

### 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>• the prevalence and incidence of adults with ASD in need of support and not currently receiving service provision</li> <li>• levels of service satisfaction of those adults with autism living at home and currently receiving support.</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>The national prevalence study work commissioned by the Department of Health will improve understanding of the prevalence and incidence of ASD locally, enabling KCC to make local estimate of need. This will in turn inform the core data sets and planned outcomes of the JSNA which is currently being revised.</p> <p>The DH Information Centre is currently not able to confirm when the prevalence information is coming out.</p> <p>Research sponsored by the Tizard Centre is currently being carried out via an undergraduate project to determine the satisfaction levels of people with ASD and their carers, with the support they receive. The findings will be shared with KCC to inform local planning and commissioning.</p> <p>A sampling exercise is being carried out to help determine the level of contacts and requests for support from people with ASD and their carers. This will be completed in September 2011.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p> <p>JSNA expected by September 2011</p> <p>Satisfaction level survey outcomes expected by: April 2012</p> <p>Outcomes sampling exercise expected: September 2011</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>The Maudsley Hospital service model has been found to be inappropriate for Kent. However, following a benchmarking exercise, the Liverpool model, subject to some modifications, may be the model that KCC and its partners consider taking forward. A multi disciplinary working group has been established to review service models and to propose the preferred model for Kent.</p> <p>Funding has been identified from the 3 PCTs in Kent to part fund a Social Communication Assessment Service ( SCAS) to address the needs of those people with Autistic conditions who do not present with a Learning Disability or Mental Health issues. FSC has provisionally identified an allocation from monies transferred to Social Care to deliver Health outcomes, to support the establishment of appropriate services.</p> <p>Subject to funding, the Social Communication Assessment Service will establish a pathway to diagnosis, care planning and commissioning of appropriate services, including services from the private and voluntary sector, to meet the needs of individuals and their carers.</p> <p>Following a review by the coalition government of Implementing “Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives”, <i>statutory guidance for local authorities and NHS organizations to support implementation of the autism strategy</i>, was published in December 2010. The timeline, July 2012, for a model Care Pathway by The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) was unaffected by the review. The ASD multi-agency Steering Group will be guided by the model pathway when it is published by NICE.</p> <p>The deadline for establishing a care pathway as laid down in the Statutory Guidance is 2013.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p> <p>Model to be proposed by October 2011</p> <p>SCAS in place by March 2012</p> <p>Services to be commissioned from January 2012</p> <p>Kent provisional Multi Agency Pathway in place by December 2011</p> <p>Final pathway in place by 2013</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>Staff training commenced in 2009 and by the end of 2010 the majority of staff was trained. Resources have been identified for training throughout 2011 – 12. Feedback has been very positive. Continued training will be informed by national examples of good practice which will be available on-line via the Department of Health's website.</p> <p>In addition, KCC has bought an e-learning licence to provide on-line training for all staff including those of Private and Voluntary sector partners.</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><b>Complete/advanced progress</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) places the individual at the centre of support planning. Anyone with ASD who is eligible for services and is able to manage a Direct Payment or a Personal Budget by themselves or through a third party, is offered one as a means of exercising choice and control over the support they receive.</p> <p>KCC and NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's Personal Health Budgets pilot supported by Department of Health has been successful. It is now possible to merge some aspects of Health Budgets with Social Care Budget which, along with adoption of Common Assessment Process (CAP) will deliver even greater choice, control and flexibility to people with ASD. The Department of Health has agreed that the pilot can be extended to include integration of PHB and PBs , the first Locality where this will be tried out is Dover.</p> <p>The DASS did make contact with the Specialist Advisor to inform good practice in Kent.</p>	<p><b>Complete/advanced progress</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>Following KCC's recent restructure responsibility for Learning Disability Services and the Social Care element of the Kent and Medway Partnership Trust (KMPT) is now managed by a single director. This should greatly enhance joint working, support planning and co-ordinated commissioning which should result in a more responsive service to individuals with ASD and their carers.</p> <p>A Dual Diagnosis Protocol is in place for Learning Disability and Mental Health teams. Its effectiveness will be reviewed later in 2011.</p> <p>The new Multi Agency Steering Group is aiming to develop a Dual Diagnosis protocol for people with ASD without a Learning Disability.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p> <p>Dual diagnosis protocols in place</p> <p>March 2012</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>The recently created Families and Social Care Directorate (FSC) is leading to greater integration of Children and Adult services particularly around data sharing and planning, resulting in more person-centred commissioning.</p> <p>Regular evaluation and monitoring of the effectiveness of the Protocols is ensuring that transition arrangements are continuously being improved.</p> <p>KCC and its partners will review the transition protocols in response to the University of York’s DH funded research into transition planning, when it is published.</p> <p>KCC and its partners will take account of any statutory guidance emanating from the DfE in relation to improving the support available to children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disabilities, currently the subject of a Parliamentary Green Paper: <i>“Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability”</i></p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p> <p>Publication expected in January 2012.</p> <p>Guidance expected in 2013</p>

Recommendation 7:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>7a</b>  <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>7b</b>  <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>Following KCC restructure the responsibility for implementing the Select Committee recommendations has been transferred from the ASD multi- agency task and finish group to the ASD multi-agency Steering Group consisting of representatives from PCTs, KMPT, Mental Health, Gypsy Unit, Education and Learning and OPPD and chaired by the director of OPPD.</p> <p>Through its membership, the group has links with the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board, Kent Children Trust and the County Strategic Partnership for Disabled Children and Young People. The thrust of group’s strategy is to make existing services work better for people with ASD while spearheading the establishment of a new specialist Social Communication Assessment Service, targeted at people with Autism and Aspergers . There may be a need to commission additional voluntary sector services to support the new pathway as part of the overall commissioning plan for ASD. A needs assessment for this is being carried out currently.</p>	<p><b>7a</b>  <b>Complete/advanced progress</b></p> <p><b>7b</b>  <b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p> <p>Multi disciplinary model and pathway in place by March 2012 ( see above)</p> <p>Commissioning plan developed by November 2011</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) see Appendix 4).</b></p>	<p>Kent’s Transition Protocols are designed to ensure 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>Monitoring mechanism: yearly surveys, outcome based reviews where satisfaction is recorded, transition lists established between Children and Adult Services for forward planning. This is well established for children with Learning Disabilities , the multi agency group is leading on taking this work forward for children without a learning disability.</p> <p>A qualitative survey carried out last year by Education and Learning to determine young people’s experience of the Transition process revealed that a majority of young people with Learning Disability were either happy or very happy with the process and outcome, relative to their particular circumstances.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p> <p>Protocols in place by March 2012</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>The ASD Steering Group has further work to do in response to this recommendation. A multi disciplinary assessment and treatment model is being developed by the steering group ( see above ).</p> <p>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services commission appropriate services including through community LD teams upon identification of anyone with ASD</p> <p>Education and Learning are able to identify those who are within the education system who need specialist psychological support.</p>	<p><b>Some progress although more to do</b></p> <p>Service in place by March 2012 (see above)</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>The KCC sponsored DVD of a young person with ASD telling their story continues to be shown and is a powerful means of raising awareness. KCC is seeking permission to place the DVD on its website.</p> <p>The ASD webpage (Rec11) is already a source of information but its value will be further enhanced when the e-training tool purchased on license by KCC goes online around September 2011. This is a cost effective way of raising awareness of ASD within the community and will be rolled out to a number of agencies such as Criminal Justice System, Police and Jobcentre Plus, Health and voluntary sector partners in Kent</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 ASD multi-agency Steering Group</p> <p>Kent Autistic Trust (KAT) has a good track record of raising awareness of Autism within Kent.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p> <p>September 2011</p> <p>Proposal developed by March 2012</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>KCC, working with parents, carers and a member of staff with an Autistic Spectrum Condition, has created a web page hosted on KCC website. The web page provides information about Autistic Spectrum Conditions, how to obtain a diagnosis, assessment from KCC and access to support services within the community. There are a number of links to other websites e.g. NAS, NHS and KAT and to relevant publications. The web page will be maintained and updated as more information becomes available.</p> <p>In addition, Kent Autistic Trust (KAT) provides accessible information about services available locally for people with ASD and their carers.</p>	<p><b>Complete/advanced progress</b></p>

Recommendation 12:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>Kent County Council should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• explore the potential of further education colleges in Kent to maximise the employment opportunities of people with autism in the County</li> <li>• 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).</li> </ul>	<p>11 learners including people with ASD started on Project SEARCH in September 2010 based at QEQM Hospital in Margate. Of these, 8 learners completed the course and 3 people including 1 with ASD moved straight into jobs. Another course commences in September 2011, and there are plans to make sure similar courses are developed in other areas of Kent.</p> <p>KCC has set up an apprenticeship project for vulnerable learners offering 22 opportunities to young disabled people including people with ASD. Some of the apprenticeships have been working for KCC and the young people and their employers are receiving additional support through Kent Supported Employment now located in the Customer and Communities Directorate. The project is being independently evaluated and a report is due in early Summer 2012.</p> <p>KCC is working with Further Education (FE) colleges to make sure that projects similar to Project Search on the employment pathway are available for people with ASD. Kent Supported Employment continues to work with the FE sector to ensure that courses are better geared to support pathways into both employment and supported living</p> <p>The Employability Strategy was agreed at full Cabinet in July 2010. With the changes in KCC the functions of the Disability Equality and Employability Boards have been combined. A paper is going to CMT at the end of September 2011 for a decision on how various elements of the strategy are to be implemented.</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p> <p>Ongoing development</p> <p>July 2012</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Decision on implementation expected Autumn 2011</p>

Recommendation 13:	Progress to date	Status
<p><b>Kent County Council should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>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</b></li> <li>• <b>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</b></li> <li>• <b>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).</b></li> </ul>	<p>A Housing Needs Survey in the 12 districts and borough councils and Medway Council to determine the housing needs of Kent's residents, also considered the need for supported accommodation for people with complex needs</p> <p>The survey's findings informed the Kent Forum Housing Strategy which was launched in May 2011. The strategy supports the Joint Policy and Planning Board's (JPPB) ambition to develop appropriate housing options for people with Learning Disability and Mental Health problems, including those with ASD. This is reflected in the Kent Housing Action Plan</p> <p>Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) continues to support some people with ASD to become tenants through the allocation of accommodation that enables them to live in the community with varying levels of support.</p>	<p><b>Complete/advanced progress</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>Autism related information is now available on line via KCC website and is accessible at all Gateways throughout Kent. There are links to both the National Autistic Society (NAS) and Kent Autistic Trust (KAT) and other supporting organizations and agencies.</p> <p>Assessment Officers are starting to provide Assessment Clinics in Gateways, this will help to provide access and support for Gateway staff. An integration project with GPs, Community Nurses and case Managers is developing models of integrated working around GP Practices , this will increase the number of local access channels for people with Autism. An integrated service is expected to be in place by March 2013 and pilots are starting from March 2012.</p> <p>With the roll out of Self Directed Support an increasing number of adults with ASD are opting for Direct Payments to access a wider range of support options to meet their assessed needs and are also using the Kent Card.</p> <p>A commissioning plan is being developed for voluntary support services ( see above)</p>	<p><b>Some good progress although more to do</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 2012</p> <p>March 2013</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Services to be commissioned by March 2012</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)