

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Services, Public Health, NHS)

Date: 15 March 2016

Subject: Children's Emotional and Mental Health – Autism Assessment Waiting Times

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1 Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce further information regarding the waiting times for autism assessments in Leeds and the associated recovery plan.

2 Summary of main issues

2.1 At the Scrutiny Board meeting in January, the Board considered Leeds' Local Transformation Plan (LTP) – developed to deliver whole system change to children and young people's emotional and mental health support and service provision in the city and a position statement against each of the recommendations identified in the previous Board's inquiry report.

2.2 Key areas of discussion at that meeting focused on the provision of autism assessments and the associated waiting times, and included:

- Concern about the waiting time for children to be assessed for autism
- Concern about the lack of capacity to deliver support and undertake assessments.
- Concern about a longer term reduction in funding for clusters and the impact of this on services.
- Concern about the lack of preventative work being undertaken.
- Significant concern about the availability of information regarding the number and location of autism assessments undertaken.
- Concern about the lack of patient and public involvement, and engagement with the Scrutiny Board around the commissioning of additional capacity outside of Leeds.

2.3 The Board agreed to consider further information around the recovery plan for autism assessments and services at a future meeting during the current municipal year. The purpose of this report is to introduce the further information/ update requested.

2.4 Appropriate representatives have been invited to the meeting to assist the Scrutiny Board in its consideration of the further details.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Scrutiny Board considers the information presented and determines any future scrutiny actions or activity.

4. Background papers¹

4.1 None used.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.