



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

NHS Barking and Dagenham 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?

the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (hereby known as the 'council') is currently working closely with its neighbouring local authorities (Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest) around potentially delivering joint ASD training across the boroughs. We are also working closely with the London Borough of Havering around reviewing the outcomes from both boroughs' recently completed mapping projects and discussing any potential joint commissioning opportunities which have emerged from these.

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.

Both the council and NHS Barking and Dagenham CCG have a named commissioner responsible for ASD in the borough and both sit and report to the Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB), a sub-group to the Health & Wellbeing Board, which has responsibility for delivering and monitoring progress against the boroughs ASD action plan.

Their contact details are:

LBBB, email:pete.ellis@lbbd.gov.uk.

jamilahmed@barkinganddagenhamccg.nhs.uk.

*Local Authority: Pete Ellis, Strategic Commissioner,
CCG: Jamil Ahmed, Commissioning Support Manager, email:*

4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Yes, the borough collates data on the number of Adults with JSNA in the borough.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Yes, since 2012 the council has started to collate data on the number of adults who have a diagnosis of ASD and are eligible to receive a service from the council. NHS NELFT, who deliver the local diagnostic assessments in the borough, also collects data on the number of adults that have been diagnosed by the service. In addition, Education (Special Educational Needs) and Children's Services collates comprehensive data on the numbers of children and young people (CYP) who have either a identified special educational need and/or diagnosis of ASD. This data is also shared across health & social care and children's, adult and education services for strategic purposes.

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?

11

the number who are also identified as having a learning disability?

0

the number who are identified as also having mental health problems?

0

Comment

These numbers show the additional people that have been identified as having Autism since the council began collecting data in 2012 and the number of adults with a diagnosis of autism and meet the councils eligibility criteria. Prior to 2012 these individuals were unlikely to have been known to the council. We recognise, however, that the prevalence data in our JSNA suggests there could be a significantly higher number of autistic adults who should be known to the council and we will be completing a data cleansing exercise over the next two years to successfully identify more individuals.

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

- Yes
 No

If yes, how is this demonstrated?

Yes, the councils current Autism action plan (2010-2013) has commissioning intentions which are themed around the key outcomes in the National Autism Strategy 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives'. These commissioning intentions were designed through analysing local need and prevalence data contained in our JSNA.

8. What data collection sources do you use?

- Red
 Red/Amber
 Amber
 Amber/Green
 Green

Comment

Our Adult, Children and Education services all have in place a number of robust case management and recording systems (called AIS / Swift / ICS / e-star) for people who receive a council service and/or have SEN. In addition, we have a number of processes in place to capture qualitative data such as through our Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB); service user and carer consultations and our six weekly service user, carer and provider forums which are part of our LDPB.

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

Yes, since the CCG's inception on the 1st April, 2013 they have not yet been able to fully engage with the council on our Autism action plan. With this plan due to be refreshed in 2014 it presents an excellent opportunity for both the council and the CCG to design this jointly. Key members of the CCG are also core members of the LPDB, which is the currently responsible for overseeing and implementing our Autism plan, and recently commissioned NHS NELFT to implement the ASD diagnostic pathway.

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.

Yes, both our family carers and adults on the autistic spectrum were consulted, through 1:1 interviews and focus groups, when designing our Autism action plan and as part of our recently completed autism mapping project. Finally, both family carers and people with ASD are core members of our LDPB, where the Autism action plan is delivered and monitored, and we have a service user & carer forums which meet every six weeks.

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.

Although the council does not have a dedicated policy on making reasonable adjustments specifically for people with Autism it does have a comprehensive Equality Policy framework which ensures we meet our statutory requirements. To ensure we continually meet our high standards on equality we also have a single equality scheme and complete the Local Governments Equality Framework. Some examples of how we have done this are outlined below:

Example 1: Our dedicated disabled sports team working with local disability community groups we have been able to organise and run inclusive sessions. Inclusive sessions currently running are athletics, cycling, and two multi sports sessions, one for young people and one for adults. There are also a number of other sessions that are currently in the first stage of organisation. These include Wheelchair Basketball, and Sitting Volleyball.

Example 2: At Dagenham Library staff invited a group of people with Autism to come in and talk to them about their condition. Our staff arranged the visit when the library was closed as they said prior to this meeting that they do not like the noise and bustle of this busy library. Since then reasonable adjustments have been made where we have a separate quiet room which enables them to feel more comfortable at the library.

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.

Yes, the council has an agreed transition pathway in place to help support our young disabled people prepare for adulthood. Transition plans are designed during Year 9 and this process is led and arranged by the pupils Head teacher. The pathway applies to all children with either a identified special educational, social care or health care need with the only potential restriction that applies is whether a young person meets the councils eligibility criteria for Adult services.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

No. However, during the summer of 2013 the council undertook a review of its older people services and are now putting in place comprehensive plans which includes reviewing how we can better meet the needs of older people with complex needs, such as those with Autism. Since Autism was added to the adult services case management system (AIS) in 2012 the council now has the ability to record data on our older population who have a diagnosis of ASD. As stated in question 6 we recognise that we need to better identify adults with autism known to the council and we will be carrying out an exercise over the next two years that will enable us to better identify these individuals.

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.

Yes, the council has in place a comprehensive Autism awareness e-learning package that is available to all health and social care practioners in the borough. The councils learning and development team have robust systems in place that enable us to collate and monitor data on training take up which is then reviewed periodically. In addition, as part of our recent mapping exercise, we independently reviewed our Autism training plan against the skills for care and NICE guidelines which confirmed that it was compliant.

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

No. However following a recent restructure of its Adult Social Care workforce it ensures that all statutory assessments are completed by a registered and qualified social worker. As a result, staff completing statutory assessments have both the relevant skills and competence to make any reasonable adjustments in their approach and communication for people with Autism. The council also has a comprehensive training plan in place for its social care workforce that includes Autism.

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.

No, since its inception on the 1st April 2013 the CCG has not yet been able to fully engage in the workforce development planning around Autism. The CCG are, however, key members to the Health and Wellbeing Board and its five sub groups including the LDPB where the Autism plan is monitored and reviewed. Our Autism plan is due to be reviewed in 2014 and the CCG will be key partners in this process.

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

- Yes
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

Yes, local police have attended training events in the past around Learning Disability and Autism awareness and all local CJS partners are able to access the councils Autism e-learning also. As part of our training plan on Autism we will also take into account any training needs of local CJS partners also.

Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please provide further comment.

Yes, in June 2013 NHS NELFT implemented a local diagnostic ASD pathway for the borough. This can be accessed through referrals made by either local GP's, Social Care teams, Adult Mental Health services, CAMHS or local voluntary / private organisations. We can confirm that the pathway was designed using the NICE Autism guidance G142.

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

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

1

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

2013

Comment

N/A

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

Please report the total number of weeks

8

Comment

The local pathway has only just started so the referral for assessment is yet unknown but NHS NELFT have stated that they expect the average wait will be no more than 2 months.

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

60

Comment

60 and 25 of these then went onto a full diagnosis assessment.

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

- Yes
 No

Comment

Yes, the CCG has commissioned NHS NELFT to implement a local Autism diagnostic pathway.

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

NELFT recently implemented local diagnostic pathway across its four boroughs (Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest). The main functions of this pathway is to provide:

1. An assessment and immediate post diagnostic support. The team will not be able to offer long term therapeutic or support function.
2. Provide consultation to Wards and local Community Teams
3. Signposting to other NHS NELFT services
4. Signposting to local authority services

It is not integrated with the social care assessment and this is something NELFT, CCG and the council will be working on.

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?

NHS NELFT have recently implemented a pilot diagnostic ASD pathway across their four London boroughs (Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Waltham Forest and Redbridge). If during a diagnostic assessment an adult is identified as potentially having a social care need they are then referred to the councils access and intake team for a community care assessment. As this pathway is reviewed during the pilot period we are confident that it will become better integrated with our local social care services.

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

The council has some post diagnostic support services available in the borough which can be accessed by adults with Autism and their carers (see question 33 also). For example, we have a number of information & advice services such as the councils 'one stop' shops, our Intake team and our easy access social care website 'living the life you want'. In addition, we also have local voluntary organisations that provide support in a 'wider personalisation perspective' by offering services such as brokerage and independent peer support brokers. The council also has a dedicated personal assistant coordinator to support services find a PA. Additionally, our preferred option now is to offer everyone deemed eligible to receive a service from the council a personal budget. However, it must be noted that as a result of the current austerity programme the number of services available in the borough has unfortunately decreased and people, if eligible, are increasingly being asked to contribute towards their social care costs.

[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

1920

b. Number of those reported in 27a. who have a diagnosis of Autism but not learning disability

2

c. Number of those reported in 27a. who have both a diagnosis of Autism AND Learning Disability

2

Comment

N/A

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

Yes, Adults with a diagnosis of Autism and who have following this assessment been referred for a community care assessment will go through the council's 'Intake' team who can provide information , advice or signposting to other support services. If following a diagnosis assessment an individual does not either have any identified social care needs they can be signposted or provided information as part of the service offered by NHS NELFTS diagnostic pathway.

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, NHS NELFT has recently implemented a local ASD diagnostic pathway in the borough. If during a diagnostic assessment an individual has a potential social care need they are then referred to the councils 'access and intake' team for a community care assessment irrespective of whether they have a learning disability.

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

Yes, our providers on the council's 'specialist advocacy and social care complaints framework' are required to meet the requirements of the National Autism Act Adherence to this is monitored through the councils contract monitoring and annual review processes. Our IMCA, IMHA and DoLS providers are also required to ensure all advocates have or are working towards Level 3 Certificate in Independent Advocacy and/or Diploma in Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy - Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (IMCA - DoLS). All our local advocacy providers have confirmed that they can deliver their own in-house Autism training and can also access for free the councils Autism awareness e-learning.

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, the borough has in place IMHA, IMCA and DoLS which can provide access to a specialist advocate for adults with autism who may not otherwise be able to meaningfully participate in needs assessments, care and support planning, appeals, reviews, or safeguarding processes. All providers have confirmed that they deliver Autism training to their staff and can access the councils Autism e-learning

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.

The council has a number support services that can be accessed by people with Autism who are eligible or not for statutory services. Some examples are,

<i>Barking & Dagenham and PACT;</i>	<i>Information, Advice and Guidance: Citizens Advice Bureau</i>
<i>and the councils one stop shops; Employment: council Job Shops, Job Centre Plus and work programme providers;</i>	<i>Carer support: Carers of</i>
<i>Welfare advice: DABD (UK);</i>	<i>Education: Havering</i>

College offers there Realistic Opportunities for Supported Employment (ROSE) programme for people with Autism and/or a learning disability. Specialist Support for people eligible to receive a council service: this is delivered through our Access and Intake team and Community Learning Disability Team which is a multi disciplinary team of health and social care professionals which includes Social workers, Nurses, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, Psychiatry and Art Therapists.

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 borough aims to make all information accessible to ensure we meet our statutory requirements in Equality law. The council has in place a easy access webpage called 'living the life you want' for people with disabilities and their carers to access which contains a wide arrange of information on local services. We have recently completed our draft 'local offer', aimed towards children & young people and their carers, as part of our requirements in the proposed Children and Families Bill. This contains a wide range of education, health and care services, including those that provide support to children young people and cares for people with Autism, available in the borough.

The borough does have some generic preventative services available to people with Autism or their family carers.

For example:

Ambassadors' who offer training, advice and peer advocacy.

Social groups: We have Ab-phab, Gateway and Spartans social clubs that are available to people with Learning Disabilities and Autism which are also run by people with disabilities.

Carer support: We have Carers of Barking & Dagenham, who also deliver the incredible years training to carers to children and young people with ASD, and Parents of Autistic Children Together (PACT) in the borough who offer low level support to both family carers and people with Autism.

Early intervention /preventative mental health services: NHS NELFT delivers IAPT and primary care mental health services.

Peer advocacy: we have the 'Autism

Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The council has a comprehensive five year generic Housing Strategy which includes the housing needs of disabled people, including groups such as Learning Disability and Strategy for Disabled Adaptations, but has no specific section on Autism. This Strategy will be refreshed during 2015 and will include a specific action plan for people with autism. In the meantime we will build upon and extend the work of the Learning Disability Housing Group to implement specific actions around autism and housing including supporting people with autism (and their carers) to understand the housing options available to them; embedding the needs of people living with autism into the strategic objectives of the LBBB regeneration strategy; undertaking a specific needs analysis; providing up to 25 units of accommodation to support young people living with autism.

Employment

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Yes. During 2013 we delivered a one off British Institute of Learning Disability accredited training event to local mainstream employment services (e.g. work programme providers, Disability Employment Advisors and local Job Clubs) on how to better support adults with Autism either find or in their place of employment. The Autism Ambassadors also work with local employers and have a joint-agency promotion pack to help demonstrate the benefits of employing someone with Autism. We know that, through our recently completed mapping project, we need to better promote to our local employers employing the skills and benefits of employing people on the autistic spectrum. We aim to address this through the council's autism action plan, which will be reviewed next year, and the council's Fulfilling Lives programme which is designed to modernise day opportunities for people with a learning disability or autism in the borough.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Yes, as part of the our transition planning, which starts in Year 9, a career PA will explore with the young person their individual goals and aspirations around employment. The transition plan is then reviewed during each academic year and until the young person leaves education. We know, however, that supporting young people into employment is an area of development and this was fed back to us by our carers and people with Autism during the recently completed mapping project. We hope this area will be addressed through the refresh of our Autism action plan next year and the councils Fulfilling Lives, Winterbourne View and Children and Families Bill programmes which will all include improving how we better support young people who come through transition.

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 council has excellent relationships with our CJS partners through our Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board and our Learning Disability Partnership Board where the Autism action plan is reviewed and monitored. In addition, local Health and Social Care practitioners work in partnership on a daily basis with Criminal Justice practitioners via a number of routes such as by acting as appropriate adults and working with the Public Protection Unit, MAPPA and local probation services to support the management of vulnerable people who present a risk to the public. The borough's safer places scheme was also designed through our partnership work with carers, service users and the Police. CJS partners have also attended previous Autism training and have access the to the councils Autism awareness e-learning.

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

25262829

Comment

We gathered feedback during our recent mapping exercise from carers and people with Autism. The following five stories were from this exercise. The council received positive feedback from people with Autism on the number of mainstream opportunities for voluntary and work based opportunities that can offer a valuable first step into employment for many people with ASD.

Self-advocate story two

Question number

112833

Comment

"...Support for people with ASD could be improved by adapting what already exists or small investments in community development and support".

Self-advocate story three

Question number

12

Comment

Carers gave positive feedback that children and younger people services were getting better at identifying young people with Autism and services to support them. It was expressed that awareness generally is much higher than it used to be.

Self-advocate story four

Question number

11263335

Comment

"...People, even if diagnosed, have a real problem gaining any sort of support if they have an IQ over 70 and no presenting mental health issue. Early intervention and support are needed before mental health problems kick in further down the line".

Self-advocate story five

Question number

42

Comment

"...Local primary care health services are unable or unwilling to adapt, resulting in distressing episodes when people were attending appointments."

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