful		
Question 44:	How would you assess the level of information about local	Amber	There is a moderate level of information available about support services for

	support across the area being accessible to people with autism?		people with autism which is either incomplete or not readily accessible to people with autism
	Supplementary: We are currently working to improve the level, quality and accessibility of information about relevant support services available for people with autism.		
Question 45:	Where appropriate are carers of people assessed as having autism and eligible for social care support offered assessments?	Green	Carers assessments are offered to those who are eligible for adult social care
	Supplementary: Under the Care Act we recognise that carers of people assessed as having autism and eligible for social care support will in future be offered assessments to address their own needs. We are currently working towards ensuring that such assessments are available where and when needed.		
6. Housing & Accommodation			
Question 46:	Does the local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?	Red	The needs of people with Autism (as distinct from needs of people with other disabilities) not specifically mentioned in our current housing strategy
	Supplementary: Our Housing Team is currently carrying out a survey on the housing needs of all people with Learning Disabilities or Autism. The survey being used has been discussed and commented upon by our Autism Partnership Group		
Question 47:	Do you have a policy of ensuring that local housing offices all have at least one staff member who has training in autism to help people make applications and fill in necessary forms?		No
	Supplementary: Comment - Increasing awareness of autism amongst our front line staff is a key priority of our Autism Strategy. Staff in local housing offices will be included within any training provision we identify as we implement our action plan		
7. Employment			
Question 48:	How have you promoted in your area the employment of people on the Autistic Spectrum?	Amber	Autism awareness is delivered to employers on an individual basis. Local employment support services include Autism. Some contact made with local job centres
	Supplementary: Employment is a key priority in our autism strategy. Ad-hoc training arrangements are in place with several of our partner organisations and we have made local low level contact with Job Centres. More work is required in this area.		
Question 49:	Do autism transition processes to adult services have an employment focus?	Amber	Transition plans include reference to employment/ activity opportunities
	Supplementary: Childrens Services have created a 'New Horizons Hub' for those aged 19 to 25 offering day college placement in life skills, independent living and employment opportunities. This service is currently offered to those with Learning Disabilities and a similar arrangement is being planned for those with Autism. The Officer who is responsible for transition arrangements and employment sits on our Partnership Group.		
8. Criminal Justice System (CJS)			
Question 50:	Are the Criminal Justice Services (police, probation and, if relevant, court services) engaged with you as key partners in planning for adults with autism?	Amber	Discussions between local authority adult social care services and criminal justice service agencies are continuing; representatives from criminal justice service agencies sit on autism partnership board or alternative
	Supplementary: Improving the links to the Criminal Justice Services is a key priority for our Partnership Group. We currently have representatives from the local Police Services sitting on our Partnership Group and we are working towards getting representation from the courts and probation services		
Question 51	Is access to an appropriate adult service available for people	Red	There is not reliable access to an appropriate Adult service 'places of safety'

	on the Autistic Spectrum in custody suites and nominated	
9. Local good practice		
Question 52:	What are you doing different because of Think Autism – the update to the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy?	As a direct result of “Think Autism” – the update to the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy we have included dealing with Hate Crime as a key priority within our local strategy. We have included our local Inclusion Officer onto our Partnership Board and he is currently developing a local strategy which will combine the recommendations of the NAS ‘Living in Fear’ report with best practice that he has gathered elsewhere from across the region. This will help inform future local decisions and policies. We have also strengthened the presence of our local Community Police force on our Board
Question 53: If you wish,	Describe briefly (up to 1500 Long Comment characters) ONE initiative of your Council, relating to the provision of care for people with Autism, which you think has been successful.	
Question 54:	Describe briefly (up to 1500 characters) an initiative of your Council, relating to the provision of care for people with Autism, which people with Autism in your area think has been most successful and helpful.	In the past eighteen months Herefordshire has set up an Autism Partnership Board. This was something that had not been in existence in the county previously and it has given people with autism a focus and voice on how services are being thought of and developed. The Board is chaired by someone with autism and who is also a carer for someone with autism. The Board has several regular members who also have autism. The Board has been central to developing the action plan to deliver our strategy and it is continuing to work with a range of partners to improve services. The Board has also raised expectations that something positive will be done to keep improving services and facilities for all people with autism, their carers and their families in Herefordshire. <i>Note - This comment was suggested for inclusion by members of the Autism Partnership Board</i>
Question 55:	How is your council planning to spend your Section 31 capital grant of £18,500?	We plan to spend the Section 31 capital grant on a range of telecare equipment which will be used for people with autism who are in transition and who need additional support to help achieve and maintain independence. We will also use the funding to work with carers and care providers, through our Autism Partnership Board, to influence the use of accessible communication systems, such as i-pads, to promote service user choice, inclusion, rights and independence.

10. Optional Self-advocate accounts of experience

Accounts of experiences by self-advocate stories. Up to 3 stories may be added. These should be only direct accounts provided by self-advocates of experiences they have had requiring or using services. They may be descriptions of good or bad experiences. They need to be short - less than 2000 characters in total. They should not identify any actual people or organisations. For example you should replace names of work schemes with [Work Scheme] etc. All submitted accounts meeting these specifications will be published in full subject only to editing to ensure they are anonymised. Publication will group them in the section headings of the questionnaire so ideally you should specify which section they relate to (although obviously some may relate to more than one section).

Question 56.01 Self-Advocate Account 1	
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Type of Question: Long Comment Specify the section to which this relates	
Question 56.02 Comment: Section to which Self-Advocate Account 1 relates Type of Question: Comment Specify the section to which this relates	
Question 56.03 Self-Advocate Account 2 Type of Question: Long Comment Specify the section to which this relates	
Question 56..04 Comment: Section to which Self-Advocate Account 2 relates Type of Question: Comment Specify the section to which this relates	
Question 56..05 Self-Advocate Account 3 Type of Question: Long Comment Specify the section to which this relates	

11. Completion details - Which of the following types of partner were involved in the completion of this self-assessment?

60.01	Local authority adult social services	Yes
60.02	Local authority Dept of Children's services	Yes
60.03	Local education authority	n/a
60.04	Health and wellbeing board	No
60.05	Local authority public health department	Yes
60.06	Clinical Commissioning Group	Yes
60.07	Primary Healthcare providers	Yes
60.08	Secondary Healthcare providers	No
60.09	Employment service	No
60.10	Police	No
60.11	Probation service	No
60.12	Court service	No
60.13	Local charitable / voluntary / self advocacy / interest groups	Yes
60.14	People on the autism spectrum	Yes
60.15	Informal carers, family, friends of people on the autistic spectrum	Yes

Note – our Autism Partnership Board helped to write this self-assessment

Sign off

61.01	Director of Adult Social Services	Helen Coombes
61.02	CCG Chief Operating Officer	Jo Whitehead

Note – the submission spreadsheet shows a 92.2% completion rate - the following questions shown as being incomplete;

Diagnosis – Q2 – asks for the date the diagnosis pathway was put in place – we do not have a pathway hence no date given

Diagnosis – Q4 – asked for average wit figures for diagnosis – we do not know these hence no figure given

Diagnosis – Q8 – Asked if our pathway is integrated or specialized – as our pathway is not in place no category given

Care and Support Q1 (partially complete) – we have given the figures – there is no clear reason why this appears to be only be partially completed

Local Good Practice Q2 – optional question which we did not answer

Self-advocates Experiences Q1 – optional question which we did not answer

Completion Details Q1 (partially complete) – these are complete – not clear why they are shown as incomplete

Completion Details Q2 (partially complete) – these are complete – not clear why they are shown as incomplete