

Adult Autism Strategy

2015 - 2017

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Welcome to our Adult Autism Strategy. This is a really important document which sets out how we will work with our residents and our partners to improve services for people with autistic spectrum disorders in Barking and Dagenham over the next two years.

We have recently agreed a new Council vision '**One borough; one community; London's growth opportunity**' and one of the key priorities of this vision is 'enabling social responsibility'. We are committed to creating a Borough that supports wellbeing, promotes independence and encourages all of our residents to lead active lifestyles as far as they possibly can. This vision should be no different for people with autism in Barking and Dagenham. We need to ensure that adults with autism lead positive and fulfilling lives and can use local services feeling confident that services are safe, accessible and that members of staff are able to support individuals where they need it.



The next few years will be challenging for the Council. We will be continuing to work hard to plan and take forward the substantial changes that are required within the Care Act, many of which need to be in place by April 2015. We will also be working to ensure that we are ready for the changes brought in by the Children and Families Act, primarily around young people who will 'transition' to Adult services and will be eligible for care and support. Additionally, the Council will need to consider more savings to the budget.

However, despite these challenging times, we will strive to ensure that our services engage more effectively with people with autism, continue to improve the reasonable adjustments and adaptations that services make, and involve adults with autism in the design and delivery of services wherever we can. The Learning Disability Partnership Board, alongside its service user, carer and provider forums, will be ensuring that this Strategy is taken forward. I will look forward to seeing the Borough's progress on this significant strategy.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Sycamore Trust for their work on this Autism Strategy, particularly in consulting and engaging with adults with autistic spectrum disorders, their carers and professionals on this strategy, and for working with us to shape the action plan below.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Maureen Worby, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

The first ever strategy for adults with autism in England was published in 2010 with a commitment to review this strategy three years on. This strategy was called *Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*.¹ The strategy resulted from the Autism Act 2009, which set out governmental commitment to inclusion and full participation by adults with autism in society. An update to Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives was published in April 2014, called ***Think Autism***.² Alongside the existing recommendations from the 2010 strategy, *Think Autism* gives further focus to three key areas:

- Building communities that are more aware of and accessible to the needs of people with autism.
- Promoting innovative local ideas, services and projects which can help people in their communities.
- A focus on gathering comprehensive data on local numbers and needs to inform planning and joining up advice and information on available services.

As a requirement of the Autism Act 2009 and *Think Autism*, the Council, alongside its Partners, is required to produce a local plan which sets out the Borough's approach to delivering the national strategy.

Our first local strategy was published in 2011. The Council and its Partners made progress against the 2011 strategy, including the implementation of a clear diagnostic pathway as well as increased awareness amongst frontline professionals with the introduction of a comprehensive autism e-learning package. However, as a Council we know that we have further to go in improving our services for adults with autism.

We asked the **Sycamore Trust** to help us put together and consult on this, our updated Adult Autism Strategy, for 2015 - 2017. Consultation responses can be found in an appendix at the following link: <http://careandsupport.lbbd.gov.uk/kb5/barkingdagenham/asch/advice.page?id=7D-QEpNy3Fs> We have ensured that the *Think Autism* 2014 national update is central to our updated local Strategy and will ensure that the Strategy adheres to the revised national guidance once it is published. In particular, we have ensured that this Strategy adheres to the 15 'I want' statements within *Think Autism* which can be found below.

The Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB), a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Board which focuses on all strategic issues relating to learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorder, will be monitoring the implementation of this Adult Autism Strategy. The LDPB will review progress against the action plan below at their meetings every six months.

If you have any comments on this Strategy please speak to any member of the Learning Disability Partnership Board or its forums, or please email adultcommissioning@lbbd.gov.uk

¹ Department of Health 2010, 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: the strategy for adults with autism in England' - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fulfilling-and-rewarding-lives-the-strategy-for-adults-with-autism-in-england>

² Department of Health 2014, 'Think Autism' - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/think-autism-an-update-to-the-government-adult-autism-strategy>

The *Think Autism* 15 Priority Challenges for Action: 'I want' statements

We have ensured that our Action Plan (see below) encapsulates all of the 15 Priority Challenges for Action, although for ease of reading this document, we have only referenced them in full here:

1. I want to be accepted as who I am within my local community. I want people and organisations in my community to have opportunities to raise their awareness and acceptance of autism.
2. I want my views and aspirations to be taken into account when decisions are made in my local area. I want to know whether my local area is doing as well as others.
3. I want to know how to connect with other people. I want to be able to find local autism peer groups, family groups and low level support.
4. I want the everyday services that I come into contact with to know how to make reasonable adjustments to include me and accept me as I am. I want the staff who work in them to be aware and accepting of autism.
5. I want to be safe in my community and free from the risk of discrimination, hate crime and abuse.
6. I want to be seen as me and for my gender, sexual orientation and race to be taken into account.
7. I want a timely diagnosis from a trained professional. I want relevant information and support throughout the diagnostic process.
8. I want autism to be included in local strategic needs assessments so that person centred local health, care and support services, based on good information about local needs, is available for people with autism.
9. I want staff in health and social care services to understand that I have autism and how this affects me.
10. I want to know that my family can get help and support when they need it.
11. I want services and commissioners to understand how my autism affects me differently through my life. I want to be supported through big life changes such as transition from school, getting older or when a person close to me dies.
12. I want people to recognise my autism and adapt the support they give me if I have additional needs such as a mental health problem, a learning disability or if I sometimes communicate through behaviours which others may find challenging.
13. If I break the law, I want the criminal justice system to think about autism and to know how to work well with other services.
14. I want the same opportunities as everyone else to enhance my skills, to be empowered by services and to be as independent as possible.
15. I want support to get a job and support from my employer to help me keep it.

Vision

The overarching vision for our Adult Autism Strategy is in line with the national autism strategy - *Think Autism: Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*. In line with *Think Autism*, we believe that:

'Adults with autism living in Barking and Dagenham should be able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They should be able to get a diagnosis; get access to appropriate support if needed; and depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents.'

The actions and priorities within this Strategy also tie in with our own Council vision '**One borough; one community; London's growth opportunity**', particularly with the Borough's key priority of 'enabling social responsibility'. This priority is made up of a number of elements, including:

- Supporting residents to take responsibility for themselves, their homes and their community
- Protecting the most vulnerable, keeping adults and children healthy and safe
- Ensuring everyone can access good quality healthcare when they need it.

Additionally, this Strategy also ties in with the Council's priority of 'encouraging civic pride', particularly in promoting a welcoming, safe, and resilient community, and also the priority of 'growing the borough' which includes developing a local, skilled workforce, improving employment opportunities and supporting housing needs.

Aims

The Adult Autism Strategy is split into nine priority areas below. To achieve these priorities, over the next two years we aim to ensure that:

1	There is a clear and effective diagnostic pathway for autism with information and advice on the support that is available	5	There are lots of opportunities to take part in meaningful activities, during the day, in the evenings and at weekends
2	There is good quality care and support for adults with autism	6	Young people who 'transition' to adult services are appropriately supported and encounter a smooth transition
3	Adults with autism are effectively supported with their housing needs	7	Adults with autism are involved in the design, planning and operation of services
4	Adults with autism are effectively supported to access employment, training and skills	8	Adults with autism feel safe from harm and abuse at home and in the local community
9	All health and social care staff, including those commissioned to provide services, are aware of autism and are appropriately trained to identify, assess and support those with autism.		

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability and while some individuals with autism can live relatively independently, others will have high dependency needs requiring a lifetime of specialist care. Autism is neither a learning disability nor a mental health problem, although mental health problems can be more common among people with autism and it is estimated that one in three of adults with a learning disability also have autism. Autism affects the way a person communicates with, and relates to, other people.

This plan covers individuals from across the autistic spectrum and therefore we recognise that there are a number of different terms used to describe autism, e.g. autistic spectrum disorders or conditions or Asperger syndrome. The term autism spectrum disorder (ASD) will be used throughout this plan to reflect the fact that autism is a spectrum condition.

Whilst individuals with autism share certain difficulties, the condition can affect them differently. Common core features are persistent difficulties in social interaction and communication and the presence of stereotypic (rigid and repetitive) behaviours, resistance to change or restricted interests. Additionally, individuals with autism may have difficulty in processing everyday sensory information such as sounds, sights and smells. This is usually called having sensory integration difficulties, or sensory sensitivity. A person's senses are either intensified (hypersensitive) or lack sensitivity (hyposensitive).

The three main areas of difficulty which all individuals with autism share are known as the 'triad of impairments'. These are:

Social communication – Individuals with autism have difficulty using and understanding verbal and non-verbal language, such as gestures, facial expressions and tone of voice, as well as jokes and sarcasm. Some individuals with autism might not speak or have fairly limited speech. They may understand what people say to them but prefer to use alternative forms of communication, such as sign language.

Social interaction – Individuals with autism have difficulty recognising and understanding people's feelings and managing their own feelings. They may, for example, stand too close to another person, prefer to be alone, behave inappropriately and may not seek comfort from another person. This can make it hard for them to make friends.

Social imagination – Individuals with autism have difficulty understanding and predicting other people's intentions and behaviour and imagining situations that are outside their own routine. This can mean they carry out a narrow, repetitive range of activities. A lack of social imagination should not be confused with lack of imagination. Many individuals with autism are very creative.

Based on national prevalence figures there are predicted to be between 750 and 1275 adults aged 19 and over on the autistic spectrum in Barking and Dagenham. Although we recognise that the diagnosis of autism has improved significantly over the last 20 years, we anticipate that there will be a number of adults that are undiagnosed in Barking and Dagenham. Estimates of prevalence in BME communities vary with higher prevalence in people of Afro-Caribbean heritage, and lower prevalence in people of south Asian or Chinese heritage. The numbers are quite small however and should be treated with some caution. More research is needed into the impact of autism within BME communities. While cultural differences may be mistaken for signs of autism, autism may not be recognised as a condition within some communities, reducing even further the chances of identifying and responding appropriately to autistic spectrum disorders.

The needs of people with ASD vary with the severity of their condition. While some may have no needs or simple needs such as signposting to information, some require 24 hour care in a specialist unit. Anecdotal national evidence suggests that people aged 50 and over with autism who have never had their illness diagnosed are the least likely of all age groups to gain access to the help they require.

Much of the research into ASD has been focused on the root causes of autism in children. There is now an increasing body of knowledge about how adults with autism can be helped to better manage their autism and lead fulfilling lives. Particularly important is ensuring clear and unambiguous communication, as well as attention to diet and access to a wide range of therapies and self-help tools.

Mapping local services for people with autism – the Kaleidoscope report

In 2013, the Council commissioned a mapping exercise by Kaleidoscope Social Enterprise to outline the position in relation to autism in Barking and Dagenham. The report found only a very small number of specialist services focused on autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and these were almost exclusively focused on people who have ASD and severe or complex learning disabilities. Feedback from people with ASD revealed concerns about gaining support for transition into adulthood, the need for support to gain employment, and the need for support for adults who have ASD and learning disability or mental illness.

Mainstream services, including housing, employment, leisure, volunteering, libraries, colleges and regeneration all have a meaningful contribution to make to improving the lives of those with ASD.

For more information on autism in Barking and Dagenham, please see the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA):

<http://www.barkinganddagenhamjsna.org.uk/Pages/jsnahome.aspx>

The Adult Autism Strategy needs to be seen against a backdrop of national and local policy which the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham is enacting, in conjunction with residents and partner organisations:

National Context

The Children and Families Act 2014

The Children and Families Act sets out a swathe of changes to be implemented from September 2014. In particular for local authorities, the Act:

- Introduces a single assessment process and an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan to support children, young people and their families from birth to 25 years. EHC Plans replace 'statements of educational needs'.
- Requires health services and local authorities to jointly commission and plan services for children, young people and families.
- States that local authorities must publish a clear, easy-to-read 'local offer' of services available to children and families. Our Local Offer can be found here: <http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/ChildrenAndYoungPeople/SEN/Pages/Home.aspx> As it does now, the Council is working with young people and their families and carers, to prepare children and young people for adulthood and set out arrangements for transition to adulthood, particularly where young people will be eligible for Adult Social Care support. It is thought that there will be some cross-over with the requirements of the Care Act (see below) and this is currently being worked through. It should be noted that this Autism Strategy focuses on adults over the age of 18, but it does have a section on 'transitions'.

The Care Act 2014

Throughout 2014/15 the Council has been preparing for the implementation of the Care Act 2014, which received Royal Assent in May 2014. The Act promotes integration with the NHS in the delivery of care and support services and strengthens procedures for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. It will be a significant area of the Council's work for the coming years, with major dates for implementation on 1 April 2015 and 1 April 2016. The Act means that the Council must:

- Prioritise a person's health and wellbeing, to prevent or delay the need for care and support
- Empower people to be involved in decisions about their care by providing information and advice, and access to independent advice to support their choices
- Promote personalisation and the use of personal budgets/direct payments
- Follow national eligibility thresholds for care and support to improve continuity of care and consistency if someone moves to a new local authority area
- Put unpaid carers on an equal legal-footing with service users giving them rights to assessments and for their needs to be met
- Encourage people to think about and plan how to meet their care costs (the Act extends financial support to those who need it most, protecting everyone though a cap on the care costs that people will incur).

Think Autism Update

Understanding and support for people on the autistic spectrum has changed in recent years with the Autism Act of 2009 placing new statutory responsibilities on local authorities and the NHS to:

- identify and diagnose adults with autism;
- train key staff to respond appropriately to adults with autism;
- improve transition planning for young people with the condition;
- improve local planning and leadership in respect of services for autistic adults.

The Act was followed by a national autism strategy *Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives* in 2010, which was updated in 2014 with the launch of *Think Autism*. The vision is that 'all adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can get a diagnosis and access support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents'. The 2014 update sets out fifteen priority challenges for action, focused around being an equal part of the local community, getting the right support at the right time, and developing skills and independence to be able to work at the best of an individual's ability.

Local Context

Fulfilling lives Programme

The Fulfilling Lives transformation programme is a joint initiative between the Council and its partners to expand the opportunities available to people with a learning disability and autism to receive the care and support they need in order to live an independent life. It includes encouraging independent travel and the remodelling and transformation of in-house day services. It contributes to our response to Winterbourne View described below.

Response to Winterbourne View

In December 2012 the government published its final report into the events at Winterbourne View Hospital and set out a programme of action to transform services so that vulnerable people no longer live inappropriately in hospitals and are cared for in line with best practice. Following the report all local authorities were required by April 2014, to have a joint plan to ensure high quality care and support services for all people with learning disabilities or autism and mental health conditions or behaviour described as challenging, in line with best practice. Barking and Dagenham agreed its plan in March 2014, and although it needs further development it, can be viewed here. This is monitored through the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Links to other Local Strategies, Plans and Reports

The Adult Autism Strategy should be read alongside a number of other strategies that have been implemented by the Council and its partners. Where work is being completed through the implementation of another plan or strategy, this has been indicated in the document below:

Addressing Behaviour that Challenges Services: An Action Plan 2014/15, and Outline of Strategic Intent 2015-2020 (March 2014)

This Action Plan was a requirement of the Winterbourne View Concordat. The aim of this plan for those with behaviour that challenges is to ensure that the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group commission quality care and support which is based on need, evidence based practice and the accepted model of good care.

Positive and Proactive Care (April 2014)

The Council has implemented the guidelines published by the Department of Health which focus on reducing the need for restrictive interventions. The guidance can be found by visiting:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/300293/JRA_DoH_Guidance_on_RP_web_accessible.pdf

Carers' Strategy – to be published early 2015

The Council and the CCG have been working with Carers UK, local residents and partner organisations to prepare a new Carers Strategy for Barking and Dagenham. The Strategy is being finalised and will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board at the end of 2014.

Market Position Statement (launched July 2014)

We recently launched our Market Position Statement, entitled 'The Business of Care in Barking and Dagenham' which gives an overview of the current state of the social care market in the borough and how we see it developing in the future. We see the statement as a tool to help inform local businesses of the needs and interests of residents. You can read the Market Position Statement by visiting:

<http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/AdultSocialCare/Documents/AD6814-LBBDMarkStatPages%20Web%20Final.pdf>

Children's Autism Strategy – to be published February 2015

The Council is also reviewing its Children's Autism Strategy. Look out for its publication in early 2015.

Priority One

Access to relevant information and support through diagnosis and knowing what support is available

The Council and health partners have been working since the summer of 2013 to improve the pathway from diagnosis to receiving support for people who have autistic spectrum disorders (ASD). The North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT) has been working on a model of service which seeks to avoid and prevent people who have ASD from ‘falling through’ the gaps between meeting service criteria. The new service prevents service users from being stuck between mental health provision and learning disability services by providing a dedicated diagnostic clinic and provides sign posting post-diagnosis to future support.

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
1.1	NELFT to establish published timescales about the diagnostic pathway	Monitoring of timescales from referral to being diagnosed through service	December 2015	NELFT
1.2	NELFT to monitor the timescales set and report back to Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) on annual basis	Service delivered within the timescale in 90% of cases.	April 2015 -16	NELFT LDPB
1.3	Service description, including pathway to service and sign posting to future support, to be published on Care and Support Hub	Easy read time line from referral to diagnosis to what support is available on Care and Support Hub	November 2015	NELFT LDPB
1.4	Ensure that autism is recorded on case management systems across the partnership	Raise awareness of autism as an impairment category and ensure staff from across the health and social care partnership are briefed	September 2015	All relevant staff across the Partnership
1.5	Public Health to draw on case management databases to improve the information that is available about autism, particularly in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)	Ensure data is used effectively to report autism specific issues	April 2016	All relevant staff across the Partnership

Priority Two

Delivering good quality care and support

Delivering quality services in health and social care is key to ensuring that people are effectively supported and prevented from falling into crisis; access to high quality information and advice is as crucial as good services. The Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 have placed new duties on local authorities regarding the provision of information and advice to people who use services, regardless of disability or impairment. There is a requirement under both Acts to ensure that there is adequate information and advice to support people in making decisions about their current and future care and support needs. The Council and health partners all hold a number of contracts for the delivery of services. Since the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act 2002 and the Equality Act 2010 it is a legal requirement for contractors to make reasonable adjustments including those for people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. These contracts are regularly reviewed by Commissioners to ensure that the service is fully compliant and meeting the needs of all service user groups.

However the Council recognises that a recent review by Kaleidoscope in 2013 highlighted that there were only a small number of specialist services focussed on autistic spectrum disorders and these were almost all exclusively focussed on people who had severe and complex learning disabilities as well as autism.

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
2.1	Commissioners to continue to monitor and evaluate contracts and ensure that reasonable adjustments are being made to services for all service users including those with autism	Contractors continue to comply and provide evidence of reasonable adjustment for people with autism through quarterly contract monitoring	Ongoing on a quarterly basis	LBBB Health and Social Care Integration Team
2.2	A review to be undertaken of current services for people with high functioning autism to ensure services are meeting their needs	Report produced for Learning Disability Partnership Board indicating whether there are gaps in provision for this group	July 2015	Learning Disability Joint Commissioner
2.3	Monitoring of service quality complaints made by service users about accessibility	All complaints investigated and recommendations and actions followed to improve services. Complaints overview to be published in annual Local Account.	Commence May 2015 Publish November 2015	LBBB Health and Social Care Integration Team

Priority Three

Supporting housing needs

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The Council and its partners recognise that there is a growing need for accommodation, including general purpose housing options as well as meeting the needs of specific client groups. For disabled people, regardless of impairment, this includes access to a range of housing options such as supported living, support to manage a tenancy and shared lives etc.

The Council recognises that as part of this strategy the needs of people with autism should be included along with the needs of other disabled people. The Council is currently working on an Independent Living Strategy, which will identify the housing needs of specific groups through a needs analysis, and a review of the current market and services. The Council is aware that currently the supported living options locally are delivering predominantly to people over the age of 45 with over 40% defined as being on the autistic spectrum. The Council is re-commissioning the supported living contracts and the new provider/s will be in place for April 2015.

The LBBB Housing team will consult through the range of formal mechanisms about the Independent Living Strategy, including people who have autistic spectrum disorders, the Learning Disability Partnership Board, and the forums which support that Board.

In addition the Council is committed to fulfilling the duty of the Winterbourne Concordat which identifies the need for people to live as close to home as possible in accommodation suited to their identified care and support needs.

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
3.1	LBBB Housing to indicate the timescales for producing the Independent Living Strategy	Housing to publish the timescale for development of the strategy including dates for stakeholder events with LDPB and other fora	February 2015	Group Manager Housing Strategy
3.2	Tender for Supported Living Schemes to be completed. A panel of service users and family carers to be involved in the tender.	Successful tender completed and new provider in place in April 2015	April 2015	Elevate and LBBB Health and Social Care Integration team
3.3	Continue to work with ageing carers to plan for identified housing needs of their adult sons/daughters.	Establish base line data of ageing carers Support via individual support plans	June 2015 As and when need arises, with stocktake	Group Manager Intensive Support

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
		for identified housing needs	in December 2016	
3.4	Continue to support the needs of carers in identifying suitable housing options when they can no longer meet the needs of their adult sons/daughters without support.	Carers Strategy (in development) New carers' services to be remodelled and commissioned by the end of 2015	December 2015	LBBB Health and Social Care Integration team
3.5	Work with people who have ASD to ensure that their tenancy is supported and sustained through the Tenancy Support Service.	Establish base line data of housing need Report on number of people with autism using Tenancy Support Service	June 2015 Annually to begin with 2015/16 data in Summer 2016	Group Manager Housing Strategy Group Manager Intensive Support
3.6	LBBB Challenging Behaviour Plan (post Winterbourne View) to be discussed with providers through contract monitoring	Commissioners to identify issues and ensure that action plans are developed and actioned with providers	April 2015	LBBB Health and Social Care Integration team

Priority Four

Access to employment, training and skills (including volunteering and work placements)

Being able to find a job and keep it is a key priority for people who have autistic spectrum disorders. The Council is committed through its vision and values in supporting people into employment. The low skills base and lack of opportunities in Barking and Dagenham are well documented with a number of strategies in place to support the regeneration of the area and support people into work. For people with autism this is just as hard; evidence collated from the Sycamore Trust (a local autism organisation) suggests that people with autism are not declaring their impairment when attending services which provide employment support.

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
4.1	To ensure that autism as an impairment can be disclosed in a non-discriminatory manner.	Establish baseline data and plans to improve self-identification or uptake of services (depending on outcome of review) Implement plans to improve uptake of service use by people with autism	April 2016 Immediate implementation following agreement	Group Manager Employment and Skills
4.2	Ensure that there is sufficient information and advice about support for getting a job on the Care and Support Hub	Ensure the Information and Advice Strategy for the Council includes autism and monitor through Care Act Programme Board	April 2016	Care Act Project Team
4.3	Information about getting a job and employment on Council main website should be clear and concise	Information to be reviewed and links to pages on Care and Support Hub	April 2015	LBBD Communications Team

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
4.4	Apprenticeships and Traineeships to continue to be available for people who have autistic spectrum disorders	Report to be produced on the outcome and take-up of the initiative for 2014/5	April 2015	Group Manager Learning Disabilities
4.5	Develop support to young people with autism who need support into employment.	<p>Establish baseline data</p> <p>Monitor progress of disabled young people including those with ASD (16-24) offered employment support</p> <p>Young London working initiative (https://younglondonworking.org/) from Mayor of London to be promoted locally</p>	<p>April 2015</p> <p>Ongoing – review in April 2016</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Group Manager Employment and Skills

Priority Five

Access to meaningful activities, during the day, in the evenings and at weekends

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It is important that people with autistic spectrum disorders have the opportunity to take part in activities that provide skills for daily living, social activities and opportunities to pursue interests and hobbies. The Council and its health partners are committed to this, as documented through the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Learning Disability Partnership Board and the Council's Fulfilling Lives Programme. Whenever possible, and if the person wishes, family, friends and carers should be involved in these activities and this will help to ensure that the activity is meaningful and that relationships/friendships are developed and maintained.

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
5.1	Ensure people with autistic spectrum disorders with assessed eligible needs for care and support have personal budgets	Increase in number of people with autistic spectrum disorders utilising direct payments to purchase support: Establish baseline data 10% increase in take up by people with ASD	April 2015 April 2016	Group Manager Intensive Support
5.2	Ensure that options for independent advocacy are publicised and utilised by people with autism spectrum disorders	Establish baseline data and identification Monitor uptake of access to advocacy by people with ASD	April 2015 April 2016	Group Manager Integration and Commissioning
5.3	Ensure information about support organisations is available to people with autistic spectrum disorders and their carers	Collect baseline data on the organisations using Care and Support Hub to publish their services. Improved provision as part of	November 2015 April 2016	Learning Disability Partnership Board

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
		<p>Council refreshed Information & Advice 'offer' following Care Act</p> <p>Report on the progress of organisations regularly using and updating their Care and Support Hub pages and the number of 'hits' to Care and Support Hub pages</p>	April 2017	Learning Disability Partnership Board
5.4	Ensure availability of day opportunities for people with autism spectrum disorders in the local market economy and review opportunities for the development of services.	<p>Monitoring of the local market to see if providers are developing service models and that people with autism spectrum disorders are able to buy support and services with their personal budget.</p> <p>Regularly conduct random market samples.</p>	<p>December 2015</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Group Manager Integration and Commissioning
5.5	Access to leisure and culture services is available to people with autistic spectrum disorders	Monitoring report on take up of leisure services for people with autistic spectrum disorders to LDPB	November 2015	Group Manager Culture and Sport
5.6	Ensure that the Council's volunteering programme is available to people with autistic spectrum disorders	Publicise programme to organisations that support people with ASD to raise awareness	June 2015	Group Manager Culture and Sport

Priority Six

Transition planning

13

The Council and its partners recognise that transition planning can be difficult for young people and their families as plans need to be made about their future as a young adult. The Government has recently introduced a major transformation of the way services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) are delivered under the Children and Families Act. The new legislation places a duty on the local authority to ensure that the needs of children and young people are captured in and Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Transition planning is a key priority for an effective transition into adult services and influences the decisions made about the future. It is vital that both adults and children's services work together to ensure that this is a smooth a process as it can be for young people and their families with autistic spectrum disorders.

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
6.1	Intelligence about the numbers and needs of young people identified by Children's Services needs to continue to be shared to support good planning	Adult Services to receive updated intelligence on a quarterly basis for young people from Year 9 (aged 14)	Ongoing on a quarterly basis	Children's Services
6.2	Identify young people who may need support when they become adults, from Year 9 (aged 14)	Adult services to be in control of the number of young people who are predicted to need the support from adults aged 14 and start working with their plans	Ongoing	Children's Services and Adult Services
6.3	Transitions process to be reviewed on an ongoing basis with implementation of ECH plans	Progress report to LDPB about numbers of plans etc	September 2015	Children's Services

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
6.4	Identify clear transition process and publish information through the Borough's Local Offer	Local Offer pages have been well received. The Local Offer to continue to be monitored and reviewed. The Local Offer to link to the Care and Support Hub	April 2015	Children's Services and Adult Services
6.5	Avoid repetitive assessment processes for young people with autistic spectrum disorders and their families by ensuring that medical and social history is portable.	Improve on the experience of service users and their families in implementing EHC Plans and the process of transition	November 2015	Children's Services and Adult Services
6.6	Young adults with autistic spectrum disorders entering in-house adult services should be supported by the Transition Co-ordinator in ensuring this is planned and managed well	Children and Adult Social Workers to provide the Transitions Co-ordinator with names of Year 12 young people who may be transitioned and ensure this is planned	Ongoing – review in November 2015	Transitions Co-ordinator Learning disability services

Priority Seven

Involvement in service planning

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The Council and its health partners recognise the key contribution that service users and their families make in identifying service needs and priorities. All organisations are committed to making this a priority in service planning and monitoring. Some progress has been made on this with a more formal governance structure in place for the Learning Disability Partnership Board which is recognised as a formal sub group of the Health and Well being Board.

Through the consultation on this strategy carers and service users said they would like to find out how the borough is performing against other boroughs to determine if it is doing well.

The Learning Disability Partnership board has formally elected Carer, Service User and Provider representatives which are reviewed every two years. Indeed progress on this refreshed autism action plan will be monitored through the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
7.1	Ensure that there is representation from people with autistic spectrum disorders and their family carers on the partnership board consultative fora	Views of people with ASD are reflected through the formal governance of the Learning Disability Partnership Board	April 2015	Learning Disability Partnership Board
7.2	Continue to ensure that Learning Disability Partnership Board papers are in easy read	Service users happy to engage in the meeting because easy-read papers are of high quality	Ongoing	Learning Disability Partnership Board
7.3	Ensure that future Local Accounts (http://careandsupport.lbbd.gov.uk/localaccount) report on the services and support available to people with autistic spectrum disorders.	Service users and providers feel confident in providing challenge to local authority and health colleagues about services.	December 2015	Health and Wellbeing Board

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
7.4	Ensure that the agreed priorities and actions within this strategy are monitored	LDPB to monitor progress at the Board every six months	From April 2015	Group Manager Learning Disabilities
7.5	Ensure that there are processes for engagement with Service users and their families about service design, development and tendering	Engagement strategy produced for LDPB	November 2015	Learning Disability Joint Commissioner GM Learning Disabilities

Priority Eight

Safeguarding people with autistic spectrum disorders and their families

The Council and its partners continue to see safeguarding people from harm and abuse as their key priority. The borough has a well developed Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) which is chaired independently to ensure that there is robust scrutiny and challenge to its performance and delivery. The SAB will continue to have responsibility for keeping all vulnerable people are kept safe and ensure that all preventative measures are in place. In terms of this strategy, the SAB will ensure that people with autistic spectrum disorders and their families are kept safe and well and free from the fear of harm or abuse.

The Council currently commissions the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to lead on hate crime incidents, incidents are referred through to a Hate Incident Panel when deemed appropriate for multi-disciplinary action by the Council and its partners.

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
8.1	Hate Incident Panel(HIP) Case Numbers for people with Autism to be highlighted in Community Safety Report to Learning Disability Partnership Board	Review data collected through HIP, establish baseline or actions needed to improve data quality Monitor for increase/decrease in number of incidents, unless 2014/15 data quality didn't permit baseline – in which case set baseline and monitor for successive years	April 2015 April 2016	Group Manager Community Safety and Integrated Offender Management
8.2	Safe Space Scheme ³ to be expanded to include people with autistic spectrum disorders	Increase in number of people using Safe Space Scheme or aware of its existence	June 2015	Learning Disability Partnership Board

³ The Safe Space Scheme helps an adult with a learning disability to cope with any incident that takes place while they are out and about, for example being harassed, getting lost or the person they are meeting fails to turn up which causes them to need assistance. A number of businesses and organizations have signed up to be a Safe Place in Barking and Dagenham.

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
8.3	Changes to deprivation of liberty safeguards communicated to all providers	<p>All new/current providers aware of the boroughs procedures regarding deprivation of liberty.</p> <p>Monitoring visits from Commissioners to include numbers of DOLS for each provider.</p>	Ongoing, monitored on a quarterly basis	LBBD Health and Social Care Integration
8.4	People with autistic spectrum disorders to access public transport safely	The Learning Disability Partnership Board is already working with TFL and Transport Police on a travel safety forum and Big Red Bus days which will continue to be developed	Ongoing, monitored six monthly by LDPB	Learning Disability Partnership Board

Priority Nine

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Making all of our services accessible (including ensuring staff are trained)

Throughout the refresh of this strategy it is evident that training for service providers, front line staff and managers is a key priority not just for the Council but for all of its partners as well. This can be simply ensuring that reasonable adjustments are made for someone who has an autistic spectrum disorder, e.g. removing the waiting times in queues for services to prevent the stress of not understanding why you need to wait. However it is acknowledged that there are services that need a more tailored approach to making their services accessible by design and implementation, as well as training staff.

The Council is making its e-learning training on autism available to all partners to raise awareness and increase subject matter knowledge. In 2013/14 the Council commissioned the Sycamore Trust to deliver basic awareness training to frontline staff in key service areas such as social care, housing and environment.

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
9.1	Training of health and social care staff on autism awareness	Ensure that e-learning tool is available to all staff and partners and monitored through appraisal	June 2015	All Partners
9.2	The Clinical Commissioning Group to encourage and support GPs and their staff to undertake autism training	Establish baseline Increase in number of practices completing training	April 2015 April 2016	CCG Commissioning Lead
9.3	Ensure that all providers are sufficiently trained in autism awareness	Contract reviewing process to include access to training	April 2015, monitored on a quarterly basis	LBBD Health and Social Care Integration team

Number	Focus area	Success measures	By when	By whom
9.4	Basic awareness training in autism for frontline staff	152 staff to date have been trained and training will be ongoing where required	Ongoing	All Partners
9.5	Review specialist training for those services that need it, for example Heathlands Day Centre. All relevant staff are currently TEACHH and NCVI trained.	Training needs analysis to be completed. Identify any training and commission where needed.	Ongoing, review in April 2015 December 2015	Learning and Development Learning disability services