

APPENDIX A

The principal requirements from: 'Statutory guidance for local authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the adult autism strategy' published by the Department of Health in March 2015

- a) that work takes place with local Clinical Commissioning Groups to implement the Autism strategy
- b) the formation of a Partnership Board
- c) that data on people with Autism referred to and/or accessing social and/or health care is collected
- d) that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) reflects local data about people with Autism and their needs
- e) the establishment of a diagnostic service
- f) All staff working in health and social care have Autism awareness training
- g) all those working with people with Autism (including decision makers) have the appropriate demonstrable knowledge and skills
- h) ensure participation in employment is a key outcome in assessment and care planning
- i) consider whether adults with Autism would benefit from preventative services, information, advice and signposting
- j) ensure that any person carrying out a needs assessment under the Care Act 2014 is competent to do so and appropriately trained
- k) listen carefully to views, wishes, feelings and beliefs of people including those with Autism and their carers
- l) where required, provide access to an independent advocate to ensure the individual's engagement in determining their support
- m) work with partners for the benefit of people with Autism

The achievements of the Council towards meeting the statutory guidance

- a) the Council works closely with Bedford Clinical Commissioning Group in delivering health outcomes for people with Autism. A range of clinical services are commissioned from ELFT and provided by The Adult Autism Service. The service has a clear identified pathway to local authority services.
- b) The TAPB was established in 2012 and meets quarterly. It is co-chaired by a customer who has Autism. Attendance of customers with Autism and their carers/support staff is good. Meetings are themed around topics of particular interest to customer groups and a range of partners attend regularly.
- c) Data is collected and shared through a multi-disciplinary model of local and community based assessment and diagnosis of people with Autism. As well as in-house social care data, this includes GPs, specialist healthcare services, the criminal justice service and the voluntary and community sector.
- d) The Council's refreshed JSNA, currently being written, will contain a

specific chapter on Autism.

- e) ELFT are commissioned to provide a diagnostic service which was established in 2013. Their Adult Autism Service provides assessment, treatment and advice for people with Autism and refers on to the most appropriate health, social care or support group.
- f) Autism awareness training is available to all Council staff. The Council works with its partner organisations in the police, probation service and court services to encourage Autism training of their staff with good results.
- g) Specialist staff receive training to ensure they have the right skills and knowledge when working with people with Autism.
- h) The Council's 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.
- i) Autism Bedfordshire (a local charity, established over 25 years) have recently been recommissioned to provide a range of preventative services to local customers with Autism. These include daytime and evening adult social groups to promote social integration and skills development. They support 45 Central Bedfordshire customers in social integration and skills development. Their service also includes a telephone helpline, an informative website and a comprehensive lending library.
- j) Since 2012, the Council's Adult Learning Disability Team has employed an Autism specialist care manager to ensure the assessment of people with Autism is carried out competently. 139 people with Autism are currently known to the Council's Adult Social Care. The majority of these customers also have a learning disability.
- k) In order to make the TAPB more customer-focussed, Autism Bedfordshire is being supported to organise and run the Board as well as deliver the action plan. Their work will include aligning the 15 national priority challenges that people with Autism and their families have identified with those most important to local people. Autism Bedfordshire run regular voice groups and conduct customer surveys to ensure local people with autism have a voice and receive the support they require.
- l) Pohwer provide commissioned independent advocacy services to local customers with autism where there is a need.
- m) Bedfordshire Police recently signed up to Autism East Anglia alert card system where people with Autism can carry a card explaining their condition if they find themselves in a difficult or emergency situation

Further work identified for the action plan:

- Data collection – to improve the collection of data on older people with Autism, those in the BME community and women. It is acknowledged that these groups often have dissimilar needs.
- Identifying unmet need particularly for people who have Autism without a learning disability or mental health issue. People with Asperger's syndrome, which is a form of Autism where people are of average or above average intelligence, do not usually have a learning disability but may have specific learning or social difficulties.
- Ensure the scope of training in both awareness raising and more specialist areas is expanded across all organisations' service areas. For example, in relation ELFT health staff there is no trust-wide Autism training strategy in place at this time.