

## Response to the Department of Health Autism Self-Assessment 2013 by the Bracknell Forest Autism Partnership Board

### Local authority area

**1. How many Clinical Commissioning Groups do you need to work with to implement the Adult Autism Strategy in your local authority area?**

One, Bracknell & Ascot Clinical Commissioning Group

**2. Are you working with other local authorities to implement part or all of the priorities of the strategy?**

**Yes**

**If yes, how are you doing this?**

The Council is involved in the review of the autism assessment and diagnosis pathway, in partnership with other authorities and partners.

### Planning

**3. Do you have a named joint commissioner/senior manager of responsible for services for adults with autism?**

**Yes**

**If yes, what are their responsibilities and who do they report to?**

Nick Ireland (nick.ireland@bracknell-forest.gov.uk), the Head of Service for Learning Disabilities, is responsible for taking the lead in development of support for adults with autism in line with the national expectations and legislative framework. The Head of Learning Disabilities reports to Zoë Johnstone (zoe.johnstone@bracknell-forest.gov.uk), Chief Officer for Adults and Joint Commissioning.

**4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?**

**Green**

Information in the JSNA includes PANSI statistics which outlines population and demographic profiling of adults with autism.

**5. Have you started to collect data on people with a diagnosis of autism?**

**Green**

The Community Team for Adults with Autism maintains a record of people diagnosed with autism with information (not exhaustive) including accommodation and employment status.

**6. Do you collect data on the number of people with a diagnosis of autism meeting eligibility criteria for social care (irrespective of whether they receive any)?**

**Yes**

**If yes, what is;**

- the total number of people? 111
- the number who are also identified as having a learning disability? 50
- the number who are identified as also having mental health problems? 17

**7. Does your commissioning plan reflect local data and needs of people with autism?**

**Yes**

**If yes, how is this demonstrated?**

Please refer to the Bracknell Forest Joint Commissioning Strategy for Adults with Autism found at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/autisticspectrumdisorder>

**8. What data collection sources do you use?**

**Green**

The Council uses PANSI projections, operational information from our Autism Team, the Bracknell Forest JSNA and consultations to inform our strategic activity.

**9. Is your local Clinical Commissioning Group or Clinical Commissioning Groups (including the Support Service) engaged in the planning and implementation of the strategy in your local area?**

**Green**

Bracknell Forest Council and Bracknell and Ascot Clinical Commissioning Group have a Joint Commissioning Strategy for Adults with Autism. There is health representation on the Partnership Board but there is scope for improving engagement and joint working.

**10. How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their carers in planning?**

**Green**

The Strategy Development Group, which included people with autism and carers, led the consultation and development of the Joint Commissioning strategy. Thereafter Bracknell Forest Autism Partnership Board was formed, with representation from people with autism and carers. The Partnership Board also includes a range of stakeholders including Bracknell and Wokingham Mencap, Just Advocacy, Berkshire Autistic Society and the National Autistic Society who, respectively, support and advocate for carers and adults with autism.

**11. Have reasonable adjustments been made to everyday services to improve access and support for people with autism?**

**Green**

The Autism Partnership Board commissioned Berkshire Autistic Society to lead an ongoing program of awareness of autism across the local area inclusive of all services so that reasonable adjustments are made.

One example of positive developments is with local employment where this has resulted in better feedback from people when using mainstream services such as A4E and Maximus on the Government's Work Choice programme. Leisure facilities and other places such as the local cinema have also engaged and received training, now providing an offer that is autism friendly. The local college have started a mentor scheme to support integration into college life. The Council's programme of autism awareness training has been provided to staff from universal services to ensure reasonable adjustments are made at all public-facing Council services.

**12. Do you have a Transition process in place from Children's social services to Adult social services?**

**Yes**

**If yes, please give brief details of whether this is automatic or requires a parental request, the mechanism and any restrictions on who it applies to.**

A clear policy and procedure is in place to ensure practitioners are clear as to their responsibilities when supporting young people approaching adulthood. The Policy provides an overview of the support and planning for young people approaching adulthood that either have a Statement of Special Educational Needs and/or have complex needs. Every term, key to ensuring appropriate support, is a meeting of managers from children and adult social care and other key agencies, such as the NHS, Connexions and the Local Special School. The meeting automatically identifies those young people approaching adulthood, who will need support. The panel identifies lead practitioners and agencies both in children's and adult's services who will co-ordinate support and planning arrangements.

**13. Does your planning consider the particular needs of older people with Autism?**

**Green**

The strategy looks at whole population needs for people with autism, which includes older people with autism. The Bracknell Forest Older People's Strategy also takes account of these needs and refers to the Adult Autism Strategy Implementation Plan to ensure synergies and equitable support for all adults with autism.

## Training

**14. Have you got a multi-agency autism training plan?**

**No**

**15. Is autism awareness training being/been made available to all staff working in health and social care?**

**Green**

**Comment: Specify whether Self-Advocates with autism are included in the design of training and/or whether they have a role as trainers. If the latter specify whether face-to-face or on video/other recorded media.**

There is a mandatory programme of awareness training for all staff working in Council services, including some NHS healthcare practitioners. Front-line staff must undertake a full day training course where non-front-line staff must complete an e-learning module. For new employees, autism awareness also forms part of the corporate equality and diversity induction training. Self-advocates and carers had input and were involved in the design of both training methods, with occasional involvement in the face-to-face delivery of the training too.

**16. Is specific training being/been provided to staff that carry out statutory assessments on how to make adjustments in their approach and communication?**

**Green**

There is mandatory training in place for all front-line practitioners.

**17. Have Clinical Commissioning Group(s) been involved in the development of workforce planning and are general practitioners and primary care practitioners engaged included in the training agenda?**

**No**

The Chair of the CCG has acknowledged the need for further work to engage primary care practitioners in autism awareness.

**18. Have local Criminal Justice services engaged in the training agenda?**

**Yes**

The aforementioned training is available to CJS partners. CJS partners are actively engaged in this and receive awareness training from the Berkshire Autistic Society, as part of the Autism Partnership Boards commitment to raising awareness.

## Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

**19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?**

**Green**

The established autism assessment and diagnosis pathway is being reviewed, led by Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with all Berkshire Unitary Authorities and other partners.

**20. If you have got an established local diagnostic pathway, when was the pathway put in place?**

**Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01) 03**

**Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013) 2011**

**21. How long is the average wait for referral to diagnostic services?**

12 - 14 weeks.

**22. How many people have completed the pathway in the last year?**

35.

**23. Has the local Clinical Commissioning Group(s)/support services taken the lead in developing the pathway?**

**Yes**

The CCG has commissioned a review of the Assessment and Diagnosis pathway. Please refer to question 19 for more information.

**24. How would you describe the local diagnostic pathway, ie Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis or a specialist autism specific service?**

a. Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis

**b. Specialist autism specific service**

**25. In your local diagnostic path does a diagnosis of autism automatically trigger an offer of a Community Care Assessment?**

**Yes**

**Please comment, i.e. if not who receives notification from diagnosticians when someone has received a diagnosis?**

The Community Autism Team work closely with the Assessment and Diagnosis team and referrals are made between both services.

**26. What post-diagnostic support (in a wider personalisation perspective, not just assuming statutory services), is available to people diagnosed?**

The Council provides a specialist, Community Autism Team, advocacy, carer support and care providers (including domiciliary care and floating support) as well as supporting awareness and accessibility amongst universal services as previously described.

Bracknell Forest Council are working in partnership with Berkshire Autistic Society to run Being Me and Social Eyes courses, designed to support people post diagnosis.

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust provides Berkshire-wide post diagnostic therapeutic support for Bracknell Forest residents, via a limited number of places on time limited psycho-educational groups, counselling and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

The Voluntary and Community Sector, including organisations such as Berkshire Autistic Society and Bracknell and Wokingham Mencap, also provide key support services for adults with autism and their carers.

## Care and Support

**27. Of those adults who were assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and are in receipt of a personal care budget, how many people have a diagnosis of Autism both with a cooccurring learning disability and without?**

a. Number of adults assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and in receipt of a personal budget 106

b. Number of those reported in 27a. who have a diagnosis of Autism but not learning disability 56

c. Number of those reported in 27a. who have both a diagnosis of Autism AND Learning Disability 50

**28. Do you have a single identifiable contact point where people with autism whether or not in receipt of statutory services can get information signposting autism-friendly entry points for a wide range of local services?**

**Yes**

**If yes, please give details**

The Community Autism Team acts as a single point of contact for signposting and information.

**29. Do you have a recognised pathway for people with autism but without a learning disability to access a community care assessment and other support?**

**Yes**

**If yes, please give details**

Referral to the Community Autism Team allows people with autism but without a learning disability to access community care assessment and other support.

**30. Do you have a programme in place to ensure that all advocates working with people with autism have training in their specific requirements?**

**Green**

This forms part of the Council's Advocacy Contract with Just Advocacy.

All new advocates receive in-house autism training and they also attend various workshops put on by organisations such as the National Autistic Society. They also attend one or two events or conferences each year related to autism. Longer term staff are experienced in supporting people living with autism and a number of them have previous in-depth career experience of teaching, supporting, or developing psychology based programmes for people with autism.

**31. Do adults with autism who could not otherwise meaningfully participate in needs assessments, care and support planning, appeals, reviews, or safeguarding processes have access to an advocate?**

**Green**

The Council has an Advocacy Policy which enables adults with autism, whatever their ability, access to an advocate.

**32. Can people with autism access support if they are non Fair Access Criteria eligible or not eligible for statutory services?**

**Yes**

**Provide an example of the type of support that is available in your area.**

The Autism Team, as well as universal services who are equipped to make reasonable adjustments, are able to signpost people to other types of support if they do not meet FACS eligibility. There are also social groups, Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, mentoring schemes and many other ways for adults with autism to access support and services.

**33. How would you assess the level of information about local support in your area being accessible to people with autism?**

**Green**

There is a lot of information available which is under constant review and improvement. The Autism Partnership Board is committed to an ongoing campaign of awareness.

## **Housing & Accommodation**

**34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?**

**Green**

Both a needs analysis and plan is in place to specifically meet the housing needs of people with autism. The housing plan includes what kinds of places people want to live in e.g. where and who with.

This is to make sure that people can live in accommodation that is right for them.

## **Employment**

**35. How have you promoted in your area the employment of people on the Autistic Spectrum?**

**Green**

The Autism Partnership Board has an employment plan. Within that there are ways in which we promote employment. Specifically, people with autism have access to the Council's Supported Employment Service (Breakthrough) and receive practical support to gain and keep a job role. Awareness training and support are offered to local employers, the local Retailers Forum, local employment agencies and all staff at the local job centre.

**36. Do transition processes to adult services have an employment focus?**

**Green**

Approaching adulthood procedures and practise focus on meeting people's needs in ways that are meaningful for them.

**Criminal Justice System (CJS)**

**37. Are the CJS engaging with you as a key partner in your planning for adults with autism?**

**Green**

CJS are engaging as key partners and recently held a session with the Autism Partnership Board. This generated an Action Plan with one result being the allocation of a specific Police Officer with a lead for autism in the local area.

## Optional Self-advocate stories

Self-advocate stories.

Up to 5 stories may be added. These need to be less than 2000 characters. In the first box, indicate the Question Number(s) of the points they illustrate (may be more than one). In the comment box provide the story.

### **Self-advocate story one**

#### **Question number 35**

2011, I was 18 and just out of sixth form, having received my first jobseekers benefits and ready to look for work. Supported by the Bracknell Autism team, I was able to access support with Breakthrough.

I gained interview techniques and CV writing skills. This helped me secure a casual clerical assistant position in the Environment Culture and Communities department of the Council. After my job in the council I volunteered before being successful in getting a 4 hour per week job with a charity called The Ark Trust. I was employed as an Admin Assistant for the Ark and six months later I was offered two extensions to my hours going from four to 20 hours per week, working part time as the Ark's chief receptionist and later becoming a partner of Healthwatch Bracknell Forest.

Thanks to Breakthrough I went from having no job and no experience, to having a permanent job and becoming a valued member of the team. I am now not receiving any benefits and like being part of the general working community.

### **Self-advocate story two**

#### **Question number 10**

I really enjoy going and try to go as regular member of the Autism self advocacy group. Liz (Just Advocacy) supports us as a group. The group is really knowledgeable and finds that it doesn't just offer advice to the Autism Team and other local services, but will also help other members of the community with ASD. The self advocacy group is part of the Autism Partnership Board, which I find very beneficial as we can raise any issues.

### **Self-advocate story three**

#### **Question number 34**

My family contacted the Autism Team on my behalf. The initial support I received was very helpful and I was supported to move out of home where I was living with my family and live on my own. Without the support of the Autism Team I wouldn't have been able to do this.

# Bracknell Forest Response to the Autism Self-Assessment 2013

This marks the end of principal data collection.

Can you confirm that the two requirements for the process to be complete have been met?

a. Have you inspected the pdf output to ensure that the answers recorded on the system match what you intended to enter?

**Yes**

b. Has the response for your Local Authority area been agreed by the Autism Partnership Board or equivalent group, and the ratings validated by people who have autism, as requested in the ministerial letter of 5th August 2013?

**Yes**

The data set used for report-writing purposes will be taken from the system on 30th September 2013.

The data fill will remain open after that for two reasons:

1. to allow entry of the dates on which Health and Well Being Boards discuss the submission and
  2. to allow modifications arising from this discussion to be made to RAG rated or yes/no questions.
- Please note modifications to comment text or additional stories entered after this point will not be used in the final report.

What was the date of the meeting of the Health and Well Being Board that this was discussed?

Please enter in the following format: 01/01/2014 for the 1st January 2014.

**12/12/2013**