

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Graham Gibbens
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

16/00134

For publication**Key decision**

Affects more than two electoral divisions

Subject: Strategy for Adults with Autism in Kent (2016-2021)**Decision:** As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health I:

- a) **APPROVE** and **ADOPT** the Strategy for Adults with Autism in Kent (2016-2021); and
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer to refresh and/or make revisions as appropriate during its lifetime.

Reason(s) for decision:

An autism strategy is a requirement under the National Autism Strategy, Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives (2010).

Financial Implications:

This is a high level document with broad strategic outcomes.

Legal Implications

It is a requirement for all Local Authorities to have a Strategy for Adults with Autism, as set out in the National Autism Strategy – 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' (2010) and to have a local plan in place.

Equality Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation process.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision was discussed at the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 30 January 2017. Ms B Palmer, Manager, Sensory and Autism Services, and Mr G Offord, Commissioning Officer, were in attendance for this item.

1. Ms Palmer introduced the item and reminded Members that the committee had previously considered and commented on a report on the consultation on the new Strategy. The new Strategy, taking account of views received as part of the consultation, was now presented for comment and approval prior to the Cabinet Member taking a formal decision to approve and publish it. Ms Palmer then responded to comments and questions from Members, as follows:
 - a) a pilot autism enablement service, led by occupational therapists, would address the need for such services as travel training, which was regularly provided to young people now but would not have been given years ago, meaning that some people now in adulthood had never had the opportunity to benefit from it;
 - b) although the response rate, of 107 responses out of 13,000 people known to have autism, seemed disappointing, this did include some responses being made on behalf of groups. Hence, the total number of people represented by the responses given was greater than 107. To increase the level of engagement and extend the autism collaborative would

always be welcome, and staff liaising with working groups of young people and adults would collect their contact details for future use;

- c) the County Council was currently working on a project to establish an all-age pathway, which would ensure that people being diagnosed with autism at any age would have access to the support and services they needed. Demand for services among young people was currently growing; and
- d) adults with autism were currently under-represented in the employment market but had good skills to offer; it was important to identify how these skills could be best used. Kent Supported Employment supported adults with autism to find employment but it was hoped that this work could be extended. Some national employers were known to employ only people with autism, due to the particular skills they could bring to the work of those companies.

2. The Cabinet Member, Mr Gibbens, thanked Members for their comments and undertook to take account of them when taking the decision.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the final version of the Strategy for Adults with Autism in Kent (2016-2021) be approved; and
- b) the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to approve and adopt the Strategy for Adults with Autism in Kent (2016-2021) and to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to refresh and/or make revisions, as appropriate, during its lifetime, be endorsed.

Any alternatives considered:

None

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None



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signed

9 FEBRUARY 2017
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date