

9 January 2019**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH****APPROVAL OF REFRESHED JSNA CHAPTER - AUTISM****Purpose of the Report**

1. To request that the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the refreshed Nottinghamshire Autism Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) chapter.
2. This report contains an executive summary of the refreshed chapter. The Board will be approving the full chapter which is available for review on [Nottinghamshire Insight](#).

Information

3. Previously Autism formed part of the JSNA chapter Adults and Vulnerable People 2012
4. In line with National Guidance, to reflect current local issues and to inform Adult Social Care commissioning activity, the Autism section of this chapter has been extracted and refreshed.
5. The Chapter has been endorsed by the owning Group (the Mental Health, Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Learning Disabilities Integrated Steering Group)
6. The Chapter contains details around National autism research and proven ways of working that have positive impacts for people with autism.
7. Limited local data is available and this is reflected in both the chapter and the recommendations.

Introduction

8. Autism is “a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition, the core features of which are persistent difficulties in social interaction and communication and the presence of stereotypical (rigid and repetitive) behaviours, resistance to change or restricted interests” . The way that autism is expressed in individual people differs at different stages of life.
9. Adults with autism face many challenges. Often, they also have co-occurring conditions such as learning disabilities or mental health problems. Those who have higher functioning autism feel they have a ‘hidden’ condition which is not easily recognised or understood by professionals or the public.

10. This Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) will use the term ‘autism’ as an umbrella term for all such conditions, in line with the terminology adopted by key representative organisations such as the National Autistic Society. The chapter will focus on adults with autism however, as part of our understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of this group, the issues faced within childhood may be touched upon.

Diagnosis and prevalence

11. Adult Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is often under-diagnosed, under-reported and misdiagnosed, largely due to the social and communication difficulties listed above. As there is no definitive test for ASD, diagnosis is based on the range of features evaluated by a combination of specialists who work together to make an assessment.
12. It is estimated that around 700,000 people in the UK may be autistic, or more than 1 in 100 in the population. The Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey (APMS) (2014) found the overall prevalence of autism to be 0.7 %, and was higher in men (1.1%) than in women (0.2%). In Nottinghamshire POPPI and PANSI estimates give figures of 5715 males and 667 females with autism (a combined total of 6382). Locally one of the key issues for adults with autism is that they risk falling into the gap between services for people with learning disability and services for people with mental health conditions if they have no diagnosed or recognised comorbidities so could struggle to receive the help they need.

Unmet need and gaps

13. As part of the Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF) for Local Authorities, a number of actions have been identified which will significantly impact in a positive manner on the lives of people living with autism.

Table 1: Actions for Local Authorities identified from the Autism SAF

Pathway step	Unmet need/service gap
Training for staff providing services to people with autism	<i>NCC training is monitored. Is NHS training monitored? Training for hospital staff is not mandatory. There is no co-ordinated system of evaluation around the effectiveness of training on practice.</i>
Identification and diagnosis of autism in children and adults leading to assessment of needs	<i>See NICE ASD Local care pathway Improved referral route – how do GPs record statistics? Introduce central system for recording diagnosis to better service the requirements of planning and commissioning services Different routes to diagnosis – introduce integrated pathway with separate routes for Learning Disability/non Learning Disability</i>
Planning for transition services	<i>More support needed for individuals, parents & carers when moving from Children's to Adult Services</i>
Local provision of services for children and adults	<i>No psychology service in the County and there is limited availability of Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) services</i>

	<i>Crisis services to meet needs of people with autism District Councils are currently assessing how they might meet autism needs in housing strategies with trained staff</i>
Reasonable adjustments and equality	<i>Meet needs of older people/women/BME e.g. bespoke training particularly around cultural and religious needs, accommodation needs for 65+, and potential increase in women presenting with autism.</i>
Supporting people with complex needs who may display challenging behaviour	The transforming Care Partnership Programme is currently addressing the needs of such people
Employment for adults with autism	<i>Build employer capacity and support people with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and their families Voluntary opportunities?</i>
Working with the Criminal Justice System	<i>Training for Custody Suite Officers and Probation Service – e-learning to be shared?</i>

14. Recommendations for consideration by commissioners

	Recommendation	Responsibility
Strategic		
1	Create a multi-agency strategy group for autism as per the Statutory Guidance (Department of Health, 2015) to facilitate a co-ordinated response and enable learning from good practice already available in some areas. The group will be responsible for implementing an Autism Action Plan with oversight and scrutiny from the Health and Wellbeing Board in line with the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2022 priorities for Healthy and Sustainable Places.	Local Authority with oversight from the Health and Wellbeing Board
Health and Wellbeing promotion		
2	Identify specific needs around protected characteristics particularly older people, people from minority ethnic and cultural groups and women, from diagnosis to services available to ensure equality of access. Further research will ensure that services are appropriate for these groups and facilitate their engagement	All public sector agencies alongside voluntary and community sectors
3	At transition stage, build employer capacity and support and resources for people with ASD and their families. Increase the ability of young people to gain the skills they might need to gain employment and reduce the costs of unemployment	Adult Social Care Department, Local Authority
4	Work with local businesses and organisations to maximise employment opportunities for people with autism (not just those at transition) to maximise economic and individual wellbeing across all ages.	Adult Social Care Department, Local Authority working in partnership with D2N2
5	Build community capacity and community responsibility to support people with Autism. Look at modifications to existing services to make them more accessible	Local Authority

	Recommendation	Responsibility
Service Delivery		
6	Provision of appropriate training for staff and volunteers working both specifically and more generally with local people within Nottinghamshire. This will enable more systematic availability of services and knowledge of personnel within these services	Nottinghamshire County Council, NHS Commissioner and Provider agencies, voluntary and independent sectors
7	Monitor and evaluate training within all agencies including Experts by Experience training – to enable all agencies to understand how best they might meet the needs of autistic people, as well as knowledge around their own staff groups	Nottinghamshire County Council, NHS Commissioner and Providers agencies, voluntary and independent sectors
8	Investigate how diagnostics and the autism pathway could be improved (including post-diagnostic support). A formal pathway is currently not available and would greatly enhance the lives of those with autism particularly where early intervention services can be put in place	Clinical Commissioning Groups
9	Local audit of poor take-up of primary care services and overuse of acute services by those affected by autism.	NHS bodies and NHS Foundation Trusts
10	Address the medical and lifestyle issues which result in poorer health outcomes and increased mortality	NHS and Local Authority Commissioners
Data		
11	Set up and improve data collection across agencies around autism e.g. GPs. This will enable all agencies to gain a true picture of how services are operating and where gaps might exist	NHS Commissioner and Provider agencies and Nottinghamshire County Council

Other Options Considered

15. The recommendations are based on a refresh of the evidence available and will be used to inform decision making processes.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

16. The chapter has been refreshed to reflect current local issues and to inform future actions for Adult Social Care and partner organisations.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

18. The evidence and recommendations within the chapter will inform future training programmes for staff working within criminal justice systems. The training programmes will also look at rolling out training to community venues to make them more “autism friendly”.

Data Protection and Information Governance

19. Information sharing and data collection needs to take place in order to gain an accurate picture of the local need.

Financial Implications

20. There are none arising from this report although the recommendations within the JSNA (e.g. improved diagnostic pathway) may incur costs.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

21. By implementing the recommendations within the JSNA further equal opportunities and access to services should be available to people with autism

Implications for Service Users

22. The recommendations contained within the JSNA will allow service users easier access to diagnosis, support, services and community activities.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Health and Wellbeing Board approves the refreshed Nottinghamshire Autism Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Chapter.

Jonathan Gribbin

Director of Public Health

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Anna Oliver

Commissioning Officer

T: 0115 977 2535

E: anna.oliver@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments ([LM 16/11/2018])

23. The Health and Wellbeing Board is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report

Financial Comments (DG 16/11/2018)

24. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 20 of this report

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Full draft JSNA chapter: Autism in Adults](#)

[Nottinghamshire Insight](#)

[Autism Act](#)

[Autism Statutory Guidance](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- 'All' or start list here