

### Summary of progress towards each Select Committee Recommendation

Recommendation 1:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>The Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Select Committee recommends that the Kent Adult Social Services Directorate, through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for adults in Kent, establishes the most effective way of conducting a county-wide study investigating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the prevalence and incidence of adults with ASD in need of support and not currently receiving service provision</b></li> <li>• <b>levels of service satisfaction of those adults with autism living at home and currently receiving support.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>This investigation will inform the planning and commissioning of future services for adults with ASD. The study could involve sponsoring a bursary for a student to carry out a research project at the Tizard Centre, University of Kent (please refer to Chapter 3).</b></p>	<p>KASS in partnership with Health has used South East Public Health Observatory and National Audit Office data to inform a Learning Disability Joint Needs Assessment which is currently out for consultation. This does not capture the needs of all the people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder as not every person with ASD will have a learning disability.</p> <p>Further work is planned to help us better understand the prevalence as well people's need for Support Services.</p> <p>The prevalence study work commissioned by Central Government will also improve on understanding.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>

Recommendation 2:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>KCC should encourage the inclusion of autism-related services, in the form of “care pathways”, amongst the services provided by multi-disciplinary mental health teams in the County. The local authority should also explore the possibility of setting up, in partnership with the NHS, a highly specialised autism service in Kent, such as the one offered by the South London and Maudsley Hospital (Chapter 4, Section 4.1 and Section 4.2).</b></p>	<p>Self-Directed Support (SDS) Champions are established within the Kent and Medway Partnership Trust (KMPT) as advocates of inclusive services. They are particularly active at social inclusion and recovery meetings.</p> <p>The Autistic Spectrum Disorder Working Group (ASDWG) has investigated the Maudsley Hospital model and found this not to be appropriate for Kent. The first year delivery plan of the National ASD working group is to propose a model that is informed by national research which Kent will take into account.</p> <p>Kent and Medway Partnership Trust has commissioned good quality ASD Specialist Assessments supported by the JNSA, to establish diagnosis, care planning and the commissioning of appropriate services to meet the needs of the person and their family.</p> <p>KCC and its partners will be guided by the The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) model Care Pathway expected later this year. This will enable us to develop both referral and care pathway that incorporates all appropriate agencies, statutory as well as voluntary.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>

Recommendation 3:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>The Kent Adult Social Services Directorate should ensure that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>all its staff involved in the assessment of autism are fully trained to understand the uniqueness, complexity and implications of the condition. This training should be coupled with an increasing number of early interventions aimed at diverting people with autism from care pathways that are inappropriate and expensive.</b></li> <li>• <b>adequate advocacy services with ASD-specific knowledge are offered to all people with autism</b></li> </ul>	<p>A training module on ASD is being developed with input from appropriate voluntary sector agencies such as Kent Autistic Trust (KAT). Target training commenced in 2009 with the intention of training the majority of staff start later in 2010. There are also joint training initiatives being planned with Jobcentre Plus</p> <p>In addition, training funded by KASS is already being provided to private and voluntary sector agencies, under contract with South Kent College This will increase awareness and understanding of ASD leading to the commissioning of more appropriate services</p> <p>Any examples of best practice for improving training which may emerge from statutory guidance from the DH, due to be published by end December 2010, will be noted and used to shape existing training modules</p> <p>Kent Autistic Trust (KAT) provides an advocacy, information and support service for Kent and Medway and has secured funding until March 2015</p> <p>KMPT has a Service Level Agreement to improve access to services for people with mental health problems to supplement existing services.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>

Recommendation 4:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>The Kent Adult Social Services Directorate should aim to achieve greater access to person-centred planning for, and a greater usage of Direct Payments by, people with ASD.</b></p> <p><b>It will liaise with the recently appointed Specialist Advisor for Autism at the Department of Health in an effort to expand its capacity, expertise and leadership on autism in Kent (Chapter 5).</b></p>	<p>Self Directed Support (SDS) which places the individual at the centre of support planning was introduced by KASS in October 2009 and by April 2011, everyone eligible for services receives a Personal Budget and be offered Direct Payments as a means of exercising choice and control over the services they receive. This can be managed by the service user or by a third party on behalf of the service user.</p> <p>KCC and NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent are partners in a Personal Health Budgets pilot with the DH focussing on Thanet. If the pilots are successful, merging Health and Social Care Budgets and adoption of Single Assessment Process (SAP) will be a strong possibility, thus delivering even greater choice and control to service users.</p> <p>KASS has strong links with the DH Specialist Advisor which was forged during development of the National Autism Strategy and this will continue through to implementation.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>

Recommendation 5:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>The Managing Director of Kent Adult Social Services should oversee and ensure the prompt production and implementation of a protocol for joint working between KCC's learning disability and mental health teams, in order to provide a more inclusive and responsive service to individuals with ASD</b></p> <p><b>(Chapter 6, Section 6.1).</b></p>	<p>This is already informing practice between LD and KMPT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The transition protocols provides us with the sound basis for ensuring that effective joint team working takes place</li> <li>• Learning Disability and Kent and Medway Partnership Trust joint protocols (covering people who present with joint mental health and learning disability needs) have been developed and staff training carried out to enable better identification of anyone with Aspergers or high level ASD</li> <li>• Protocols are further reinforced through Action Planning so that they are responsive to the needs and issues of individuals with ASD.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>

Recommendation 6:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>The Select Committee endorses the production of Transition Protocols, which can enhance data sharing between children and adult social services in Kent, and recommends that the impact of these protocols on service planning and provision for young people with ASD – including those with Asperger syndrome - is specifically monitored</b></p> <p><b>(Chapter 6, Section 6.2).</b></p>	<p>Monitoring and Evaluation are key elements of the strategy. In a joint CFE/KASS survey carried out in Autumn of 2009 with the carrying out of a survey which revealed that 75% of respondents reported that they were satisfied with the service they received during the transition process of from CFE to KASS.</p> <p>With the introduction of Integrated Children’s System (ICS) there is now a single system with key data available to both CFE and KASS staff. This has improved the flow of information about individual young people leading to more integrated and person-cantered planning and commissioning of services.</p> <p>Regular evaluation and monitoring of the effectiveness of the Protocols is ensuring that the transition arrangements between the two directorates children is being continuously improved. This is reported as part of the progress report on Target 55 of the Towards 2010 Objectives</p> <p>The monitoring of the Children and Young Peoples Plan also monitor how well people are supported.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>

Recommendation 7:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>Kent Adult Social Services should lead on the establishment of a multidisciplinary task group with representation from agencies including health, social care, housing, employment services, education, independent sector providers and the voluntary sector.</b></p> <p><b>The task group - which should liaise with the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board - will widen and strengthen the interdependence and joint working amongst all these agencies, to provide more efficient and effective services to people with autism and individuals with learning disabilities (Chapter 6, Section6.3).</b></p>	<p>A cross agency Autistic Spectrum Disorder Task group has been established to drive forward work on the recommendations. PCTs, KMPT, Mental Health, Gypsy Unit, CFE and KASS are all represented. A housing representative is yet to be secured, although the housing rep on the County Transition Group can provide an interim link with the group. The group reports to the Transition Executive Group chaired by the Managing Director for KASS.</p> <p>The Group will work closely with the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board. The thrust of its strategy is to make existing services work better for people with ASD rather than establishing a new specialist service.</p> <p>The Group also has members who have links or sit on key subgroups of the Kent Children Trust Review arrangement. KASS Policy Lead Manager sits on the Change for Children’s Teams which is supporting the change programme of Kent Children’s Trust. A housing representative now sits on the County Transition Group this will help inform integrated working to meet the particular needs of people with Autism and their families.</p> <p>Terms of reference of the group has been agreed</p> <p>The group will drive the action plan with the” Valuing People Now” Delivery Manager being the link with the LD Partnership Board and Head of Integrated Services for Children with Complex Needs the link for CFE</p>	<p><b>Complete/advanced progress</b></p>

Recommendation: 8	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>KCC should make sure that transition planning offered to young people with autism should start at the age of 14, and that it should be in place before they reach statutory school leaving age</b></p> <p><b>The local authority should ensure well coordinated, seamless transitions into adulthood, involving person-centred, effective planning and support. Planning should be coupled with a mechanism to monitor progress and to secure a smooth transition</b></p> <p><b>(Chapter 7, Section 7.1, Section 7.2 and Section 7.3. To view the recommendations of the report “Transition to a Positive Future” (2007) please see Appendix 4).</b></p>	<p>Kent’s Transition Protocol ensures that young people with ASD who have complex needs are able to make the move from adolescence to adulthood with the support they need and with their involvement in all decision making processes to achieve the outcomes they want in line with Self Directed Support.</p> <p>A framework for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of Transition planning has been developed and implemented by County Transition Planning and Review group, supported by Good Practice supervisors.</p> <p>It sets out shared policy, responsibilities and agreed roles in the transition process, timelines and paperwork so that everyone can work together effectively.</p>	<p><b>Complete/advanced progress</b></p>

Recommendation 9:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>Kent County Council should review the availability of specialist psychology, psychiatry and speech therapy health services to people with autism both during transition and into adulthood (Chapter 7, Section 7.4). Recommendation</b></p>	<p>Kent and Medway Partnership Trust has restructured its service arrangements recently. In line with the joint Learning Disability and Mental Health joint protocols, people presenting with autism in the absence of learning disability will be assessed appropriately.</p> <p>The Autistic Spectrum Disorder Task Group has further work to do in response to this recommendation.</p> <p>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services commission appropriate services including through community LD teams upon identification of anyone with ASD</p> <p>CFE are able to identify those who are within the education system and who need specialist psychological support.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>

Recommendation 10	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>Kent County Council should support a campaign to raise awareness in the community about autism. KCC should also urge internal and partner agencies, including the NHS, the Criminal Justice System, the police and the housing, employment and education services, to enhance awareness amongst their staff about autism, its complexities and the implications for their service delivery (Chapter 8, Section 8.1 and Section 8.2).</b></p>	<p>Kent Autistic Trust (KAT) has a good track record of raising awareness and is part funded by KCC</p> <p>KCC sponsored the creation of a DVD of a young person with ASD to tell their story through film and is proving a powerful means of raising awareness.</p> <p>The possibility of creating a network of “Autism Ambassadors” – local volunteers who actively represent and promote the needs of people with ASD will also be explored by the lead manager.</p> <p>Any new ideas that emerge from the National Programme Board for tackling the stigma of Autism within the community will be considered for inclusion the awareness raising campaign across statutory and voluntary sector agencies.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>




Recommendation 11:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>KCC should contribute to the development of a website which provides up-to date national guidance as well as local information on all the services and support available to people with ASD and their families in Kent. Information and guidance should be presented in a clear, unambiguous and user-friendly form (Chapter 8, Section 8.3).</b></p>	<p>Kent Autistic Trust (KAT) provides accessible information about services available locally for people with ASD and their carers.</p> <p>KCC will explore with KAT other means of communication that is more person centred i.e. face to face and linking with Kent's website.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>

Recommendation 12:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>Kent County Council should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>review its recruitment practices and selection criteria so that they support and enable the employment of more people with autistic spectrum conditions within the Authority</b></li> <li>• <b>explore the potential of further education colleges in Kent to maximise the employment opportunities of people with autism in the County</b></li> <li>• <b>require the Supporting Independence Programme team to carry out a project, possibly with the Tizard Centre, aimed at helping people with ASD to access employment (Chapter 9, Section 9.1 and Section 9.2).</b></li> </ul>	<p>Kent Supported Employment has a good track record of offering supported to people with LD and ASD. KCC is a Project Search demonstration site. The first intake of learners is in September 2010 and brings together Further Education and Supported Employment.</p> <p>As part of Getting a Life, KCC and partners been working on an employment pathway for people age 14, including those ASD. This has involved input from CFE, special schools, FE sector, Good Day Programme, Jobcentre Plus and Connexions. Kent Supported Employment is also working with the FE sector to ensure that courses are better geared to supporting pathways into both supported living and employment.</p> <p>Employability Strategy is due to go to full Cabinet in July 2010 and will ensure that KCC is employing greater numbers of people from socially excluded groups including people with ASD. It will have an outward focus and working with partners, especially those in the public sector to ensure that are also employing greater numbers of people from socially excluded groups.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>

Recommendation 13:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>Kent County Council should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• carry out an audit involving all Kent District Councils to ascertain accurately the housing options available to people with ASD and those with learning disabilities</li> <li>• urge both District Councils and the Joint Planning and Policy Board to take particular account of the needs of people with autism when discussing and deciding housing options</li> <li>• encourage both District Councils and the Kent Adult Social Services Directorate to consider allocating some of their PFI housing options to people with autism (Chapter 9, Section 9.3).</li> </ul>	<p>All LD teams have arrangements for close working with local Housing Groups</p> <p>Housing Needs Surveys have been carried out in all districts. These will be pulled together to provide a comprehensive picture.</p> <p>Health and Social Care integrated teams have devised Housing Action Plans to support the housing need for people with ASD</p> <p>A series of “How do I” tenancy agreement leaflets help with practical advice to tenants.</p> <p>Private Finance Initiative (PFI) has enabled some people with ASD to become tenants through the allocation of supported living accommodation.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>

Recommendation 14:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>Kent County Council should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>start a pilot scheme in Kent in which a drop-in facility providing autism related information and guidance is available one day a week. The Committee suggests using an existing local setting, such as the successful Ashford Gateway, as the base for this pilot scheme. In order to maximise the effectiveness of this initiative, it is essential that the staff working in the premises are made aware both of the initiative and about the condition of autism</b></li> <li>• <b>contribute to the funding of a befriending scheme, using trained volunteers, which may be run in collaboration with The National Autistic Society (Chapter 10, Section 10.1 and Section 10.2).</b></li> </ul>	<p>KASS will explore the idea of using two of these facilities for a pilot scheme and will be guided by both the National Autistic Society (NAS) and Kent Autistic Trust (KAT with regard to setting it up.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to the establishment of a specialist enablement service for people with ASD as part of the roll out of Self Directed Support to all parts of KASS.</p> <p>KASS is currently exploring how together, with partners we can provide different forms of drop-in type support. This may include seeking to very relevant existing service level agreements.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>

Recommendation 15:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>The Kent Adult Social Services Directorate should carry out a county-wide audit to quantify the need for respite of people with ASD and their families.</b></p> <p><b>The purpose of this study is to inform the planning of future respite service provision in Kent, taking into account the Authority's financial constraints (Chapter 10, Section 10.3).</b></p>	<p>See comments provided in response to recommendation 1 above which covers this matter.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p>

- Key:
-  = Complete/advanced progress
  -  = Some good progress although more to do
  -  = Little/no significant progress yet/high risk (therefore high priority next steps)