

From: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee – 6 December 2016

Subject: **CONSULTATION ON THE STRATEGY FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM IN KENT (2016-2021)**

Classification: Unrestricted

Previous Pathway of Paper: Joint Social Care, Health and Wellbeing DMT/Accountable Officer Meeting – August 2016

Future Pathway of Paper: Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee – 31 January 2017
Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report presents the Strategy for Adults with Autism in Kent which has been developed by the Autistic Spectrum Conditions Collaborative in response to national guidance.

It informs Members of the consultation process which has taken place and seeks their views and input on the draft Strategy.

Recommendation: The Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the draft Strategy for Adults with Autism in Kent.

1 The Background

- 1.1 In 2009 the first disability specific legislation came into force – the Autism Act which required the Secretary of State to issue a national Strategy to improve services for people with autistic spectrum conditions. The following year the National Autism Strategy, Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives was published which required Local Authorities to develop a local plan for people with Autism.
- 1.2 Locally the Council held a Select Committee on Autism in 2009 and one outcome was the establishment in 2012 of a small specialist integrated team to carry out diagnosis and assessment of adults with “higher ability” Autism.
- 1.3 In the autumn of 2014 an Autism Partnership Board was established – the Kent Autistic Spectrum Conditions Collaborative. This was modelled on the Dementia Collaborative and comprised representatives from Social Care,

Health, Education, the Voluntary sector and academia. It was recognised that whilst Kent had taken action to develop new specialist services an Autism Strategy was needed to set out a plan for the future.

2. The Nature of Autism

- 2.1 The prevalence rate for adults with Autism is thought to be 1.1%; however recent research in America is indicating a far higher prevalence. Current estimates for Kent suggest that there are 13,431 adults with an Autistic Spectrum Condition, 50% of whom have higher ability autism.
- 2.2 Autism rarely occurs in isolation and is often associated with other conditions such as ADHD, mental health issues, challenging behaviour.
- 2.3 The costs of Autism are high. A study led by the London School of Economics and Political Science estimates that Autism costs the UK at least £32 billion per year in treatment, care and support and lost earnings. Far higher than the combined costs for cancer, stroke and heart disease.

3. The Scope of the Strategy

- 3.1 The Strategy (attached as Appendix 1) primarily addresses the needs of adults with Autism who do not have a co-occurring learning disability (including people diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome), who live in Kent or are the responsibility of the Council. It mainly focuses on those aged over 18 years but issues relating to young people in transition are also included.

4. The Content of the Strategy

- 4.1 The content of the Strategy was developed by members of the Collaborative and by engagement with relevant practitioners, managers and experts across the Council and other organisations. Focus groups were held with people with Autism to ensure the Strategy was grounded in their experience and by their views.
- 4.2 The Strategy is organised in sections reflecting the national Strategy and each section covers: the views of people with Autism, the current situation, future commitments and priorities, Best Practice, a summary of key messages and strategic objectives.
- 4.3 An executive summary has been produced and is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The draft Strategy has been approved by the Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Directorate Management Team and the Clinical Commissioning Group Accountable Officers and has been subject to an eight week formal consultation, which closed on 13 November 2016.

5.2 Members of the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee are asked to note that although the public consultation has closed, their views and comments on the draft Strategy would be welcomed until 24 December 2016.

5.2 The draft Strategy will be revised in the light of the feedback received and an implementation plan developed.

6. Implementation

6.1 The final version of the Strategy will be discussed at the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 31 January 2017, when the Committee will be asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health on the proposed decision to approve the Strategy for Adults with Autism in Kent

6.2 A new Transformation Manager post for Neurodevelopmental Services (Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)) has been approved by Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Directorate Management Team and the Clinical Commissioning Group Accountable Officers. This post will have a lead role in taking forward the implementation of the Strategy and the move towards the increased integration of services with Health. The ASC Collaborative will also take on a new role as an Action Alliance to oversee and guide progress.

7. Equality Implications

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation process and is included in the background documents associated with this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

9. Legal Implications

9.1 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.

10. Conclusions

10.1 The Autism Strategy addresses the key requirements of the national Strategy and sets out a plan for the future to improve the lives of adults with autistic spectrum conditions in Kent. The consultation process will ensure wider engagement with people with Autism and their families and carers and the Strategy will be revised in the light of this feedback.

11. Recommendation

11.1 The Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the draft Strategy for Adults with Autism in Kent.

12. Background Documents

12.1 Strategy for Adults with Autism in Kent

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/autismstrategy/consultationHome>

Autistic Spectrum Disorder Select Committee Report

http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/12833/autism-spectrum-disorder-report.pdf

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