

Summary Sheet

Council Report

Health Select Commission 1 December 2016

Title

Development of a Rotherham All Age Autism Strategy - Update

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

On 10 October Commissioner Myers approved a paper to implement a strategic approach to the commissioning and delivery of services for people with Autism within Rotherham. The approach seeks to develop a set of strategic commissioning intentions that promote independence, choice and control for people with Autism. The strategy will strengthen Rotherham's statutory commitments and the approach positively adds to the direction of the Adult Care Development Programme and the Children and Young People's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) agenda.

The strategic approach outlines a number of actions that will support people to be more independent and provide a wider choice of services to support children and adults with Autism to fulfil their potential. These are detailed below:

- An All Age Autism Strategy be developed as a joint strategy for the Council and the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group.
- That the Autism Partnership Board be established to oversee implementation plans that will be developed following the strategy.
- That consultation will take place with children and adults with Autism, their carers and those young people, who may use adult services in the future to co-produce, fit for purpose and sustainable opportunities for people with Autism in Rotherham.

This paper provides an update on progress to date since approval of the recommendations in the 10 October report.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

Development of the Rotherham Autism Strategy- Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting – 10 October 2016

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Title: Development of a Rotherham All Age Autism Strategy - Update

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 10 October Commissioner Myers approved a paper to implement a strategic approach to the commissioning and delivery of services for people with Autism within Rotherham. The approach seeks to develop a set of strategic commissioning intentions that promote independence, choice and control for people with Autism. The strategy will strengthen Rotherham's statutory commitments and the approach positively adds to the direction of the Adult Care Development Programme and the Children and Young People's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) agenda.
- 1.2 The strategic approach outlines a number of actions that will support people to be more independent and provide a wider choice of services to support children and adults with Autism to fulfil their potential. These are detailed below:
 - An All Age Autism Strategy be developed as a joint strategy for the Council and the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group.
 - That the Autism Partnership Board be established to oversee implementation plans that will be developed following the strategy.
 - That consultation will take place with children and adults with Autism, their carers and those young people, who may use adult services in the future to co-produce, fit for purpose and sustainable opportunities for people with Autism in Rotherham.
- 1.3 This paper provides an update on progress to date since approval of the recommendations in the 10 October report.

2.0 Key Issues

- 2.1 *Key Issues in relation to Adult Care service provision:*
 - 2.1.1 During the last few years strategic commissioning activity has been limited across Adult Care Services and as a consequence this has impacted on the range and type of services available to people with Autism and their carers.
 - 2.1.2 The current service offer is narrow and traditional, which has impeded the effective implementation of the personalisation agenda across the Borough.
 - 2.1.3 The current offer inadvertently encourages people to be dependent and is reliant on a residential rather than independent living approach. There will be a need to strengthen planning around transitions from Children and Young People's Services to Adult Care in the future and to work closely with individuals and their families to support them to be resilient, independent and fully integrated members of their communities.
- 2.2 *Key Issues in relation to Children and Young People's Service provision:*

- 2.2.1 In 2012, the Health Commission undertook a scrutiny review of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Rotherham. The review made a number of recommendations in its published report, which is available at http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1821/autistic_spectrum.pdf.
- 2.2.2 There have been many developments since the scrutiny review. Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) are now in place, with all statements of SEN to be converted to the new EHCPs by April 2018. The Parent and Child Charter was launched in June 2016. A new post Autism diagnosis family support service has been established, and is being delivered by Rotherham Parents' Forum Ltd as part of the Autism Pathway.
- 2.2.3 Transitions support remains underdeveloped. However, through the SEND reforms, data and understandings of the profile of need are much improved.
- 2.2.4 There is not detailed information about Autism included in the JSNA and this requires further consideration and input.
- 2.2.5 Sufficiency planning for Autism has identified a number of gaps in current arrangements for meeting the needs of children and young people with Autism in Rotherham, as follows:
- Information and advice at all life stages
 - Clear pathways
 - Strategic planning
 - Clearer key worker approach for individual cases;
 - Reassurance/ accountability;
 - Length of time for diagnosis;
 - Better support and education for parents;
 - Clear expectations for every school
 - Key stage 3-4 speech and language resources
 - Pre and post diagnosis support for parents;
 - Sensory integration therapy support;
 - Restrictive CAMHS thresholds
 - Joint EHC placement panel
 - Insufficient provision currently at the highest end of need
- 2.2.6 Whilst there are a number of strategic developments in relation to Children and Young People with Autism, there is not an Autism specific strategy for Rotherham.

3.0 Activity since 10 October

- 3.1 An initial consultation event was held in October to launch activity. This was attended by a range of stakeholders from public services, the voluntary sector, users and carers. The timeline for further consultation is currently being devised.
- 3.2 The consultation event focused on mapping current provision across all sectors and identified gaps in some service areas including training for staff

working in social care, lack of specialist accommodation and access to information regarding local support.

- 3.3 A presentation outlining the plans for the All Age Autism Strategy was delivered to Learning Disability Partnership Board in November. This approach was strongly supported by the Board.
- 3.4 The Public Health England Autism Self-assessment Framework (SAF) return was completed in October. This enabled the Council to benchmark progression towards meeting the quality standard goals outlined in the Government's 2014 Adult 'Think Autism' Strategy.
- 3.5 The Self-assessment Framework was completed jointly by the Council and Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group. The content and accuracy of the submission was validated by Speak up for Autism, an independent self-advocacy group.
- 3.6 Red, Amber Green (RAG) ratings for each section are documented below:

Area of work	RAG Rating	Further work required
Planning	2 green, 5 amber, 1 red	Planning needs to take into account needs of people 65 & over with Autism
Training	2 amber	Staff in social care undertaking assessments require Autism specific training
Diagnosis	6 amber	Development of crisis support, reasonable adjustments in mainstream health services
Care & support	2 amber, 2 green	Better cohort data required in Adult Care, improvements in signposting's to information and advice
Housing	1 amber, 1 red	No specific Market Position Statement for Autism
Employment	1 red, 1 amber	Promotion of work opportunities for young people and adults with Autism
Criminal Justice	2 amber	Improved working with all stakeholders to ensure people with Autism in contact with criminal justice services receive good support

- 3.7 A grant of £5,000 was awarded by the Adult Care & Housing Directorate to Speak Up for Autism to assist with strategy development and co-production using users by experience.
- 3.8 Adult Care and Housing prepared and submitted a funding bid for £821,600 to the Housing and Care Technology Fund administered by the Department of Health on 28 October. The bid was to support the development of specialist housing and assistive technology for people with Learning Disabilities and Autism in Rotherham. To date feedback on the success of the bid has not yet been received from the Department of Health.

4.0 Future Planned Activity

- 4.1 There will be an Autism Partnership Board launch taking place in early December. This will be chaired by the Rotherham Autism Lead, Anne Marie Lubanski and co-chaired by a person with Autism.
- 4.2 The consultation plan is currently being devised and the full consultation will commence in January 2017.