

Report of: The Autism Partnership Board.

Report to: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 25 March 2015

Subject: 2014 Autism Self Assessment

Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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

Summary of main issues.

- Leeds has entered a submission for the 2014 autism self assessment. This is attached for the information of the Health and Wellbeing board.
- This report follows an earlier report to the Health and wellbeing Board on 20-11-13. This earlier report gives some background on the national and local work to inform the discussion of the 2013 self assessment.
- There remains more work to be done to meet our obligations and to ensure that people on the autistic spectrum can be fully part of the Health and Wellbeing vision that Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for all ages.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Note the partnership work which is already happening to bring about the goals of the Leeds autism strategy.
- Read the 2014 Self assessment form submission and approve the contents.
- Consider how better meeting the needs of people on the autistic spectrum (and other vulnerable groups) can contribute to achieving the outcomes of the Health and well-being strategy.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 All local authorities have been asked by the Department of Health (DH) to complete an Autism Self-Assessment form (SAF) – completing this is an annual requirement to enable the measurement of progress against the national strategy objectives.
- 1.2 This report attaches the 2014 SAF for information for the health and Wellbeing board. The word version attached is an easy-print version (the actual submission is on an excel spreadsheet)

2 Background information

- 2.1 The last report gave background information on autism, an outline of current national and local work and discussed the relevance of autism to the joint health and wellbeing strategy. This report was called “2013 Autism Self Assessment” and was submitted on 20/11/2013.
- 2.2 Since that report there has been a new national strategy “Think Autism” which extends the earlier national strategy.

3. Main issues

3.1 Leeds submission of the Self-Assessment form.

- 3.1.1 All local authorities have been asked by the DH to complete the Autism self-assessment form. This will serve two purposes, to benchmark progress for future years and to contribute to the current review of progress under the national strategy. The Leeds submission is attached as appendix 1.
- 3.1.2 The reference groups for people with autism and carers have had an opportunity to contribute to the SAF as it was being written. The NHS, Housing, Department of work and Pensions and police all contributed figures or comments. The Autism partnership board on February 25th 2015 reviewed the whole document and agreed the RAG ratings.

3.2 Changes in Leeds since the last SAF.

- 3.2.1 We now have an information resource – a website and an autism Hub and mentoring service. These go some way to meeting the needs of people who are not eligible for social care services
- 3.2.2 We are still reporting very low numbers for people receiving social care. This will rise considerably when the new social care recording system is in place.
- 3.2.3 Awareness raising training has been used more widely. For example all job centre staff have had this and we have offered a session to elected members. There are plans to offer awareness training to health and Wellbeing Board members.

3.2.4 The autism JSNA has been delayed but plans are now underway to include autism in the next wave of the JSNA.

4. Health and Wellbeing Board Governance

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 The reference groups for people with autism and carers have contributed to the SAF as it was being written. The partner bodies on the autism partnership board were asked to contribute answers to particular questions these included the NHS (CCG and diagnostic team), Housing, and the DWP. The autism partnership board reviewed the whole document on 25th February and agreed the RAG ratings.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 People with autism are a disability group and as such are entitled to reasonable adjustments to enable them to access public services. The numerical information is insufficient to allow us to know if there is any difference in incidence or access to services based on ethnic or cultural background other than a small indication that there may be a relative under diagnosis in children from south Asian communities.

4.2.2 It is known that there are few known older people with a diagnosis and those women are underdiagnosed relative to men. There is current concern that part of the latter is due to an under recognition.

4.2.3 People with autism have communication needs so it is possible that they may need additional support to benefit from the work designed to achieve the outcomes of the health and wellbeing strategy.

4.3 Resources and value for money

4.3.1 There are likely to be substantial cost benefit savings from getting things right for people on the autistic spectrum. More detail on this is available in the last report.

4.4 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.4.1 The legal background to the autism delivery work is firstly the statutory guidance arising from the Autism Act. This applies to health and social care bodies and the lead sits with the Director of Adult Social Services. Access to wider universal services falls under the Equality Act and much of the work here is around training and to enable services and individual workers to make the reasonable adjustments which will enable people with autism to access their services.

4.5 Risk Management

4.5.1 The risks from failing to achieve the goals of the Leeds strategy are initially to individuals who will not receive the supports they need and also to organisations who will not achieve their statutory obligations.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Leeds will use the information in this SAF to inform the planned rewrite of the local autism strategy in 2015.
- 5.2 There are some outstanding goals, which will require input from a wide range of agencies to achieve.
- 5.3 The achievement of the objectives of the Leeds adult autism strategy will contribute to the achievement of the outcomes of the joint Health and wellbeing strategy.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
 - Note the partnership work which is already happening to bring about the goals of the Leeds autism strategy.
 - Read the 2014 Self assessment form submission and approve the contents.
 - Consider how better meeting the needs of people on the autistic spectrum (and other vulnerable groups) can contribute to achieving the outcomes of the Health and well-being strategy.