



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

Swindon 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?

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.

*Joint Commissioner Adult and Learning Disabilities
Louise Tapper
ltapper@swindon.gov.uk
Reports to the Strategic Commissioner Adult's.*

4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

☐ Red
☒ Amber
☐ Green

Comment

*The Swindon JSNA is inclusive of all people of all ages living in Swindon.
Swindon has also completed a Learning Disability Needs Assessment which encompasses all ages of children, young people and adults.*

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

- ☐ Red
☒ Amber
☐ Green

Comment

Data is recorded by providers, currently there are different data systems between health and social care, but this will change in 2014 with introduction of a new integrated system.
Some data sharing does take place between providers, and there are good sharing arrangements in place during transition from children to adults services.
Primary Care records a diagnosis of autism using the Read code 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

One of the roles of the ASC social worker is to support the collection and collation of data to inform local knowledge and future service developments.
Due to the use of different systems the data is limited in its accuracy for the current year.

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

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, how is this demonstrated?

The needs of adults with autism are reflected in Swindon's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and commissioning priorities. This is particularly evident with the autism diagnostic pathway which is available for people in Swindon, and which we understand to be one of the few places in the country where this takes place. This service has been running now for a couple of years, and this year was commissioned to undertake double the amount of activity of the previous year. For further information about this service please see: <http://www.seqol.org/community-health-services/adult-autism>

8. What data collection sources do you use?

- ☐ Red
☐ Red/Amber
☐ Amber
☒ Amber/Green
☐ Green

Comment

Data sources from our main health and social care providers is used.

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

Through Joint Commissioning and under Section 75 agreements the CCG is fully engaged and working collaboratively with the Local Authority to implement the NHS responsibilities within 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.

*Swindon has developed links with a large local employer. In June 2013 the company sponsored a well-received conference - Effective support for people with the Autistic Spectrum. Speakers included the chief Executive of the NAS, a representative from the Dept of Health and people with autism.
 The Autism Partnership Group is regularly attended by one person with autism and one parent / carer who are meaningfully involved.*

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.

Clear Council and health policies cover statutory and other wider public services. Swindon has a good autism training programme in place which is enabling everyday services to improve their 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.

There is a clear transitions policy in Swindon implemented by both both children's and adult's social services. The transitions process is automatic for all young people for whom it is required and the process has been enhanced by also including health services. There is enthusiastic sign up by all organisations.

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

- ☐ Red
☐ Amber
☒ Green

Comment

The "One Swindon partnership has four key outcomes that will all have an effect on population health and wellbeing in Swindon . These are:

- * We can all benefit from a growing economy and a better town centre.*
- * I like where I live.*
- * Everyone is enjoying sports, leisure and cultural opportunities.*
- * Living independently, protected from harm, leading healthy lives and making a positive contribution*

These four key outcomes underpin all the planning and commissioning that takes place by Swindon Borough Council and Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group. For all people of all ages.

Specific planning has ensured that autism training is inclusive of the older people's services staff; access to the autism diagnostic service is inclusive of older people; specialist commissioning takes place where necessary and reasonable adjustments made.

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.

Monthly autism training sessions take place for people on the autism spectrum; their families, employers, housing, health, social care and voluntary 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

Swindon has an ASC social worker who promotes development , supporting case workers with their assessments of people with autism.

More than 75% of assessors have attended specialist autism training specifically aimed at applying the knowledge in their undertaking of a statutory assessment and applying FAC's and the NHS Community Care Act.

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 involved in the development of workforce planning through the joint commissioning arrangements with the local Authority and service planning.

Autism training is available for Primary care staff, and GP practices develop their own development plans.

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

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

Swindon is going to bid for funding to develop specific forensic nursing pathways for people with autism.

The Criminal Justice services gave a presentation at the Swindon autism conference.

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 adult autism diagnostic pathway is in place and is accessible. GP's are aware and involved in the process. Referral to diagnosis is within 12 weeks. NICE guidelines are considered within the model. LD is not a factor to access diagnosis. Adult mental health services contribute to the pathway as an individual has secondary mental health problems.

An established autism diagnosis pathway also is in place for children and young people, involving community paediatricians, community services and mental health.

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

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

5

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

2010

Comment

A detailed service which includes support planning.

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

Please report the total number of weeks

12

Comment

CCG commissioners have doubled the capacity of the service for 2013. The service does prioritise cases dependent on need.

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

48

Comment

4 people per month are seen.

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

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Comment

The CCG has worked with the provider to develop the service and provide suitable capacity levels.

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

It is seen as a positive development that the specialist service links to mainstream services.

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?

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

Post diagnostic support is available via Swindon Advocacy Movement (SAM) who provides independent advocacy for people with autism and asperger syndrome through a dedicated advocacy officer. Support is flexible and can be accessed through self or professional referral. Discovering Autistic Spectrum Happiness (DASH), an independent local charity also provides support.

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

Prior to April 2013 limited data was collected in terms of eligibility.

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

*Via the Adult Community Provider website:
<http://www.seqol.org/community-health-services/adult-autism>*

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

Yes, with a specialist social worker.

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

Swindon Advocacy Movement (SAM) and Discovering Autistic Spectrum Happiness (DASH) are fully involved in ensuring their advocates are part of a training programme for autism.

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

Yes, via Swindon Advocacy Movement (SAM) who provides independent advocacy for people with autism and asperger syndrome through a dedicated advocacy officer. Support is flexible and can be accessed through self or professional referral. Discovering Autistic Spectrum Happiness (DASH), an independent local charity also provides support.

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.

Through information and advice and through the Swindon Autism directory: <http://www.seqol.org/community-health-services/adult-autism>

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 Community provider in conjunction with the NAS has developed a directory of services for people with Autism Spectrum Conditions. There are local advocacy and social groups which can support and sign-post people, and there is good access to local IAPT primary mental health services.

Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- ☐ Red
☒ Amber
☐ Green

Comment

The Local Authority Housing Strategy is currently being refreshed and will include reference to autism.

Employment

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

- ☐ Red
☒ Amber
☐ Green

Comment

Energy2work is part of the local health and social care social enterprise which provides employment for people, including people with autism. A large local company has enabled Swindon to run a training workshop specifically for local businesses. Employers are also referred to other training workshops through their contact with employment support programmes, local advocacy services and Swindon's employment sub-group which has recently mapped employment support for people with autism, identifying different pathways.

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

- ☐ Red
☒ Amber
☒ Green

Comment

Yes, the transition process in Swindon does include a strong employment focus. This is commissioned through the Economy and Attainment directorate within the Local Authority.

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 Chairman and Chief Executive of the Wiltshire Probation are members of the One Swindon Board which plans for everyone in Swindon.
The probation service use the Alert card scheme.*

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

1837

Comment

Young man, married with a young child. Sent to prison for GBH following a sudden and severe attack on someone who was regularly 'bantering ' with him. Exemplary prisoner but then struggling in community with managing his anger and managing stress in his home. Probation seeing him had attended some awareness training and referred him for diagnosis. Diagnosed with autism, further support given to his probation officer and support due to be given to his family.

Self-advocate story two

Question number

11181937

Comment

Man in 50's with borderline LD. About to be imprisoned. Had attacked someone who had been bullying him- GBH. Put on community service but could not cope with group/swearing/sensory factors so stopped going. As a result recalled to court. Failed to attend as still angry re 'injustice'. Due to be recalled again for sentencing. Advocate suspected autism and referred for urgent assessment. Clear autism, report sent to court and court agreed to review case. He is now on regular probation visits and he and probation officer is being regularly seen by specialist social worker to look at helping him get rehoused (sensory issues/getting bullied/risk of reoffending as a result) and getting him some support worker time (failing to eat as spending all money on obsessive interests)- Encouraged to attend autism information and advice service.

Self-advocate story three

Question number

19

Comment

Young woman who had failed to attend her first year of university and was about to have education opportunity ended. Non LD, seen for assessment - clear autism profile. Liaison with university to agree disabled student support and adaptations.

Self-advocate story four

Question number

11161934

Comment

Lady in her 50's on verge of losing job due to ongoing low level mental health issues and stress caused by changes at work. Also had gone to live with mother as unable to cope living on own. Diagnosed as autistic and referred to Richmond Fellowship for support/mediation at work. Unlikely to be FACs eligible but given one off 'solution focused session' with specialist AS social worker who was able to steer her towards a supported housing option that she was likely to be eligible for and also give advice on benefits. Also given information about Autism Information and Advice Centre..

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