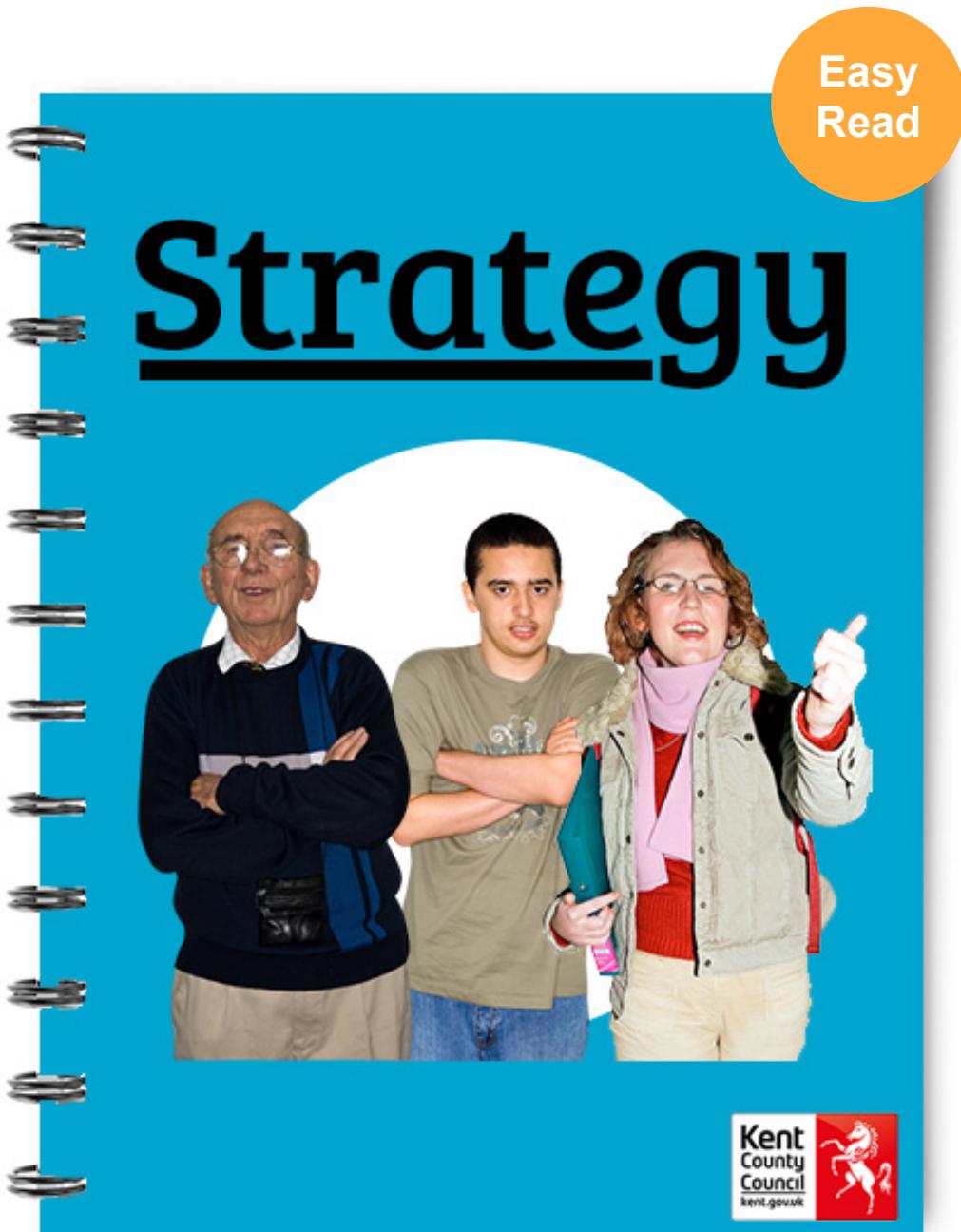


# Strategy for Adults with Autism in Kent

## Easy Read Summary Version

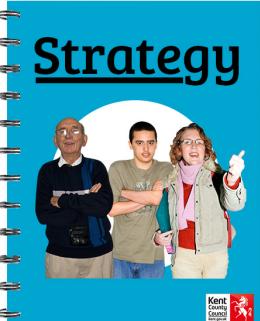


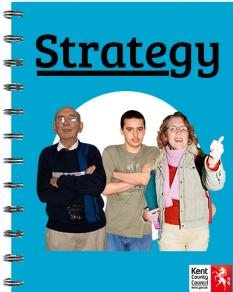
August 2016

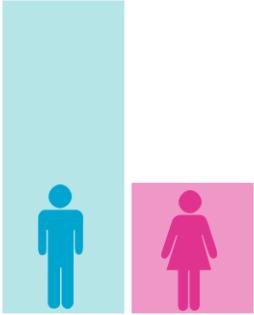


# Strategy for Adults with Autism in Kent

## Easy read summary version

	<p>Hello,</p> <p>We would like to tell you about Kent County Council's Strategy for Adults with Autism.</p>
	<p>A strategy is like a plan of what we would like to do.</p> <p>Difficult words are written in <b>bold</b> and there is a list of them at the end.</p> <p>You may need some help with this document.</p>
	<h3>Why do we need a Strategy?</h3>
 <small>An update on our plans to help you make the most of what you can do</small>	<p>There is a <b>National Autism Strategy now called 'Think Autism' (2014)</b>.</p> <p>It says all local authorities must have their own autism strategy.</p>
	<h3>What is in the Strategy?</h3>
	<p>The strategy looks at the needs of:</p> <p>Adults with autism and Asperger's syndrome when they do not also have a learning disability.</p>

	<h2>How the Strategy is organised</h2>
 	<p>It looks at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The views of people with autism</li> <li>• What is happening at the moment</li> <li>• What will happen in the future</li> <li>• Best practice</li> <li>• Key messages</li> <li>• What we want to happen.</li> </ul>
	<h2>Numbers and facts about autism</h2>
  	<p>In Kent it is <b>estimated</b> there are 13,431 people with autism.</p> <p>70% of people with autism have another condition. And 30% have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.</p> <p>25% have epilepsy.</p>

	<p><b>Diagnosis</b> of autism is higher in males compared to females.</p>
	<p>People with autism sometimes have challenging behaviour.</p> <p>This can be difficult for them, their family and carers.</p>
  	<p><b>People with autism may face:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social <b>exclusion</b></li> <li>• Difficulty getting a job</li> <li>• Not always getting the right services</li> <li>• Risk of homelessness</li> <li>• Being exploited</li> <li>• The criminal justice system not understanding their needs</li> <li>• Difficulty accessing health services.</li> </ul>

	<h2>The strategy's vision</h2>
	<p>We support the National Strategy for Adults with Autism in England and Wales.</p> <p>The strategy wants to create an <b>autism friendly</b> society. It says;</p> <p>“All adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them”.</p>
	<h2>Core principals of the strategy</h2>
  	<p>Adults with autism are not <b>discriminated</b> against because of their condition, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, colour or religion.</p> <p>Be able to live a life free of discrimination and abuse.</p> <p>Equal access to health.</p> <p>People have awareness of autism and create autism friendly environments.</p> <p>On-going engagement with people who have autism. So they can be involved in developing services, guidance and policies.</p> <p>Prevent issues before they arise.</p> <p>Flexible services.</p>

	<b>What we aim to do</b>
	<b>Leadership, planning and commissioning</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To work better with our partners across children and adult services and health services and voluntary organisations</li> <li>2. Have systems to collect information on people with autism</li> <li>3. To increase the membership of the Autism Collaborative. To develop the group into an Autism Action Alliance.</li> </ol>
	<b>Involving people with autism and their carers</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. To make sure people with autism, families and carers are heard</li> <li>5. To improve the understanding of commissioners of autism services by people giving feedback and involve people with autism and their families and carers in developing and changing services.</li> </ol>
	<b>Diagnosis, assessment and support</b>
<b>Waiting List</b> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. To address the current waiting list for diagnostic assessments</li> <li>7. To put in place the <b>Neurodevelopmental Pathway</b> which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diagnosis and assessment including those with complex needs</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

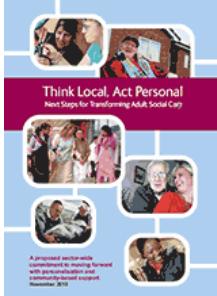
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After diagnosis support</li> <li>• Provision of <b>specialist interventions</b></li> <li>• Positive behaviour management service</li> <li>• Specialist information, advice and training for professionals.</li> </ul>
	<h3>Facing life changes - transition</h3>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Develop and put into place the Neurodevelopmental Pathway. This will make sure the needs of young people in transition are met</li> <li>9. Make sure there is enough good education <b>provision</b> for people with autism</li> <li>10. Have a smooth transition between children's and adult social services.</li> </ol>
	<h3>Training and further education</h3>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. To have a clear transfer process for transition from school to college</li> <li>12. Keep track of people who are leaving school and whose future is not known</li> <li>13. Commission outcomes for 0-25 Speech and Language Therapy</li> <li>14. Places of education are autism friendly</li> <li>15. Fewer young people drop out of college with no qualifications.</li> </ol>

	<b>Employment</b>
	<p>16. To give a range of support to people with autism to increase the number of people in employment.</p>
	<b>Housing, care and support</b>
	<p>17. Look at the housing needs of people with autism</p> <p>18. Develop the right housing for people with autism</p> <p>19. Work with others to develop skilled housing support</p> <p>20. Make sure social care, health and educational support services provide autism friendly support</p> <p>21. Develop assessment and treatment services that can happen in a person's home. Or in small specialist units.</p>
	<b>Workforce development</b>
	<p>22. Ensure there is training in autism for staff</p> <p>23. Work with other organisations to make people aware of autism.</p>

	<h2>The Criminal Justice System</h2>
	<p>24. People with autism have a better experience of the <b>Criminal Justice System</b></p> <p>25. See where the gaps are in the system for people with autism.</p>
	<h2>Carers</h2>
	<p>26. Work out how many carers with autism and how many carers of people who have autism there are in Kent and what help they may need. Do this in line with the Care Act.</p> <p>27. Have training available for families and those who give support to people with autism.</p>
	<h2>Autism Friendly Communities</h2>
	<p>In Kent we want to have enough services in the community for people. This is in line with the '<b>Think Local Act Personal</b>' plan.</p>
	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building social support networks</li> <li>• Encourage membership of groups</li> <li>• Help develop an inclusive community</li> <li>• Enable people to make a contribution</li> </ul>

	<p>This will make individuals and communities health and wellbeing better.</p> <p>It will also provide benefits beyond health and social care. This includes; community safety and education.</p>
	<p>This will support people with autism to gain employment and take part in their local community.</p>
	<h2>Conclusion</h2>
	<p>If we achieve the core principals of the strategy we will have communities that understand, accept and support people with autism in Kent.</p>

<b>BIG words</b>	List of difficult words, reports and who organisations are.	
<b>Autism friendly</b>		Being aware of the different needs of people with autism and meeting them if possible.
<b>Commissioning</b>		Arranging and paying for someone to run a service. This could be like a day service or care agency.
<b>Criminal Justice System</b>		Means the law, the police, courts and prisons.
<b>Diagnosis</b>		A medical term to say something has been found out. Like being diagnosed with diabetes.
<b>Discriminated</b>		Treated unfairly because of something you can't help, like your age, race or gender.
<b>Exclusion</b>		Being left out of something on purpose.

<b>Estimated</b>		The best guess at a figure using all the facts.
<b>Neurodevelopmental Pathway</b>		Making sure all the right services are in place for someone so they can move between them easily.
<b>National Autism Strategy 'Think Autism'.</b>	 <p><b>Think Autism</b></p> <p>An update on our plans to help you make the most of what you can do</p>	A report from 2014 by the Department of Health about services for people with autism.
<b>Provision</b>		Providing a service – for example a day centre or sheltered housing.
<b>Specialist Interventions</b>		Specialist help to support people early to stop problems developing or getting worse.
<b>Think Local Act Personal</b>		A partnership between public and private organisations looking at making services better in social care.