

Request for Information: Ref NCC-029483-17

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request. I can now let you have the following information in response to the questions you raised.

1. Do you have an Autism Partnership Board or equivalent body? If so please provide its name and a link to its website (if available).

Yes, open to adults living with a Learning Disability and/or Autism, their carers and others interested in improving lives for people with learning disabilities or autism.

NCC Link is: Konrad Bakalarczyk-Partnership Board Access Officer, Nottinghamshire Learning Disability and Autism Partnership Board, Tel: 0792 059 2825 konrad.bakalarczyk@nottsc.gov.uk

Board website at: www.nottscounty.pb.org Mail: c/o Willow Wood Day Service, Sheepwash Lane, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 5GG

2. Do you have a named Autism Lead?

Mercy Lett-Charnock (Autism with Learning Disabilities) and Laura Chambers (Autism without Learning Disabilities) - Strategic Commissioning Managers, County Hall, West Bridgford, Mercy.Lett-Charnock@nottsc.gov.uk and laura.chambers@nottsc.gov.uk

3. Does your named Autism Lead have oversight of assessments of need for people on the autism spectrum? How is this oversight maintained in practice? i.e. what measures are in place to ensure the quality of assessments?

No, lead is a commissioner. The oversight for specific service users would come under the relevant front line social work team. Main contact Tessa Diment, Group Manager, Younger Adults. Tessa.diment@nottsc.gov.uk

4. What specific assessment tool or tools do you use to assess the needs of someone on the autism spectrum e.g. RAS, recognised autism assessment tool? What else forms part of an assessment?

A Care and Support Assessment and support plan. This is not autism specific but identifies needs in relation to social care eligibility. Please note this is a social care team not a multidisciplinary team.

5. Do those who are involved in performing assessments receive autism-specific training? If so how long does this training last and how frequently is it refreshed?
And 6. What level of competency is this training designed to deliver?

Basic/General Autism Awareness

Basic awareness e-learning available to all NCC staff involved in assessments. Intermediate programme available via e-learning (SCIE) Currently working on a classroom based programme with intermediate content.

Specialist training

There is specialist training available accessed by community learning disability teams and the Asperger's team. Some members of the Asperger's team have completed and passed the Post Graduate Certificate in Autism and Asperger's syndrome at Sheffield University and all team members access a minimum of one specialist training event a year. In order for team members to take advantage of specialist autism training and conferences available over the year there is a specific autism training budget.

7. Who delivers this training to assessors, is it accredited by an external body or organisation and if so by whom?

See the answer to question 5 and 6 – University post- graduate qualifications topped up with various types of continuous professional development

8. Does this training include any kind of assessment or examination and if so what is the outcome for those who fail?

Competency within front line staff is measured throughout practice – specific autism training is not undertaken on a pass or fail basis as standard though as described above, further qualifications are available as professional development.

9. What methods of delivery does this training feature e.g. face-to-face, e-learning?

Core undergraduate and post-graduate qualifications - University - Classroom based course – will use a full range of delivery styles.

Basic autism awareness courses – e-learning

10. What proportion of autistic people had their level of funding or services reduced over the last year i.e. between 1st December 2017 and 30th November 2018 inclusive? How many people does this represent in total?

This information is not currently collected by service user type. However, changes have been put in place in the way data is captured about people with autism receiving services which will enable us to begin to collate this information in the future.

11. How and against what do you benchmark fee levels to ensure that they represent fair and reasonable rates?

Different service types have their fees established in different ways. Residential care for example uses the Care Funding Calculator which gives an indicative rate based on nationally recognised industry standards. NCC

then uses this to set an indicative price. However, for other service areas such as supported living, hourly rates are used and these are dictated in part by the market response to procurement exercises and in part by commissioning reviews which consider market factors including what other authorities are charging when considering fee rates. Fees will be set to allow providers to meet their responsibilities such as the requirements under the National Living Wage.

12. How and against what do you benchmark the service offer to autistic people to ensure that their needs are appropriately met? Is this process based on the level of service provided or the outcomes delivered?

The approach to ensuring that needs are met is based on individual personalised outcomes identified in their support plan.

I hope this is helpful.