

**TO: HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
12 DECEMBER 2013**

**AUTISM SELF-ASSESSMENT 2013
Director Adult Social Care, Health and Housing**

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 To ensure that people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) living in Bracknell Forest have access to an appropriate range of support and health services.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Health & Wellbeing Board note the content of the Autism Self-Assessment, and determines an appropriate course of action in relation to the service deficits identified. This to include identifying which NHS organisation is responsible for commissioning specialist healthcare services for people with ASD.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 On 2nd August 2013 the Department of Health announced that it would be requesting self-assessments from Local Authorities. The deadline for submitting responses was the 30th September. ASCHH DMT approved the self-assessment report for submission on 24th September 2013. As part of the self-assessment report requirements, stipulated by Norman Lamb, Minister of State for Care and Support, the report is to be shown to the local Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 3.2 The service deficits identified are in line with the priorities identified in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The main areas of service deficit are
- the development and implementation of a multi-agency autism training plan,
 - Specialist healthcare as identified in 5.6

The details and evidence are in the main body of the report and appendix 3

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 No change

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The purpose of the Department of Health requesting the completed self-assessment is to:
- assist Local Authorities and their partners in assessing progress in implementing the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy;

- see how much progress has been made since the first self-assessment, as at February 2012;
- provide examples of good progress made that can be shared and of evidence of remaining challenges.

5.2 The National Autism Strategy, “Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives”, outlines statutory requirements for Local Authorities and NHS bodies through five core areas of activity including increasing awareness and understanding of autism among health and social care frontline professionals.

The National Strategy aims to increase understanding of autism by ensuring each locality:

- improves autism awareness training for all frontline public service staff, in line with the needs of their job, and
- develops specialist training for staff in health and social care.

5.3 As part of the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Adults with Autism Implementation Plan there has been an ongoing campaign of awareness across the locality. To date this has included several awareness events, ranging from individual days to a whole week in 2012, work with partners to increase awareness in universal/public services and an awareness training campaign for health and social care staff within the Council.

5.4 As noted, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT) are commissioned to provide a limited Berkshire-wide service with further limited impact for Bracknell Forest residents. Currently, if adults with an ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) have an IQ higher than 70 and do not have clinical mental health needs they are not eligible to receive support from either learning disability or mental health services from BHFT. The 2013/14 Berkshire-wide service specification that BHFT work to, showing the difference from the commissioning arrangement for 2012/13, is set out in the following table.

Berkshire-wide Activity	12/13	13/14
ASD Psychology assessments	100	125
ASD post diagnostic groups ‘Being me’ co-working with National Autistic Society	0	30/40 patients yr
ASD post diagnostic counselling –Individual sessions	0	20 patients/yr
ASD very complex cases that often are sent out of area to Maudsley, e.g. hoarders	0	5 patients/yr Intense clinical work for complex presentations
ASD Understanding autism training staff workshops	0	6 workshops per year for CMHT, SS IAPT , carers etc
ASD pathway to be established and hosted	0	Mapping of all services to create a joint pathway across Berkshire to provide an ASD network and to host quarterly meetings incl all professional and voluntary groups

5.5 In many circumstances the support provided by Bracknell Autism Community Team (made up of social care practitioners) has been resource-intensive, although there are areas of need where other interventions have been required. People who have autism usually experience 3

main areas of difficulty, albeit to differing degrees. These are called the Triad of Impairments: difficulties with social communication, social interaction, and social imagination. Given this the time required and needed to develop and maintain positive working relationships with people with autism, understand their needs and develop person centred support arrangements to meet those needs is time intensive.

5.6 The range of healthcare needs the Bracknell Autism Community Team has identified are varied and include as examples:

- Communication support to help individuals better interpret the world and communicate more fully with people (typically provided by Speech and Language Therapy or Occupational Therapy)
- Sensory support where individuals are highly sensitive to stimuli such as noise, light and touch (typically provided by Occupational Therapy)
- Mental health problems, anxiety, as well as aggressive and ritualistic behaviours, all of which can contribute to social isolation (typically provided by Psychological Therapy or Psychiatry)
- Daily / self care support: Individuals can often be poorly motivated and have difficulty in sequencing tasks (typically provided by Occupational Therapy)

For further information on the needs for these services within Bracknell Forest please see Appendix 3.

5.7 For many people, access to specialist services would delay or prevent the need for long term support, where it allows people to manage to live more independently, and provide expertise to address particular needs. For example, where individuals have sensory problems an Occupational Therapist assessment to identify issues and strategies to deal with them could support improvement in health and well being.

5.8 The table below indicates the expected number of people living in Bracknell Forest with ASD over the next few years. The increase may be more than this as national and local strategies raise awareness of assessment and diagnosis pathways, as well as knowledge of how to access support.

Estimated number of people with ASD in Bracknell Forest:-

YEAR	2010	2015	2020
Number of people (all ages)	1155	1199	1248
Number of people (18+ years)	882	934	953

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 There are no direct financial implications within this report, for the Council.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 An EIA is not necessary as this self-assessment report does not impact any supported individuals or staff.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 The self assessment report has been submitted so the reputational risk associated with not providing a return has been militated against.

Not discussing and acting upon the identified service deficits poses a reputational risk for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Workforce Implications

- 6.5 There are no workforce implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Feed back has been received from:

- The Autism Partnership Board
- The Autism Team
- Colleagues from Housing
- Bracknell & Ascot Clinical Commissioning Group (Central Southern Commissioning Support Unit)
- Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- People with autism and their carers
- Berkshire Autistic Society
- JustAdvocacy

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Telephone and e-mail consultation and meetings

Representations Received

- 7.3 All representations have been incorporated into the self assessment

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Autism Self-Assessment

Appendix 2: DH Letter from Norman Lamb MP, Minister of State for Care and Support

Appendix 3: Autism Unmet Needs Paper

Contact for further information

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