

By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services
To: Select Committee: Autism Spectrum Disorder – 11 May 2010
Subject: AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER – “ONE YEAR ON” REPORT
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To advise Members of the actions those have been taken forward since the publication of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Select Committee report in March 2009

The report also appraises Members on ‘Fulfilling and rewarding Lives’: The strategy for adults with autism in England (March 2010) and ‘The first year delivery plan delivery plan for adults with autism in England (April 2010).

Introduction

- 1.1 The Autistic Spectrum Disorder Select Committee reported to the County Council in March 2009.
- 1.2 The Terms of Reference for the Select Committee Topic Review for Autistic Spectrum Disorder sufferers and their carers were:
 - to investigate the prevalence of autism in Kent
 - to explore existing and emerging national and local policies and strategies with regard to autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)
 - to examine the effectiveness of current ASD-related services in the County
 - to explore existing and emerging approaches to funding, and present financial resources employed to support ASD-related services in Kent
 - to investigate the extent of existing collaboration and partnership working between individuals and agencies providing support to people with autism
 - having considered all the above aspects, to make recommendations for an approach for Kent.
- 1.3 The Committee received evidence and information from a wide range of

stakeholders, professionals, representatives of organisations supplying autism-related services, academics, officers and people affected by autism and their carers.

- 1.4 The Autistic Spectrum Disorder Select Committee made a total of 15 recommendations for further action. The 'One Year On' monitoring report (Appendix 1 to follow) will be considered by The Autistic Spectrum Disorder Select Committee on 11th May 2010 to review progress made against the recommendations

Policy Context

- 2.1 The needs of Adults with Autism. As the first ever piece of legislation designed to address the needs of one specific impairment group, it was followed by the 'Fulfilling and rewarding Lives': The strategy for adults with autism in England (March 2010, Appendix 2 attached for information)

- 2.2 The national strategy is underpinned by the vision that:

'All adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can get a diagnosis and access support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents.'

This would be achieved by the following specific areas for action over the next three years:

- increasing awareness and understanding of autism among frontline professionals
- developing a clear, consistent pathway for diagnosis in every area, which is followed by the offer of a personalised needs assessment
- improving access for adults with autism to the services and support they need to live independently within the community
- helping adults with autism into work, and
- enabling local partners to plan and develop appropriate services for adults with autism to meet identified needs and priorities

- 2.3 The strategy was followed by a 'Towards Fulfilling and rewarding lives: The first year delivery plan for adults with autism in England in April 2010 (Appendix 3 attached). This sets out how the strategy is being taken forward over the next twelve months. This covers priorities for action and timelines and milestones associated with the priorities. While the strategy acknowledges that change will be a long term process, the first year delivery plan is to act as a driver particularly with the development of statutory

guidance and long term delivery plan to be published by the end of 2010. However, specific actions have already been taken. These are:

- Improving training around autism for frontline staff in health and social care and employment support –which the consultation strategy identified as a vital step
- Helping adults with autism into work work – an essential priority, given the low numbers of adults with autism in employment.

3 One Year On

3.1 Progress to date has not been advanced as well as we had liked. This was in part because we were keen that work done locally should be informed by the national strategy and the First year delivery which were recently in March and April of this year.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of the ‘One Year’ report.

The ‘Fulfilling and rewarding Lives’: The strategy for adults with autism in England and ‘The first year delivery plan delivery plan for adults with autism in England.

Michael Thomas-Sam
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Appendices

Appendix 1 Autistic Spectrum Disorder ‘One Year’ Monitoring Report

Appendix 2 The ‘Fulfilling and rewarding Lives’: The strategy for adults with autism in England, March 2010

Appendix 3 The ‘Fulfilling and rewarding Lives’: The strategy for adults with autism in England and ‘The first year delivery plan delivery plan for adults with autism in England, April 2010.

Background Documents: