



Autism Self Evaluation

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?

1

Comment

Rotherham CCG

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

- Yes
 No

If yes, how are you doing this?

Planning

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

- Yes
 No

If yes, what are their responsibilities and who do they report to? Please provide their name and contact details.

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4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) references the National Autism Strategy and particularly refers to the offer of a diagnosis and assessment of needs if required. In 2010 it estimated that there were 1,547 people with autism in Rotherham. Similarly it estimated that 12% of people with a learning disability had autism. The 2013 refresh of the JSNA will include more detailed analysis and data.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Data is not currently captured with regards people having a diagnosis of autism. However, changes to Adult Social Care statutory returns and the introduction of the SALT (short & long term support) return for 2014/15 will include data on health conditions. This information will be captured as part of the assessment process and people with a formal diagnosis of autism will be recorded as having Autism (excluding Asperger's Syndrome / High Functioning Autism) or Asperger's Syndrome / High Functioning Autism. The data will be captured from April 2014.

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
 No

If yes, what is

the total number of people?

the number who are also identified as having a learning disability?

the number who are identified as also having mental health problems?

Comment

See (5) above.

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

- Yes
 No

If yes, how is this demonstrated?

The commissioning plan is based on individual needs rather than specific health diagnoses and, as such, includes the needs of people with autism.

8. What data collection sources do you use?

- Red
 Red/Amber
 Amber
 Amber/Green
 Green

Comment

*Social Care Case Management system (SWIFT / AIS)
SystemOne - NHS*

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?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The CCG has been at the heart of the training initiatives for primary and secondary care staff for people with autism. It has also been engaged with partners in the development of the diagnostic pathway.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please give an example to demonstrate your score.

Carers and service users are members of the Learning Disability Partnership Board and, as such, are engaged in strategic planning for people with a learning disability and autism. There is also regular consultation with people using services through the Speakup Autism group, a Rotherham group of people with autism who work with and are supported by a service user-led advocacy group called Speakup. Speakup is represented on the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee of the local Council.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please give an example.

The Learning Disability Service in Rotherham is a Joint Service comprising Health and Social Care funding and professionals. Person centred planning is at its heart and people are able to benefit from support and expertise from health and social care working closely together. There is a specialist day service REACH which embraces these principles and has made adjustments in the environment accordingly, as has the Assessment and Treatment Unit.

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

- Yes
 No

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.

All 14+ young people with disabilities are identified in Children's Services and are considered for a transition plan. From this age on there are regular liaison meetings between children and adult services to increasingly jointly work together, with parents on board, to achieve as smooth a transition as possible with Person Centred Planning at its centre.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The needs of people receiving services are constantly kept under review - Rotherham reviewed 93% of all adults in receipt of services last year and has consistently achieved these levels of reviews for several years now. Accordingly older people's needs are considered and plans made. For example, we have a day services provision for older people with a learning disability and will include those with autism.

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

- Yes
 No

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

- Red
 Amber
 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.

Rotherham people with autism have worked with the National Autistic Society, Rotherham Learning Disability Service and the CCG to develop and deliver a programme of autism awareness training to both the Rotherham Foundation NHS Trust and Primary Care staff. This initial programme was used to develop the bronze to platinum programme now in place.

In conjunction with South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw CCGs, NHS England Rotherham have run a programme of training for care homes called 'Dignity in Action'.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comments

The training plan includes this - the silver level, for example, is for management teams in residential and day care settings, activity staff, day centre officers, social services officers, social workers, quality and contract assurance officers, unpaid carers, PAs, health care professionals and advocates.

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?

- Yes
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

Training for all GP practices was given over 4 different sessions between March and May 2013 (as highlighted in question 15). In total 92 people attended including GPs, Nurses, Consultants, Ophthalmology, Genito Urinary Medicine, Falls and Fractures Service and the Stroke Unit. This training was developed and delivered by advocates from the Speakup for autism group and has had great success.

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

- Yes
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

Probation have a 2 hour briefing session. All Criminal Justice Services have had access to the 2 day Mental Health First Aid course. Drug Intervention Teams have received some training on assessment for people with mental health and learning disabilities which incorporates autism.

Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please provide further comment.

The Learning Disability Service has just established a diagnostic pathway. This has been led by the Health partners in the Joint Service (RDaSH) and incorporated working closely with CCG and Social Care Partners.

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

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

9

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

2013

Comment

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

Please report the total number of weeks

Comment

Not able to answer this.

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

Comment

The pathway has only just been established.

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

- Yes
 No

Comment

The CCG was engaged in the pathway's instigation and will be formally considering it in due course.

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

Please comment further

In addition to the newly created local pathway for people with a learning disability and autism, there has been access - and continues to be - to the Sheffield Aspergers Service for diagnosis of Aspergers.

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

- Yes
 No

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

In the newly created pathway on diagnosis of autism, the person concerned will then be considered for eligibility for the Learning Disability Service at the weekly multi-disciplinary Single Point of Referral Meeting to either receive a service or to be referred on appropriately. Where appropriate, this will include a Community Care Assessment.

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

Apart from statutory services there are voluntary and non-statutory support groups, eg Speakup and the National Autistic Society adult group which meets monthly.

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 co-occurring learning disability and without?

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

5301

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

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

Comment

Answer to (a) refers to all adult groups - 592 of these have a learning disability.

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
 No

If yes, please give details

But - we do have a single point of contact for the Learning Disability Service and for Mental Health Services. Also available is Connect to Support Rotherham - a website which offers adults an information, advice and purchasing service to find local goods, products and services to live independently.

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
 No

If yes, please give details

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Yes - they are included in the Training Programme.

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?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Yes - advocacy services are provided by the Rotherham Advocacy Service (RAP) or through Speakup.

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

- Yes
 No

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

Speakup Self Advocacy provides ongoing support for people in this position.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Speakup has a representative on the Rotherham Branch of the National Autistic Society, who regularly look at information given to make sure it is easy read wherever possible. Speakup for Autism also does this.

[Housing & Accommodation](#)

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The Rotherham Housing Strategy identifies the need to provide more housing for people with disabilities. It aims to ensure that Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council works in partnership with other housing providers to achieve this.

Employment

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

There is a multi-agency employment plan for people with a learning disability. This incorporates, therefore, people with autism and is part of the Local Authority's overall target to increase employment for people with a disability.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

All young people in transition into adult services have a person centred plan - included within this are plans and goals aimed at achieving, where possible, employment for that person.

Criminal Justice System (CJS)

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

CJS services have taken advantage of training opportunities as available to their frontline staff.

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

10

Comment

I have a diagnosis of Aspergers syndrome, and have worked with Rotherham Council for about 6-7 years. The main thing I have been involved with in the past few months, along with my colleagues from Speakup and the National Autistic Society, is training professionals on how to support people with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We have so far trained 90+ professionals. This training includes an overview of ASD, and the difficulties people like me face every day. We also use real-life experiences from people with ASD. I used to sit on the Adult and Social Health Scrutiny as a representative for Speakup. Alongside a colleague from the NAS Rotherham Branch, in this role I tried to make sure people with Autism had their voices heard in Council documents. I also used to attend Council visits and inspections to different care homes and services. I have also been involved in interviewing people for jobs within the learning disability service in Rotherham. This was good because I directly influenced the kind of staff that Rotherham Council has employed. I think it has been beneficial to both me and the Council, working with the Council. I feel Rotherham Council is good at involving people with learning disabilities and Autism in decision making.

Self-advocate story two

Question number

15

Comment

In 2005, I was given a job by 2 community nurses as Healthy Lifestyles Trainer at Badsley Moor Lane. My job was to help other people get fit or stay fit by doing exercises and eating the right foods. I had a case study where this person was fit but he was struggling with what foods he can and cannot eat. So I went along with him to go and do his weekly shopping. I was telling him that he can have whatever foods he wanted but I would help him choose a healthier option of which ever foods he wanted. The job was helping me learn new things and I enjoyed meeting new people along the way. My job was a contract job and it had to end in December 2006. So that job finished and I was jobless till January 2007, when one of my friends introduced me to Speakup Self Advocacy. I was a volunteer up until August 2008 and that's when I was then employed full-time on a paid wage. I am still at Speakup after 6 years now and I hope to be in the future. At Speakup I am part of a group called Speakup for Autism. It has shown me more information about autism and what other people went and are going through in their lives. We developed some Autism Awareness training to teach health professionals on how to approach and communicate with people who have autism. I have also been to meetings with the NHS to talk about how to carry on this work further and in the future.

Self-advocate story three

Question number

16

Comment

I am a trustee of Speakup and volunteer on a weekly basis. I have autism and live in a keying scheme in Rotherham. I meet with the Speakup for Autism group on a fortnightly basis. I have been a big part of this, helping the group and the National autistic society to help create training for professionals about how to work with people with autism. This training has gone really well and I think has changed a lot of people's ideas about autism, mainly because it's delivered by us - people who have experience. I think this training should be made available to all staff so they understand the needs of people with autism.

Self-advocate story four

Question number

Comment

Self-advocate story five

Question number

Comment

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.

Day

16

Month

10

Year

2013