



**9 November 2016**

**Agenda Item: 6**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, ADULT SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH  
AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**

**AUTISM SELF ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the outcome of Nottinghamshire's Autism self-assessment as reported to the Public Health Observatory in September 2016.
2. It also seeks Board support for a proposal for partner organisations to appoint an Autism Champion.

**Information and Advice**

3. The Adult Autism Strategy 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' was published in 2010 and was revised in 2014, leading to the release of 'Think Autism' the updated national strategy. Corresponding refreshed statutory guidance was also released in 2015.
4. The Department of Health, in conjunction with the Public Health Observatory release regular self-assessments to local authorities to complete in partnership with local Health and Criminal Justice System partners to monitor progress and achievements with improved compliance.
5. In September 2016, after a 24 month pause, the Department of Health released the fourth Autism self-assessment. As with previous years, changes have been made to the questions. This has limited the opportunity for direct comparisons with previous submissions but the format is sufficiently similar to identify overall trends.
6. The Autism self-assessment is broken into 7 themes which are subdivided into more detailed questions. The themes are:
  - Planning
  - Training
  - Diagnosis
  - Care and Support
  - Housing and Accommodation
  - Employment

- Criminal Justice System

7. The questions required Nottinghamshire partners to rate how well they are meeting key areas of service provision as identified within the statutory guidance using a combination of yes/no answers and rating against a red (falling short of statutory requirements), amber (room for improvement) or green (meeting statutory requirements) rating scale.
8. Of the 31 questions requiring a rating to be applied of green, amber or red, Nottinghamshire rated itself as green on 9, amber for 20 and red for 1. A further question asking when Nottinghamshire would be able to meet NICE recommended waiting times [QS51] could not be rated, as insufficient data was available to allow an informed judgement to be made. This is because while diagnosis data is collected regarding diagnoses secured through the City Asperger's team (which already meets NICE guidance waiting times), this information is not currently available for people diagnosed through other routes. A link to the full report is available in **appendix 1**.
9. The themes of the self-assessment were also discussed in depth with a number of carers and experts by experience, to capture the experiences of those with Autism living in Nottinghamshire and using the services. These discussions provided first hand insights into where service provision is effective and where further improvements are required. In total conversations were held with 2 adults with autism and a learning disability; 2 adults with autism but without a learning disability; a family carer of two adults with autism and a learning disability; and a carers' support group, where the majority of those cared for were young adults in full time education and transitioning between Children's and Adults' social care services.
10. Table 1 below compares the current and the previous Autism self-assessment submissions for Nottinghamshire. Due to the total number of questions changing between assessment years, the results are also presented as percentages to enable a comparison of Nottinghamshire's performance over time.

Table 1 Nottinghamshire Autism Self-assessment comparative summary of performance

Rating	2014	2016
Green	6 (26%)	9 (29%)
Amber	13 (57%)	20 (65%)
Red	4 (17%)	1 (3%)
Blank	0 (0%)	1 (3%)
Total	23 (100%)	31 (100%)

11. The goal for the next 12 months will be to consolidate this progress by continuing to build on the developments to date, enabling a greater proportion of the amber ratings to become green and the removal of any red ratings.
12. The cross cutting nature of the self-assessment requires input from a range of organisational partners including colleagues from within:
  - Transport, Children's, Transitions and Adults teams within NCC
  - Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)
  - the NHS Trust
  - Probation Services

- The Police
- District and Borough Councils particularly around their Housing responsibilities

It is proposed that each partner organisation identifies a named Autism Champion to facilitate both the completion of future years self-assessments and most importantly, broader partnership collaboration to help Nottinghamshire improve services for people with Autism and increase statutory compliance.

Green - areas of strength:

13. Nottinghamshire identified a number of service areas that are being delivered well, with all these areas being rated as green, as follows:

Strategic Planning

- Key documents such as the JSNA, H&W strategy and market position statement address the needs of people with autism specifically. A refresh of the existing JSNA is being undertaken to ensure up to date information is used to inform service planning.

Employment

- The Council's in-house employment support service (I-work) has an employment strategy for people with learning disabilities and or Autism and they have been trained in autism support.
- The Council's Transitions Team consider employment and further education options for all young people they work with. Schools and colleges are also incorporating employment in their transitions planning.
- 'Autism R Us' is a Community Interest Company (CIC) instigated by ASCH&PP in 2015 in partnership with Portland College and with the assistance of a Department of Health grant. The CIC is now self-sustaining and largely self-led. The young adults get paid for their contributions in delivering autism specific training.
- 'Project Search' is an employment scheme delivered in partnership with Foxwood Academy. Students spend their final year at the academy in workplace training and then paid employment, again supported by NCC I-work throughout the placement.

Care and Support

- The Customer Services Centre has staff trained in autism awareness and they have worked closely with the Asperger's team to ensure appropriate signposting and support services are available for people who may not be eligible for social care services.
- Nottinghamshire's contracted advocacy provider staff have basic awareness training as standard and many have specialist autism training.
- The digital information and advice offer for Nottinghamshire, [www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk](http://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk) has integrated a number of adaptations to make the website more accessible for people with autism and ensure it is compliant with the Accessible Information Standard.

Amber - areas requiring some improvement:

14. Nottinghamshire has a number of broad areas where progress has been made but further work is still required. The main areas are outlined below.

### Data collection

- As a County, information regarding the numbers of adults receiving support is recorded but it is not comprehensive. Further improvements can be made with regards to sharing data across the CCGs, NHS Trust (provider arm) and Social care; as well as sharing information on the number of children with diagnoses of autism between Children's and Adult social care services. More rigorous processes for data capture and dissemination will enable improved accuracy when forecasting future demand and planning holistic service developments to better meet the needs of adults with autism.

### Training

- A multiagency three tier training plan exists which identifies what training is required for various staff groups which has been developed with Nottingham City Council and a service user engagement group. Health and Wellbeing Board partner organisations have engaged in some of the training made available to date. The first tier of this (basic awareness e-learning training) has been completed and fully rolled out to Council staff and made available for free to partner organisations via [www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk](http://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk) or by accessing the Council's digital learning resource 'Learning Pool'. Emphasis on publicising this offer and encouraging partner organisations to embed autism training into their standard equality training will be a focus going forward.
- There is a shared CCG and Social Care non-recurrent training budget of £60,000 to support the roll out of the Autism training agenda. The next 12 months will see a continued focus on delivering the second and third tiers, (which are more in-depth training options targeting front line staff) within the Council and with partner organisations across the county. Colleagues from within the county CCGs and Social Care are exploring ways to commission shared training that can be accessed by individuals with autism as well as professionals as it is known that the most impactful training has both experts by experience and professional staff in the audience.

### Diagnostic pathways

- Nottinghamshire has an established diagnostic pathway that is delivered by NHS Trust colleagues. However, it is recognised that this would benefit from further refinement and increasing capacity. By aligning the NHS Trust and social care elements more closely, it is anticipated that a smoother more responsive and holistic pathway will evolve, resulting in a better experience for adults with autism but no learning disability undergoing a diagnostic assessment. This would also better support those requiring on-going, post diagnostic support from allied social care and NHS Trust services. This is already a Health and Wellbeing priority and initial conversations are underway between CCG commissioners, Social Care commissioners and the current provider to progress this piece of work.

### Housing

The needs of people with autism are recognised within housing strategies alongside other vulnerable groups but are not specifically identified.

### Stakeholder engagement

- Nottinghamshire has an established learning disability and autism partnership board with representation from providers, carers, service users, police, CCGs, The NHS Trust and social care. We have carer, service user and provider representation from the autism community on this board, however it is still more learning disability focussed so work is

underway to establish a sub group of people with autism and no learning disability who are currently not represented well on the board. There are many opportunities for closer working with stakeholders, particularly experts by experience and their carers, to co-produce improved services for people with autism, where delivery is co-ordinated across countywide partner organisations.

#### Red - areas requiring improvement:

##### Crisis support

15. There was only one area of the self-assessment which was identified as an area requiring improvement. This related to the availability of crisis support services for adults with autism but without a learning disability. The County does not currently offer a fast response service for this group of people. A one year pilot is being negotiated with the Intensive Community Assessment and Treatment Team (ICATT) to respond to people in crisis who have autism without a learning disability. County CCG commissioners are aiming for this service to go live in January 2017. This action will result in Nottinghamshire being either fully or partially compliant with every recommendation identified within the autism strategy statutory guidance.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working 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**

17. There is a recommendation within the Autism Strategy that all public services explicitly address autism awareness within general equality and diversity training. There is a specific concentration on the importance of this within the Criminal Justice System.

### **Financial Implications**

18. There is a non-recurrent training budget of £60,000 available to support the roll out of the autism training agenda across Nottinghamshire.

### **Public Sector Equality Duty implications**

19. The delivery of the autism strategy is a statutory duty under the Autism Act (2009) which aims to ensure equality of access to all services for people with autism.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1. That the Board accepts the report and the notes the progress made to date to improve Nottinghamshire's compliance with the national autism strategy and statutory guidance.

2. That the Board supports a proposal for each partner organisation to have a named Autism Champion to facilitate partnership collaboration to help Nottinghamshire continue to improve services for people with Autism and increase statutory compliance requirements.

**David Pearson**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection Directorate**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Laura Chambers  
Strategic Commissioning Manager  
0115 933 2563  
[laura.chambers@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:laura.chambers@nottsc.gov.uk)

### **Constitutional Comments (LM 28/10/16)**

20. The recommendations within the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Financial Comments (KAS 01/11/16)**

21. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 17 of the 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.

### **Appendix 1 – [Link to Nottinghamshire's 2016 Autism Self-assessment](#)**

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All

### **See Chair's report:**

- Item 37: Positive behaviour support organisational and workforce development framework