

TO: EXECUTIVE
27 JANUARY 2015

JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM, 2015-2020
Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Housing

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Executive of the background to the strategy, and seek approval of the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Adults with Autism 2015 - 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Executive

- 2.1 **Approve the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Adults with Autism 2015 - 2020 subject to suggested amendments**
- 2.2 **Agree to the development of an Action Plan by the Autism Partnership Board**

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council has a strategy to shape the development of support and influence the development of universal services for people with autism, and therefore improves outcomes for people meets local need and requirements arising from;
- *Health & Social Care Act 2012*
 - *Care Act 2014*
 - *Autism Act 2009*
 - *'Think Autism', the Department of Health (DH) revised strategy for adults with autism 2014*
 - *Equalities Act 2010*

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 To have no strategy, which would result in a lack of the coordinated development necessary to meet the needs of people with autism.

5. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 A commissioning strategy is a plan which sets out how support and services for individuals will be developed at a local level. In order to decide what outcomes the Council and its partners need to prioritise, and how the strategy will be implemented the following has been taken into account:
- relevant legislation and national guidance

- an analysis of the needs and wishes of the local population and how these are likely to change in the future
- an overview of the strengths and limitations of current support and services
- resources currently available

5.2 People in Bracknell Forest have been consulted to find out what the local issues are. This information, together with guidelines published by the Government has informed this strategy to ensure that people living with autism in Bracknell Forest are enabled and empowered to have choice and control to live as independently as possible.

5.3 The action plan will be developed upon the approval of the strategy by the Executive.

6. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal issues are contained within the main body of the report.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 The Council allocates its financial resources through the budget process in the context of its medium term financial plan. Currently the medium term financial plan forecasts that the Council will need to make significant savings over the next few years. Over this period the Council will have to develop increased efficiency in service delivery whilst still responding to demographic changes, new legislation and the need to modernise services. This will require the reallocation of some of the Councils limited resources to key priorities.

In order to deliver these service changes the Council publishes a range of strategies and policies relating to many of its key services. A strategy or policy does not represent a financial commitment but, rather, sets the strategic direction of travel, subject to the level of resources that become available. These strategies also form the basis of the annual service plan which ensures that the development of the Councils services is consistent with its medium term objectives within the resource envelope that is agreed. The development of these strategies is, therefore, an important part of the Council's arrangements for helping it allocate its limited resources to maximum effect.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed as attached at Appendix Two.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 An action plan has been developed for the delivery of commissioning intentions which supports services for people with autism. Delivery of this plan is considered as a risk which can be mitigated by robust performance monitoring undertaken by the Autism Partnership Board.

7. CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 The Autism Partnership Board was involved in developing the strategy and will be responsible for monitoring the subsequent action plan.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Public consultation ran from 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014. A consultation plan was created by a subgroup of the Autism Partnership Board documenting the numerous groups consulted and organisations involved. Consultation methods used include interviewing individuals on a one-to-one basis, an online version of the consultation and through attending existing groups.

Representations Received

- 7.3 Representations received have been included within the development of the strategy.

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Adult Autism Joint Commissioning Strategy 2015-2020

Appendix 2: Adult Autism Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment.

Appendix 3: 'Think Autism: Fulfilling and rewarding lives' the national autism strategy.

Contact for further information

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