

CBC Autism Self Assessment Framework 2014/15

Num ber	Question
1	<p>How many Clinical Commissioning Groups do you need to work with to implement the Adult Autism Strategy in your local authority area?</p> <p>1</p> <p>Our Clinical Commissioning Group is Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. Central Bedfordshire Council has established a strong partnership with Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and other local statutory partners (Bedford Borough Council and Luton Borough Council and Luton Clinical Commissioning Group); therefore we are able to coordinate the delivery of the Autism Strategy across Bedfordshire while being sensitive to the specific needs of Central Bedfordshire customers.</p>
2	<p>Are you working with other local authorities to implement part or all of the priorities of the strategy?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>If yes, name these local authorities and identify which priorities, including how you are doing this. What partnership representative sits on the Autism Partnership Board or equivalent?</p> <p>Central Bedfordshire Council works with Bedford Council and Luton Council to deliver the priorities of our local strategy. Our vision for the new updated local strategy over the next 3 years is to build on what has already been delivered. Moving forward with our update strategy we have 5 strategic priorities which will be locally driven over the next 3 years. Our strategic priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education, training and employment (including day opportunities) • Criminal Justice • Social care assessments • Transitions • Accommodation <p>We have two main governance structures in place which allow us joint delivery, those being:</p> <p>1. A Commissioners' Implementation Group - this has four named autism commissioners who meet regularly seven times a year.</p> <p>2. The Bedfordshire Think Autism Partnership Board meeting takes place four times a year. The commissioners and relevant partners inform, consult, and seek feedback and suggestions from stakeholders' and the community.</p>
3	<p>Who is the joint commissioner/senior manager responsible for services for adults with autism? Please provide their name and contact details and who they report to?</p> <p>Suzy Keen</p>

	<p>Suzanne.keen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Dawn French dawn.french@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p>
4	<p>What is the name of the post for the joint commissioner/senior manager of responsible for services for adults with autism?</p> <p>Strategic Commissioning Lead</p>
5	<p>What are the responsibilities of the joint commissioner/senior manager of responsible for services for adults with autism?</p> <p>The objective of this post is to utilise a partnership approach to improve outcomes for adults with autism in Central Bedfordshire; commissioning services that focus on achieving good outcomes for individuals, the Council, and its partners. This post has a commitment to enable the Council to continue to meet our statutory duties as a Local Authority and develop and strengthen partnerships between relevant local organisations, services, and stakeholders to set a clear direction for improved local services.</p>
6	<p>Is Autism included in the local JSNA?</p> <p>Green <i>Red: No</i> <i>Amber: Steps are in place to include in the next JSNA.</i> <i>Green: Yes</i></p>
6.01	<p>Does your local JSNA specifically consider the needs of children and young people with autism?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Provide a web link and page references.</p> <p>For autism specific information within the JSNA for children, young people and adults please use the following links:</p> <p>http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/Mental%20health%20and%20emotional%20wellbeing%20-%20JSNA_tcm6-32041.pdf#False</p> <p>http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/Autistic%20spectrum%20disorder%20-%20JSNA_tcm6-31991.pdf#False</p>
7	<p>Have you now started to collect data on those people referred to and/or accessing social care and/or health care and does your information system report data on people with a diagnosis of autism, including as a secondary condition, in line with the requirements of the social care framework?</p> <p>Green</p> <p>This data is now recorded for new people as they are referred to adult social care via the zero based review.</p> <p><i>Red: Data recorded on adults with autism is sparse and collected in an ad hoc way</i></p>

	<p><i>Amber: Current data recorded annually but there are gaps identified in statutory health and/or social care services data. Some data sharing exists between services</i></p> <p><i>Green: An established data collection and sharing policy inclusive of primary care, health provision, adult social care, schools or local education authority and voluntary sector care providers is in place and used regularly</i></p>
8	<p>Do you collect data on the total number of people currently known to social care services with a diagnosis of autism (whether new or long-standing) meeting eligibility criteria for social care (irrespective of whether they receive any)</p> <p>No</p> <p>Comment briefly if you wish on how you collect these numbers locally.</p> <p>We do collect information on all new people known to social care services with a diagnosis of autism however this information has not been backdated to cover all customers prior to April 2014</p>
8.02	<p>The total number of people meeting social care eligibility criteria with autism?</p> <p>89</p>
8.03	<p>The number of people meeting social care eligibility criteria with autism who also have learning disabilities?</p> <p>80</p>
8.04	<p>The number of people meeting social care eligibility criteria with autism who also have mental health problems?</p> <p>8</p>
8.05	<p>The numbers assessed as having autism but not meeting eligibility criteria?</p> <p>This is not currently recorded by ASC. This field will be left blank on the submission as it only allows numerical input on this question</p>
9	<p>Does your Local Joint Strategic Commissioning Plan reflect local data and needs of people with autism?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>If yes, how is this demonstrated? Provide web link to the plan.</p> <p>We have four chapters in our local commissioning plan, which can demonstrate this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Local Picture b) Autism in Central Bedfordshire c) Health Needs Assessment for People with Autism in Bedfordshire d) Local Autism Workshops <p>The main conclusions were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Available data indicates that the number of people with autism is expected to rise significantly. 2. There is a disproportion in diagnosis between males and females - for example, using data from the Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information (PANSI), against a current estimate of 1611 people aged

	<p>18-64 with autism, only 160 are estimated to be female. 3. Accurate data needs to be collated on the number of people with autism in Central Bedfordshire so that we are best able to plan and deliver meaningful services.</p> <p>http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/jsna/default.aspx</p>
9.01	<p>What data collection sources do you use?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: No work underway</i> <i>Amber: Have made a start in collecting data and plan to progress</i> <i>Green: Information from GPs, Schools or Local Education Authority, voluntary sector, providers, assessments and diagnosis are all collected and compared against the local population prevalence rate</i></p> <p>Provide a web link to a local published summary of numbers or say where this can be obtained.</p> <p>Data collection sources used are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWIFT • CQUIN • Voluntary sector contract monitoring <p>Local data can be found within the local JSNA and market position statement. Information can also be requested via freedom of information requests</p> <p>http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/jsna/default.aspx</p> <p>http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/121213MarketPositionStatementweb_tcm6-37596.pdf</p>
10	<p>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?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: None or minimal engagement with the LA in planning and implementation.</i> <i>Amber: Representative from CCG and / or the support service sits on autism partnership board or alternative and are in regular liaison with the LA about planning and implementation.</i> <i>Green: CCG are fully engaged and work collaboratively to implement the NHS responsibilities of the strategy and are equal partners in the implementation of the strategy at a local level.</i></p> <p>Provide evidence to support your answer.</p> <p>The Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) is fully engaged and works collaboratively to implement the NHS responsibilities of the strategy and they are equal partners in the implementation of the local strategy. The local BCCG engages and helps lead the delivery of the strategy</p>

	<p>across the social care and health system.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The BCCG have a named lead commissioner who is part of the local implementation group and the partnership groups 2. The autism diagnosis and support service was one of the main QIPP (Change Programme) projects for the BCCG in 2012/2013 3. The BCCG funds a significant proportion of the local diagnostic and support service and funded local training pathways for 3 years. 4. The BCCG fully appreciates the link between diagnosis, community care assessments, and the need for on-going support. It has encouraged full local authority contribution into the diagnostic service specification and operational protocols.
11	<p>How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their carers in planning?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: Minimal autism engagement work has taken place.</i></p> <p><i>Amber: Some autism specific consultation work has taken place. Autism Partnership Group is regularly attended by one person with autism and one parent/carer who are meaningfully involved.</i></p> <p><i>Green: A variety of mechanisms are being used so a cross section of people on the autistic spectrum are meaningfully engaged in the planning and implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy. People with autism are thoroughly involved in the Autism Partnership Group.</i></p> <p>Specify what you did to demonstrate your score.</p> <p>A variety of mechanisms are being used to ensure that people on the autistic spectrum are meaningfully engaged in the planning and implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy. We encourage local people with autism to be directly involved in the Bedfordshire Think Autism Partnership Board.</p> <p>Some examples to demonstrate our green rating:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One self-advocate co-chairs the Bedfordshire Think Autism Partnership Board meeting. 2. Autism awareness training delivered in Bedfordshire is co-presented by local adults with autism 3. Member of the Bedfordshire Think Autism Partnership Board and people with a diagnosis of autism have also been involved in the development of the service specification for the local diagnosis and support service <p>Aside from the Partnership Board and the developments mentioned above, local providers regularly consult their members on current and future service needs. This information is used in the future planning and development of services.</p>
12	<p>Have reasonable adjustments been made to general council services to improve access and support for people with autism?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: Only anecdotal examples.</i></p> <p><i>Amber: There is a clear council policy covering reasonable adjustments to statutory and other wider public services which make specific reference to autism</i></p> <p><i>Green: Clear council policy as in Amber and evidence of widespread implementation</i></p>

	<p><i>in relation to needs of people with autism.</i></p> <p>Please give an example.</p> <p>The Central Bedfordshire Council Adult Learning Disabilities Team has recruited a specialist Autism social worker. Specialist training is also available to all Central Bedfordshire Council employee's and Central Bedfordshire employers to help improve access and support for people with autism. Autism Bedfordshire offers consultation and advice to organisations to enable their provision to be more 'autism friendly'. Employees from other services/organisations are also offered autism training to increase their understanding and make reasonable adjustments in their service delivery. Central Bedfordshire Council is also working closely with 2 local job centres and the local Central Bedfordshire College to make reasonable adjustments for people with autism. Part of the innovation autism grant from the Department of Health has helped support this work.</p>
13	<p>In your area have reasonable adjustments been promoted to enable people with autism to access public services?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: There is little evidence of reasonable adjustments in wider public services, to improve access for people with autism.</i></p> <p><i>Amber: There are some examples of reasonable adjustments being made to public services to improve access for people with autism, across a small range of services.</i></p> <p><i>Green: There is evidence of implementation of reasonable adjustments for people with autism in a wide range of publicly provided and commercial public services</i></p>
14	<p>How do your transition processes from Children's services to Adult services take into account the particular needs of young people with autism?</p> <p>Amber</p> <p><i>Red: No consideration of the needs of young people with autism: no data collection; no analysis of need; no training in young people's services.</i></p> <p><i>Amber: Transition process triggered by parental request. Training in some but not all services designed for use by young people, and data collection on young people with autism and/education health and care (EHC) plans.</i></p> <p><i>Green: Transition process automatic. Training inclusive of young people's services. Analysis of the needs of population of young people, including those without education health and care (EHC) plans and specialist commissioning where necessary and the appropriate reasonable adjustments made.</i></p>
14.01	<p>How many children with autism are currently identified and receiving assistance in the transition ages (14 to 17) in the year to the end of March 2014?</p> <p>76</p>
14.02	<p>How many children with autism have been through the transition process in the year to the end of March 2014?</p> <p>76</p>
15	<p>How does your planning take into account the particular needs of older people with autism?</p>

	<p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: No consideration of the needs of older people with autism: no data collection; no analysis of need; no training in older people's services.</i></p> <p><i>Amber: Training in some but not all services designed for use by older people, and data collection on people over-65 with autism.</i></p> <p><i>Green: Training inclusive of older people's services. Analysis of the needs of population of older people inclusive of autism and specialist commissioning where necessary and the appropriate reasonable adjustments made.</i></p>
16	<p>How do your planning and implementation of the strategy take into account the particular needs of women with autism?</p> <p>Our JSNA and local strategy provides information on any diagnostic gaps. The autism diagnostic service collects performance data on the diagnosis of autism for women, this informs further practice developments.</p> <p>Also Autism Bedfordshire has recently introduced a training package starting in 2015/16 entitled 'Women and Autism'.</p>
17	<p>How do your planning and implementation of the strategy take into account the particular needs of people who have autism in BME communities?</p> <p>10.3% of the population across Central Bedfordshire are from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups compared with 89.7% being white British. BME groups in Central Bedfordshire are relatively low in comparison to white British however it is still important to ensure our local strategy does not overlook people with autism who come from BME groups.</p>
18	<p>Have you got a multi-agency autism training plan?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>What staff groups and agencies are included? Provide a link if necessary</p> <p>The staff groups included in the training include staff across the Council, contracted providers and health colleagues:</p> <p>Social Care Workers and Practitioners</p> <p>Community and voluntary organisations</p> <p>Fire service</p> <p>Probation</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Health workers and practitioners</p> <p>Libraries and leisure</p> <p>From 2011 – 2015 Central Bedfordshire Council in partnership with Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Bedford and Luton Borough Council's co-funded local autism awareness training which is accessible to the whole community.</p>
19	<p>Is autism awareness training being/been made available to all staff working in health and social care?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: Historical workforce training data available from statutory organisations on</i></p>

	<p>request. Not yet devised an autism training plan/strategy. <i>Amber:</i> Client facing staff identified as a priority. Good range of local autism training that meets NICE guidelines - and some data on take up. Workforce training data available from statutory organisations on request. Autism training plan/strategy near completion. <i>Green:</i> Focus on all staff. Staff in children's services specifically included. Comprehensive range of local autism training that meets NICE guidelines and data on take up. Workforce training data collected from all statutory organisations and collated annually, gaps identified and plans developed to address. Autism training plan/strategy published.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Autism awareness training has been commissioned by the partnership for 4 years and is available to local people who work/care for adults with autism.</p> <p>The training is externally advertised on the Council Learning and Development Webpage and internally via the learning matters intranet page.</p> <p>The training includes face to face presentations from a people with Autism. Additional training has also recently been commissioned for internal staff covering ' supporting people with Autism in the home and workplace' and 'women and safety'.</p> <p>CBC also commissions PoHwer, an advocacy organisation, to work with adults with autism. The advocates also receive training around engagement and working with people Autism.</p> <p>Separate training has also been provided to local GPs through HEAT sessions and through training requested by services, but there is not a rolling programme for all health care staff. As part of the CQUIN for secondary providers, training of staff has been part of the requirement.</p>
20	<p>Is specific training being/been provided to staff that carry out statutory assessments on how to make adjustments in their approach and communication?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red:</i> No specific training is being offered <i>Amber:</i> At least 50% of assessors have attended specialist autism training. <i>Green:</i> More than 75% of assessors have attended specialist autism training specifically aimed at applying the knowledge in their undertaking of a statutory assessment, ie applying FACs, NHS Community Care Act.</p> <p>All training provided includes a focus on adapting approaches and communication with people with autism.</p> <p>Central Bedfordshire Council encourages all staff working with people on the autistic spectrum to attend the training across 3 levels.</p> <p>Social workers and care staff who carry out statutory assessments have all been provided with autism awareness training.</p> <p>As part of the CQUIN for secondary providers, training of staff has been part of the requirement. It has been offered to primary care staff as part of their HEAT sessions.</p>

21	<p>Do Clinical Commissioning Group(s) ensure that all primary and secondary healthcare providers include autism training as part of their ongoing workforce development?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Please comment further on any developments and challenges.</p> <p>Yes we do have a pathway, which does provide assessment and diagnosis for all.</p>
22	<p>Criminal Justice services: Do staff in the local police service engage in autism awareness training?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Please provide specific examples.</p> <p>Bedfordshire Police runs Autism Awareness Training across a number of programmes. Autism Awareness has also been delivered as a stand-alone item to the following audiences: Firearms (Beds/Herts/Cambs) Beds/Herts/Cambs Major Crime Units Professional Standards Public Protection Units Force Control Room Enquiry Offices PCSOs Response Officers Priority/Serious Crime Teams Traffic (Beds/Herts/Cambs) Custody staff</p> <p>Autism Awareness also forms part of a package around various vulnerabilities delivered as a module on the force Leadership Training Programme. Autism Awareness is a standing item on all interviewing courses, for victims/witnesses/suspects Autism Awareness is delivered as part of initial training to all public facing staff.</p> <p>Bedfordshire Police are currently in the design phase of a developing rolling programme of training around a number of vulnerabilities of which autism is one which will commence in April 2015.</p>
23	<p>Criminal Justice services: Do staff in the local court services engage in autism awareness training?</p> <p>No</p>
24	<p>Criminal Justice services: Do staff in the local probation service engage in autism awareness training?</p> <p>Yes</p>
25	<p>Have you got an established local autism diagnostic pathway?</p> <p>Green</p>

	<p><i>Red: No local diagnosis service planned or established. No clear transparent pathway to obtaining a diagnosis for Adults identified and only ad-hoc spot purchasing of out of area services. NICE guidelines are not being followed.</i></p> <p><i>Amber: Local diagnosis pathway established or in process of implementation / sign off but unclear referral route. A transparent but out of locality diagnostic pathway is in place. Some NICE guidelines are being applied.</i></p> <p><i>Green: A local diagnostic pathway is in place and accessible, GPs are aware and involved in the process. Wait for referral to diagnostic service is within three months. NICE guidelines are implemented within the model</i></p> <p>Does the pathway meet people with autism's needs regardless of whether or not the person meets LD criteria?</p> <p>Bedfordshire has a local diagnostic pathway which is accessible. GPs are aware of the pathway and they have been involved in the process.</p> <p>The local Adult Autism Service (AAS) is for Adults aged 18 years and over. The model is based on local and community based assessments and a diagnosis of autism leads to support from specialist health services, local authorities and independent and voluntary services.</p> <p>The AAS is based in community satellite clinics covering Bedford; Central Bedfordshire and Luton with an administration base as the central contact point for the service. The opening hours are 09.00 - 17.00 Wednesday to Friday, with flexibility on appointments to meet patient need.</p> <p>Referrals to the AAS are from:</p> <p>GP's</p> <p>Specialist Healthcare Services</p> <p>Criminal Justice Service</p> <p>Local Authorities</p> <p>Referrals will be acknowledged within 7 days of receipt of, and an appointment will then be scheduled with the appropriate clinician within 11 - 12 weeks.</p>
26	<p>If you have got an established local autism diagnostic pathway, when was the pathway put in place?</p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>2013/07</p>
27	<p>In the year to the end of March 2014, how many people were referred out of area for diagnosis, despite a local diagnostic pathway being in place?</p> <p>0</p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>There have been no out of area referrals for autism diagnosis since the service commenced</p>
28	<p>In weeks, how long is the average wait between referral and assessment? (Note, this should include all people referred irrespective of prioritisation streams)</p> <p>11</p>

	<p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>On average 11-12 weeks.</p>
29	<p>How many people have been referred for an assessment but have yet to receive a diagnosis?</p> <p>0</p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>All people have been seen for an assessment</p>
30	<p>In the year to the end of March 2014 how many people have received a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum condition?</p> <p>18</p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>25 diagnostic assessments completed – 18 had autism spectrum condition diagnosis confirmed</p>
31	<p>How many of the people receiving a diagnosis in the year to end March 2014 had moved on to appropriate services by end September 2014?</p> <p>16</p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>A total of 16 out of the 18 people with a diagnosis moved on to appropriate services. The 2 people who did not move on to appropriate services did not require any ongoing help and support so they declined any further assistance.</p>
32	<p>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?</p> <p>State integrated or specialist. Please comment further.</p> <p>Specialist</p> <p>The local autism pathway is based on the 'Bristol Model'. Within the pathway there is a multidisciplinary team with clinical expertise, a specific training element, clinical supervision, a social care element and ongoing long term support.</p> <p>The pathway has capability to support complex cases and it is integrated with mainstream services, including learning disability teams and mental health teams in order to support individuals with autism by providing guidance, case supervision, and signposting where appropriate.</p> <p>Specialist Service supported by professionals within mainstream services working towards an integrated model.</p> <p>We are consistently networking with mainstream services to develop</p>

	<p>networks and collaborative working. It is a 'works in progress' but we have developed some very productive networks and our new Support Workers have really increased our capacity to develop this further.</p>
33	<p>In your local diagnostic pathway does a diagnosis of autism automatically trigger an offer of a Community Care Assessment (or re-assessment if the person has already had a current community care assessment)?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Please comment, i.e. if not who receives notification from diagnosticians when someone has received a diagnosis? How is this handled with people unlikely to be FACS eligible?.</p> <p>The operational protocols are being implemented and the pathway has been in operation since 01/07/2013. Clear information will be exchanged between diagnostic services, local GP's, and local authority social care teams.</p> <p>Information is provided regarding entitlement for Community Care Assessment and an offer is made to submit a referral to the appropriate Local Authority on behalf of the individual.</p>
34	<p>Can people diagnosed with autism access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted psychology assessments?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: Availability patchy or mainly generic services, with a small number of reasonably adjusted services.</i></p> <p><i>Amber: Available everywhere. Mainly reasonably adjusted services, with some access to autism specific services (when necessary) and some generic services.</i></p> <p><i>Green: All services are reasonably adjusted to provide access to post diagnostic specialist assessments. Access to autism specific services is also available when necessary.</i></p>
35	<p>Can people diagnosed with autism access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted speech and language therapy assessments?</p> <p>Amber</p> <p><i>Red: Availability patchy or mainly generic services, with a small number of reasonably adjusted services.</i></p> <p><i>Amber: Available everywhere. Mainly reasonably adjusted services, with some access to autism specific services (when necessary) and some generic services.</i></p> <p><i>Green: All services are reasonably adjusted to provide access to post diagnostic specialist assessments. Access to autism specific services is also available when necessary.</i></p>
36	<p>Can people diagnosed with autism access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted occupational therapy assessments?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: Availability patchy or mainly generic services, with a small number of reasonably adjusted services.</i></p> <p><i>Amber: Available everywhere. Mainly reasonably adjusted services, with some access to autism specific services (when necessary) and some generic services.</i></p>

	<i>Green: All services are reasonably adjusted to provide access to post diagnostic specialist assessments. Access to autism specific services is also available when necessary.</i>
37	<p>Is post-diagnostic adjustment support available with local clinical psychology or other services?</p> <p>Yes</p>
38	<p>Of those adults who were assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and who are in receipt of a personal budget, how many have a diagnosis of Autism both with a co-occurring learning disability and without?</p> <p>No answer required in this box - answers in 38.01 – 38.03</p> <p>(Where respondents are able to answer questions 38.02 and 03, the total should equal the total for question 38.01)</p>
38.01	<p>Number of adults assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and in receipt of a personal budget</p> <p>87</p>
38.02	<p>Number of those reported in 1 who have a diagnosis of Autism but not learning disability</p> <p>7</p>
38.03	<p>Number of those reported in 1 who have both a diagnosis of Autism AND Learning Disability</p> <p>80</p>
39	<p>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?</p> <p>State General entry point or Single point of access with Autism specific reasonable adjustments at entry point or Autism specific access point</p> <p>Autism-specific</p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>Autism Bedfordshire has developed a directory of services available on its web site. It also offers a telephone helpline and email service that people can contact for information, advice, and guidance. Helpline: 01234 350704 Other Enquiries: 01234 214871 Email:enquiries@autismbeds.org Address: Autism Bedfordshire Salamander House 2 – 10 St. John’s Street Bedford Bedfordshire MK42 0DH</p>

	http://www.autismbedfordshire.net/
40	<p>Do you have a recognised pathway for people with autism but without a learning disability to access a community care assessment and other support?</p> <p>Yes Supplementary comment required</p> <p>The Local Autism Pathway is based on the 'Bristol Model'. It is a multidisciplinary team with clinical expertise, training element, clinical supervision element, social care element, and on-going long term support element.</p> <p>The pathway has capability to support complex cases, and it also integrates with community services in order to support individuals with autism by providing 'free of charge' guidance and accesses to other local services that can support people.</p> <p>The Central Bedfordshire Council Adult Learning Disabilities Team has recruited a specialist autism Care Manager who works directly with people with autism helping them to access community care and other support. People with autism can also be supported by Autism Bedfordshire and PoHwer.</p>
41	<p>Do you have a programme in place to ensure that all advocates working with people with autism have training in their specific requirements?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: No programme in place.</i> <i>Amber: Programme in place, not all advocates are covered.</i> <i>Green: Programme in place, all advocates are covered.</i></p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>Bedfordshire advocates have a yearly training plan informed by supervision and appraisals.</p> <p>All advocates receive training around engagement and working with people Autism. This is part of their mandatory training and this is supplemented by accessing external training by Autism Bedfordshire.</p> <p>All staff have received autism awareness training through team meetings. The Bedfordshire and Luton team training plan for the year has highlighted individual staff requests for more in depth training. 3 members of staff have completed Autism level 1 training and have expressed interest progressing to level 2. Those advocates will be booked on the next available programme; relevant staff attended the Autism Conference in Stevenage on 4th December 2014.</p> <p>Autism is discussed regularly in team meetings where complex casework is brought to the table for general discussion and learning.</p>
42	<p>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 appropriately trained advocate?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: No autism specific advocacy service available</i> <i>Amber: Yes. Local advocacy services are working at becoming autism-aware.</i></p>

	<p><i>Green: Yes. There are mechanisms in place to ensure that all advocates working with adults with autism have received specialist autism training.</i></p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>Autism Bedfordshire offers advice and support to people, their families, and carers. Where more individual and specific advocacy needs are identified, they are then signposted to relevant organisations such as POhWER.</p> <p>The advocacy service provided by POhWER and commissioned by Central Bedfordshire Council provides access for adults for 1 to 1 advocacy support on an issue specific basis. The service is widely promoted across the county and engagement is supported by Community Development Workers who support groups of people with autism. Referrals can come direct from clients or by a third party with client consent through a number of referral routes.</p> <p>POhWER does not operate a waiting list; clients referred to the service are allocated an advocate within 2 working days, with the assigned advocate making initial contact with the client within 5 working days.</p>
43	<p>Can people with autism access support if they are non Fair Access Criteria eligible or not eligible for statutory services?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p><i>Provide an example of the type of support that is available in your area and how you measure if it is successful.</i></p> <p>The type of support that is available includes: Community care assessment and, if eligible, agreed support package Autism Support workers linked to the Diagnostic and Assessment Pathway for on-going targeted do support social care non eligible people with Autism Autism Bedfordshire is available to anyone (services include social groups, telephone help line, and training). Information on universal services in Central Bedfordshire Council is available on the Council's website An autism friendly places directory was compiled by Autism Bedfordshire Carers assessments are available as part of the social care offer, and support from Carers in Bedfordshire in cooperation with Autism Bedfordshire is available Autism trained housing support officers are employed by Central Bedfordshire Council. Advocacy services are available to any vulnerable person in the Central Bedfordshire area.</p>
44	<p>How would you assess the level of information about local support across the area being accessible to people with autism?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: Information about support services for people with autism is either seriously incomplete or not easily accessible.</i></p> <p><i>Amber: There is a moderate level of information available about support services for people with autism which is either incomplete or not readily accessible to people with</i></p>

	<p><i>autism.</i> <i>Green: There is readily accessible information available on all relevant support services available for people with autism.</i></p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>The partnership assesses the level of information about accessible local support for people with autism through the Bedfordshire Think Autism Partnership Board meeting, community engagement events, monitoring meetings and individual feedback from individuals who have accessed support. Autism Bedfordshire also promotes their work through publicity leaflets and presentations at various venues. Their directory of services and helpline support also enable those with IT skills or telephone skills to access support.</p>
45	<p>Where appropriate are carers of people assessed as having autism and eligible for social care support offered assessments?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: Carers assessments are not consistently routinely offered</i> <i>Amber: Where carers are identified in the course of assessments of people with autism, they are routinely offered carers assessments</i> <i>Green: Upon assessment of people with autism carers are routinely identified and offered a carers assessment. Carers can also self-identify and request a carers assessment.. Information about how to obtain a carers assessment is clearly available.</i></p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>Assessments are available to for carers of people with autism as part of the Central Bedfordshire Social Care offer. Also support is available from a locally commissioned provider 'Carers in Bedfordshire' in cooperation with local provider Autism Bedfordshire.</p>
46	<p>Does the local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?</p> <p>Amber</p> <p><i>Red: Needs of people with Autism (as distinct from needs of people with other disabilities) not specifically mentioned in housing strategy]</i> <i>Amber: Suggest: Housing requirements of people with autism receive explicit consideration but not to level described in Green rating]</i> <i>Green: Comprehensive range of types of housing need for people with autism considered including estimates of numbers of placements required in each category]</i></p> <p>The Housing Strategy will be reviewed in 2015, but does not currently specifically reference autism. However, during 2013/14, the council carried out some research that explicitly considered the needs of adults with autism. The research sought a better understanding of the types of housing and support required to improve access to accommodation for adults with autism. This research has informed two draft documents. A draft Market Position Statement seeking to improve access to housing related support and a draft paper which identifies the requirements for building of new affordable rented housing, including new build supported housing. These documents are both due for publication in</p>

	<p>2015, and will feed into the Housing Strategy review. CBC's new Allocations Policy also includes a quota scheme, with a minimum number of mainstream social housing allocations will be made to specific vulnerable groups annually.</p>
47	<p>Do you have a policy of ensuring that local housing offices all have at least one staff member who has training in autism to help people make applications and fill in necessary forms?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>We have staff at each local housing office that have attended and passed the autism awareness training and they can help people with autism to complete applications and fill in the necessary forms.</p>
48	<p>How have you promoted in your area the employment of people on the Autistic Spectrum?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: No work in this area has been provided or minimal information not applied to the local area specific to Autism. Local employment support services are not trained in autism or consider the support needs of the individual taking into account their autism. Local job centres are not engaged.</i></p> <p><i>Amber: Autism awareness is delivered to employers on an individual basis. Local employment support services include Autism. Some contact made with local job centres.</i></p> <p><i>Green: Autism is included within the Employment or worklessness Strategy for the Council / or included In a disability employment strategy. Focused Autism trained Employment support. Proactive engagement with local employers specifically about employment people with autism including retaining work. Engagement of the local job centre in supporting reasonable adjustments in the workplace via Access to work.</i></p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Central Bedfordshire PoHwer provide: • Work with a group of young people who have autism. • Work with local colleges to support access to the service. • Working with Job Centre Plus • Local voluntary sector providers received targeted funding from Central Bedfordshire Council and other partnering local authorities in 2014/15 to support adults with autism into employment. • Volunteering is actively promoted so that potential employers can witness, first hand, the benefits of employing adults with autism. • Central Bedfordshire Social Care Employment Service has been reviewed and its approach re-structured to include a stronger focus on supporting people into paid work. Support has been provided to a number of adults with autism who are in jobs or work trials or who are searching for work. • There are clear links with the Autism Specialist Care Manager from the Adult Learning Disability Team and with the Disability Employment Advisors at the 2 local Central Bedfordshire Job Centre Plus'.

49	<p>Do autism transition processes to adult services have an employment focus?</p> <p>Amber</p> <p><i>Red: Transition plans do not include specific reference to employment or continued learning.</i></p> <p><i>Amber: Transition plans include reference to employment/activity opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>Green: Transition plans include detailed reference to employment, access to further development in relation to individual's future aspirations, choice and opportunities available.</i></p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>In response to the SEND reforms Adult Social Care are leading on the implementation of a new adult transitions strategy and pathway to enable young people with disabilities to effectively prepare for adulthood. A primary focus of these has been to raise the aspirations of young people, including those with autism, and their families to consider employment as a realistic option as they enter adulthood. The central Bedfordshire plan has prioritised the consideration of options for training, volunteering or getting paid work that builds upon the existing employment pathway. This includes working with businesses and charities to provide better opportunities in relation to these key areas.</p>
50	<p>Are the Criminal Justice Services (police, probation and, if relevant, court services) engaged with you as key partners in planning for adults with autism?</p> <p>Green</p> <p><i>Red: Minimal or no engagement with the criminal justice services</i></p> <p><i>Amber:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>discussions between local authority adult social care services and criminal justice service agencies are continuing;</i> • <i>representatives from criminal justice service agencies sit on autism partnership board or alternative</i> <p><i>Green: As amber, but in addition,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>people with autism are included in the development of local criminal justice diversion schemes</i> • <i>representative from criminal justice services agencies regularly attend meetings of the autism partnership board or alternative</i> • <i>there is evidence of joint working such as alert cards or similar schemes in operation.</i> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>Bedfordshire Criminal Justice Service (CJS) are engaging very well as a partner in our planning for adults with autism. The partners include local Police, Probation Service, local prison service, and mental health criminal justice colleagues. Bedfordshire CJS also use and promote the use of autism alert cards to ensure that front line Officers are aware if a person has an autism diagnosis. Representatives from CJS are represented at the Bedfordshire Think Autism Partnership Board meetings. In 2013/14 Bedfordshire Think Autism Partnership Board had two developmental workshops to date to establish how local CJS will contribute to the autism strategy. As a result of the workshops we have</p>

	<p>identified 'critical points' for autism screening, information sharing, and autism training across CJS.</p> <p>All partners were fully engaged and they have expressed full support in developing ways of working with adults with autism.</p>
51	<p>Is access to an appropriate adult service available for people on the Autistic Spectrum in custody suites and nominated 'places of safety'.</p> <p>Amber <i>Red: There is not reliable access to an appropriate Adult service</i> <i>Amber: Yes, but appropriate adults do not necessarily have autism awareness training</i> <i>Green: Yes and these have all had autism awareness training</i></p>
52	<p>What are you doing different because of Think Autism – the update to the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy?</p> <p>Supplementary comment required</p> <p>We are currently preparing a Think Autism update strategy inline with the Government direction. This will enable us to continue to meet our statutory duties and will develop and strengthen partnerships between relevant local organisations, services, and stakeholders to set clear direction for improved local services.</p> <p>The update strategy benefits from an autism partnership board called 'Bedfordshire Think Autism Partnership Board. It consists of local organisations, services, and stakeholders that feed into the appropriate Local Authority governance structures.</p> <p>Since the publication of our local Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives strategy we have laid strong foundations and successfully achieved changes for local adults with autism, delivering a more person centred approach offering more choice and control.</p> <p>Moving forward we have 5 strategic priorities which will be locally driven over the next 3 years. These encompass relevant statutory duties and national guidance.</p>
53	<p>Describe briefly (up to 1500 characters) ONE initiative of your Council, relating to the provision of care for people with Autism, which you think has been successful.</p> <p>At Central Bedfordshire Council we have commissioned a dedicated Autism Specialist post. This post provides a specialist role within the Learning Disability Service providing a link between strategic objectives and front line operations, providing advice, support, and training to those involved in supporting people who present with needs with an Autistic Condition.</p> <p>The Autism Specialist post has enabled the learning disability service to build strong links and to work in partnership with local providers such as Autism Bedfordshire and the Autism Diagnostic service provided by SEPT. This has enabled people with autism to be provided with timely and appropriate information, advice and guidance and signposting to the services they require at the right time. The Autism Specialist post has been able to share knowledge and expertise based on national guidance and evidence based best practice with colleagues within the learning disability service, family carers to ensure that people with</p>

	<p>autism are supported in the most appropriate and least restrictive way, enabling better outcomes.</p>
54	<p>Describe briefly (up to 1500 characters) the initiative of your Council, relating to the provision of care for people with Autism, which people with Autism in your area think has been most successful and helpful.</p> <p>Autism Awareness Training To date we have trained approximately 600 professionals in Autism Awareness across Bedfordshire. Attendees have come from a range of different professions including but not limited to voluntary organisations, health organisations, and local authorities. Overwhelming majority of the attendees feedback that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The training was very or extremely relevant for their professions • Helped them to understand autism • The training helped them have a better understanding of how to support someone with Autism <p>Guest speakers set our training apart from all other autism awareness training and it is consistently reported as a highlight of the training. This is a key strength of the training and by having more than one guest speaker we can offer different perspectives from the autistic spectrum for those progressing through the different levels of training. Managing and preparing guest speaker's takes careful training, planning and thorough debriefing to ensure they are comfortable delivering the training and that they are able to progress as individuals. Whilst the training has been well received, we have adapted the content to include more practical tasks to help energize the delegates / to help the delegates put their learning into practice. This was in response to feedback received through the evaluation forms. We have also continually updated the training with any change in policy or research as they are published.</p>
55	<p>How is your council planning to spend your Section 31 capital grant of £18,500?</p> <p>Accounts of experiences by self-advocate stories. Up to 3 stories may be added. These should be only direct accounts <u>provided by self-advocates</u> of experiences they have had requiring or using services. They may be descriptions of good or bad experiences. They need to be short - less than 2000 characters in total.</p> <p>After consultation with colleagues, partners and all partnership board members the following proposals were agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an autism friendly version of the CBC housing register The current housing register has caused difficulty and anxiety for many of our customers with autism. Autism Bedfordshire will be working alongside the host web page provider to ensure that the housing register is autism friendly. 2. Purchasing IT equipment and updating local educational facilities creating a space conducive with an autism friendly environment. We will be supporting Central Bedfordshire College with this funding to improve the building for people with Autism. They will be creating a quiet area/room within the existing building that could be available for people to visit when they are feeling particularly anxious and over breaks and lunch times. <p>The remaining funding will be used to purchase i-pads to help</p>

	<p>customers with autism manage their day to day lives better, help people with autism access advice, and support them with job searches and applications.</p> <p>Using the funding in this way fits in with our responsibilities within the care act, supporting people with their well-being providing the right care and support to help improve lives.</p> <p>Both proposals link directly to the Governments Think Autism update and sit firmly within the local autism agenda priorities for the next 3 years.</p>
56.01	<p>Self-Advocate Account 1.</p> <p>The students with autism studying at Central Bedfordshire College are directly involved in the development of the new quiet room/area for people with autism to visit when they need ‘time out’. They are helping design the room to ensure it is autism friendly and meets their needs. Some individual quotes from some of the students who will benefit from the change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Sometimes I get worried and anxious when I’m at college I think a quiet room would help me to calm down and get eager again. Relaxing music in a relaxing room would really help.” • “I think a quiet room would be a really good idea” • “Sometimes I feel terrified of violence. I would like somewhere for people to go and calm down and then I wouldn’t have to feel scared.” • “If we had a quiet room people could get themselves calmed down and they wouldn’t get so angry.” • “I haven’t had a happy beginning but life’s a journey and now I’m at college I’m looking forward. Sometimes I get a bit overwhelmed and I would like somewhere to go to get back to me.” <p>Quote from a Community Development Support Officer who works with the students “Wow!! You can almost see it!! The students are really excited about the new room and being involved in helping set it up”.</p>
56.02	<p>Section to which Self-Advocate Account 1 relates</p> <p>This self advocate account relates the local best practice section - how we are spending some of the £18.5k section 31 capital grant</p>
56.03	<p>Self-Advocate Account 2</p> <p>I have been acting as co-chair of the Think Autism Partnership Board for another year. I have chaired some of these meetings myself, with the help of the commissioners. I feel like I am being taken more seriously now as an active member of the partnership and I have meetings with the commissioners before each partnership board meeting to discuss the agenda. My views and suggestions are considered when setting the agenda.</p> <p>I have also been invited to attend autism strategy meetings with the commissioners and a local work scheme.</p> <p>I have taken over running a local lunch group for autistic adults. The group has continued to flourish, and friendships have formed between</p>

	<p>members. One member has also volunteered to be my deputy. A local work scheme has also been attending the group meetings and they have offered advocacy support to several members’.</p> <p>I attended a day with local police to help review their procedures for custody of vulnerable adults. I was able to give considerable insight into how their procedures could affect a person with an ASD and how to get the best outcome from a potential arrest situation.</p> <p>I also applied for a position on an advisory panel for a national project. And out of more than 70 applicants I was invited to join the team. The outcome of the project will be to produce best practice guidelines for local services across the country.</p> <p>I shall be continuing to be involved with our local services over the coming year but I am limited in my capacity due to autism and my mental and physical health and mobility issues. I have very little support for my own needs, and I feel that sometimes people tend to forget how challenging all this work is for me, because they see me as being quite capable, but it does have a significant impact on me, especially travelling to meetings. To this end, I shall be seeking personal assistance to help me with this work this year.</p>
56.04	<p>Section to which Self-Advocate Account 2 relates</p> <p>This self advocate account relates to 2 sections – Planning and Criminal Justice System sections</p> <p>Planning How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their carers in planning?</p> <p>Criminal Justice System (CJS) Are the Criminal Justice Services (police, probation and, if relevant, court services) engaged with you as key partners in planning for adults with autism?</p>
56.05	<p>Self-Advocate Account 3</p> <p>I accessed the local diagnostic service after it was suggested my daughter had autism at age 2 and the more I read, the more lights bulbs went on in my head about my own struggles.</p> <p>I contacted a local provider who told me about the new local diagnostic service and said I needed a doctor's referral.</p> <p>Eventually after dismissing my symptoms the Doctor reluctantly agreed to send a letter on my behalf to the local diagnostic service. An appointment came through and I attended for diagnosis, or not.</p> <p>The follow-up support turned out to be more important than I could have imagined. I thought I felt relieved that I finally understood why I'd found life so hard, but now I felt confused and scared and quite angry that no one had noticed earlier in my life that I wasn't managing. Any mention to my parents had always resulted in comments such as stop being stupid; pull your socks up etc. so I'd learn to hide how I felt.</p> <p>Having someone to talk all these through with me and my family was an immense comfort and the first time I'd spoken to someone who just got me, that didn't judge me for my brash comments or whacky way of looking at the world.</p>

	<p>I am thankful that I have been involved with both the local diagnostic service and the Early Years Support Team as they seem to truly understand ASD and the sensory problems that usually accompany this. But I think it is crucial that schools, doctors and other health professionals are educated about autism to reflect current knowledge not stereotypes from 20 years ago. Does the quote "when you've met one person with autism, you've only met one person with autism" not say it all?</p> <p>I feel I am able to contact the Adult Autism Service at any time should I need to (and I have) and my concerns are always dealt with promptly and with care and respect. I was also recently asked to participate in the interviews for a new psychologist [for the local diagnostic service and was made to feel my thoughts and opinions were of value.</p> <p>Section to which Self-Advocate Account 3 relates</p> <p>This self advocate account relates to 2 sections – Planning and Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner sections</p> <p>Planning How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their carers in planning?</p> <p>Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner Have you got an established local autism diagnostic pathway? and How many of the people receiving a diagnosis in the year to end March 2014 had moved on to appropriate services by end September 2014? and How would you describe the local diagnostic pathway, i.e. Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis or a specialist autism specific service?</p>
	<p>Self-Advocate Account 4</p> <p>I am 19 years old and I have a diagnosis of ADHD and Autism along with depression and anxiety. To help me cope with this I was accessing a counsellor at a local diagnostic service and through them I made contact with a local voluntary sector provider.</p> <p>I started to attend the skills courses which enabled me to have activities to attend. I had difficulties in getting to the venue, but through the local provider and the P.E.T.E programme I was able to arrange for transport to the venue. I was able to talk to staff at the skills group about my relationship with my mum and difficulties I have. Through this, I have accessed further support. I now not only access the skills group, but further activities including involvement with a local carer provider and regular exercise.</p> <p>My confidence has grown. I can now contact people to arrange social activities and no longer require transport to the venue for the current skills group – I now travel there by bus on my own. I hope that I can continue to gain skills and confidence in this way to allow me to be more organised and access more groups and sessions.</p>

	<p>Section to which Self-Advocate Account 4 relates</p> <p>This self advocate account relates to 2 sections – Planning and Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner sections</p> <p>Planning How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their carers in planning?</p> <p>Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner Have you got an established local autism diagnostic pathway? and How many of the people receiving a diagnosis in the year to end March 2014 had moved on to appropriate services by end September 2014? and How would you describe the local diagnostic pathway, i.e. Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis or a specialist autism specific service?</p>
	<p>Self-Advocate Account 5</p> <p>This is a self advocate story from 4 people with autism who attend local lunch groups organised by a local provider. These groups discuss any issues or subjects that the people with autism want too and talk about information discussed at the previous Bedfordshire Think Autism Partnership Board. On request of the group information is fed back to the Bedfordshire Think Autism Partnership Board for further discussion and action.</p> <p>“I just want to say that you all make this group something very, something more than just having something to eat. There's a lot of care and support going on here that really warms my heart. Let's stick together throughout the coming year!”</p> <p>“I think we have all realised the benefits of this social group for us, and I have been warmed to see such caring, support and friendship between members. And EMPATHY... something people say us autists don't have!”</p> <p>“I love coming to Voice lunch group, It is the one place where I am informed of what's going on and be asked for my opinion of it, it makes me feel like a valued and respected person. I know I can get the support I need just by coming to the group and speaking to you”.</p> <p>“I really like coming to the group, I can be myself and for once!”</p> <p>Section to which Self-Advocate Account 5 relates</p> <p>This self advocate account relates to the ‘Planning’ sections</p> <p>Planning How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their carers in planning?</p>
60	Which of the following types of partner were involved in the completion of this self-

[assessment?](#)

**CBC Adult Social Care
Health and Wellbeing Board
Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Primary Healthcare providers
Secondary Health care providers
Employment Services
Bedfordshire Police
Local charitable/voluntary/self-advocacy/interest groups
Informal carers/family/friends of people on the autistic spectrum**