



Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group

Bristol Health & Wellbeing Board

Bristol's response to the national autism self-evaluation questionnaire	
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Date of meeting	28 November 2013
Report for information	

1. Purpose of this Paper

This paper has two purposes:

- i. To inform the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) of the city-wide response to the second national exercise aimed at evaluating progress towards the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy, Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives
- ii. To obtain endorsement from the HWB for this response, as required by ministerial letter of 2 August 2013

2. Context

National Autism Strategy

The national adult autism strategy Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives was published in 2010 in response to the Autism Act (2009). The vision for the strategy is that 'all adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can get a diagnosis and access support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents.'

Bristol Autism Strategy

Bristol City Council (BCC) in partnership with Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), people with autism, family carers and voluntary sector organisations developed the Bristol Autism Strategy in response to the national strategy. Our strategy is deliberately ambitious in that it goes beyond the requirements set out in the Autism Act 2009 and the associated policy guidance, which only applies to adults.

By including the needs of children in this strategy, we hope to do more to support people with autism in realising their potential at all stages of their lives. We recognise that effective collaborative working between children and adult statutory services and the third sector is fundamental to developing high quality support for people of all ages across the spectrum.

Review of the national strategy

The Department of Health is currently leading a formal review of progress against the national strategy. Part of this review includes asking all local authorities in England to complete a self-evaluation questionnaire. Following the review, the national strategy will be revised as necessary by March 2014. The original deadline for local authorities to submit the completed questionnaire was 30 September (subsequently extended to 10 October).

A requirement of the local sign off process was that the responses be endorsed by the local 'Autism Partnership Board' and be added to the agenda of the HWB for endorsement before 24 January 2014. The Bristol Autism Forum endorsed the attached response on the 30 September 2013.

The self-assessment questionnaire has remained open to allow modification of the 'red, amber, green' responses following discussion by the HWB. However, these responses will not be reflected in the national report, the data for which was taken from entries made by 10 October. Text responses and comments cannot be changed.

Note that the responses to the questionnaire only reflect the diagnosis, support and recognition of adults with autism, and not children. This is because the review is of the national strategy, which is only concerned with adults.

3. Main body of the report

Attached at Appendix A is the response to PHE co-ordinated by Strategic Planning and Commissioning, Health and Social Care, Bristol City Council.

Responses were collated from autistic people, their families and carers, Bristol City Council, the CCG, voluntary sector organisations and Avon and Somerset Police.

The collated response gives a picture of progress to date, detailing areas where partners consider good progress is being made, as well as areas where there is room for improvement.

The questionnaire is structured under the following headings:

- a. Planning
- b. Training
- c. Diagnosis led by the local NHS commissioner
- d. Care and support
- e. Housing and accommodation
- f. Employment
- g. Criminal Justice System (CJS)
- h. Optional self-advocate stories

4. Key risks and Opportunities

Risks:

There are minimal risks associated with this response – it has been widely consulted on, and responses received at consultations have influenced the final report.

There are risks associated with the ongoing delivery of the Bristol Autism Strategy however, which centre on capacity issues within the City Council to continue to lead this work, in the face of likely headcount decreases.

Opportunities:

There are a number of opportunities within this work, which the Bristol response highlights. These include building on the already close working relationship with the CCG to enable a partnership approach to delivering the aims of the Bristol Autism Strategy, and developing stronger ties with the CJS. Work to deliver the aims of the Strategy is being overseen by the Autism Forum, which reports in to the HWB.

5. Conclusions

While this self-evaluation questionnaire clearly points to the need for further work, feedback received from the Autism Forum indicates that this is an honest and fair appraisal of the current position within Bristol.

We are in a strong position to continue progress towards the aims of the national and local autism strategies. The strong joint working arrangement between BCC and the CCG forms a continued positive base for this work.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the HWB notes and endorses the contents of the self-evaluation report.

7. Appendices

Appendix A: Completed Public Health England - Autism self-evaluation questionnaire.



APPENDIX (11) A

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

We are only required to work with one - the Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group. However, we have been working with other CCG's in our region through the South West Commissioning Support Unit as a part of the implementation of the strategy.

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?

While we have not been working directly with other local authorities to implement the priorities, we have been working with local CCG's, as mentioned above.

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.

The Local Authority Autism Lead is Catherine Wevill, Strategic Commissioning Manager, Mental Health and Learning Difficulties. Catherine's contact details are: catherine.wevill@bristol.gov.uk, telephone 0117 903 7485.

Catherine reports to Netta Meadows, Service Director - Strategic Planning & Commissioning, Health & Social Care.

4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Autism has not been included in the past, and has been recognised as an omission. There are plans in place to ensure information about the numbers of people with autism in Bristol and their needs are included from 2014 onwards. Information on the JSNA in Bristol can be found on this web page: <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-jsna>.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

We currently collect a small amount of information on the adults we work with who have autism, but this is inconsistent and not easy to work with. Health and Social Care (adult social services) are in the process of moving to a new Care Management IT system and as such efforts are being directed at making the new system meet our needs than changing the system which will shortly become obsolete.

The new IT system will enable us to capture information in a more meaningful way. It is anticipated that information on the numbers of people Health and Social Care are working with who have autism will be recorded much more routinely than it is now. The new system is planned to be operational in 2014.

Within the CCG, collection of diagnosis data is through the BASS service for adults and those in transition from children to adult's services. There are however gaps in the data collection across health.

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?

65

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

32

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

8

Comment

A client group of "Autistic Spectrum Condition" is used. This is likely to be under recorded with other relevant cases recorded only with a client group of either learning difficulty or mental health. As mentioned in 5. above - plans are in place to capture this information more robustly through the new Care Management IT system.

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

- Yes
 No

If yes, how is this demonstrated?

The Bristol Autism Strategy is referenced in the council's purchasing intentions. The Strategy also has a number of links to other high profile strategies, including the Joint Accommodation strategy for people with mental health issues, learning difficulties and autism - Health and Social Care and Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

8. What data collection sources do you use?

- Red
 Red/Amber
 Amber
 Amber/Green
 Green

Comment

As mentioned above, plans are in place to improve our data collection.

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 Bristol Autism Strategy is a joint strategy between Bristol City Council and Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group. The CCG have been and continue to be partners in the development and delivery of the aims of the strategy.

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.

For the development of the Bristol Autism Strategy, two consultation events were held with autistic people. These were well attended and resulted in modifications to the draft strategy. The development of the strategy was overseen by the Autism Strategy Group. This group had involvement from autistic people, parent carers of autistic people, representatives from local and national support organisations and officers from the council and CCG. This Strategy Group has formed the basis for the Autism Forum. The Forum has now met and had involvement from autistic people and parent carers. The Forum will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the strategy.

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.

Within the CCG all new service specifications have specific reference to making reasonable adjustments for people with autism. The need to make 'reasonable adjustments' for autistic people will also be written in to all new service specifications issued by Bristol City Council Health and Social Care.

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.

The Bristol Multi Agency Transitions Protocol has been developed to deliver the aims of the Bristol Transitions Strategy 2013-15. This is a joint strategy between Bristol City Council and the Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group. The strategy is for young people aged 14-25 who have additional needs, and was the outcome of extensive multi-agency work to ensure that transition from children's to adult provision (whether in education, health, social care or universal services) is planned, positive and personalised.

The Protocol has a set of underlying principles, and it sets out the roles and responsibilities of the key agencies involved in the transition process. The protocol is followed for all children that meet the criteria.

Full details about the Strategy and Protocol can be found on the Bristol City Council website: <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/young-people-support-needs-information-service-transitions>.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

There are currently low numbers of older people using our services who have a diagnosis of autism. This does not mean however, that older autistic people are not using these services, just that they do not have a formal diagnosis. As the lead for autism within the Council sits within Commissioning, the needs of older people with autism will be taken into account in future commissioning of services. Consideration of the needs of older people with autism will be incorporated in the future planning for training in relation to 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.

Autism training is available to all Council and CCG employees and to the staff of all our third sector partners. This training ranges from basic awareness raising to more in depth specialist training for colleagues who may be working directly with autistic people. We are in the process of refining our training offering, with the aim of including self-advocates with autism. Carers of autistic people have received training and support in order for them to participate meaningfully in staff training sessions and give their lived experience of caring for a person with autism.

Bristol CCG commissions some training of staff through the BASS service and work is underway to agree a joint training approach for local authority and health to maximise both on line and face to face training.

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

There are two levels of training currently offered to staff that carry out assessments - a half day briefing, and a full day session. Both options include examples of reasonable adjustments that can be made by staff. Attendees are also able to discuss anonymised cases with the trainer to get specific suggestions of how to manage certain situations.

Assessors are also able to draw on the expertise of the Bristol Autism Spectrum Service (BASS) who have a small social work team. The social work team at BASS act as a resource for assessors and people working with autistic people and are able to provide expert advice and guidance.

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.

In 2013/14 the CCG agreed a delivery model for the local service that included workforce development within the local service and includes training for GP practices. This will be further developed in 2014/15 as part of the education and training strategy being developed jointly with local authority colleagues.

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

- Yes
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

Criminal Justice services are able to benefit from Bristol City Council's training provision. Avon and Somerset Police are circulating the NAS booklet 'Autism: a guide for criminal justice professionals', and are considering developing their own in house training around autism awareness based on the guidelines in the booklet. They are working with the local authority to further this.

Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please provide further comment.

This was developed in 2009 by clinicians within the specialist autism service, in collaboration with local commissioners.

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

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

8

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

2009

Comment

Prior to this, an informal diagnostic pathway existed, whereby referrals would be made to a clinician with a specialist interest in this area.

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

Please report the total number of weeks

Comment

There is a wait of approximately 16 months to access the diagnostic service, as the demand for assessments within the local population far exceeds the initial commissioned capacity of the specialist autism team to undertake these assessments. This is due to two factors: firstly, the fact that historically, the team have been chronically underfunded, and consequently have been unable to employ enough diagnosticians; and secondly that as a result of the recent increase in awareness amongst the general population about autism, the rates of referrals have increased dramatically.

In recognition of this, the specialist autism service has been working closely with local commissioners to increase capacity, and it is anticipated that significant progress will be made over 2013/14 with plans to have a clear demand forecast and capacity plan for future years. Specifically, the specialist autism service and commissioners are working on a waiting list initiative with the aim of reducing the existing waiting list to under 13 weeks by June 2014.

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

Comment

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

- Yes
 No

Comment

There is a well-established pathway in place that has been developed by clinicians within the local specialist autism team and shared with CCG commissioners which will form the basis of the updated 2014/15 service specification.

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

Both. There are two routes to diagnostic assessment - from primary care, and from secondary care. If a client is eligible for secondary health services (mental health or learning disability), clinicians in these teams will undertake a diagnostic assessment, under the supervision of the specialist autism team. Professionals in these mainstream services can also access on-going training, liaison & joint-working with members of the specialist autism team to enable them to develop their skills around how to assess and manage adults with autism.

If a client does not meet eligibility criteria for entry into secondary health services, then a referral can be made directly from primary care into the specialist autism team. The client will then be added to their waiting list, and will be seen by clinicians from the specialist team.

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?

The specialist autism service provides a social care needs assessment to individuals who have received a diagnosis. Part of this process involves informing people of their right to a community care assessment, following which they will be signposted to the appropriate agency within the local authority.

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

Everyone receiving a diagnosis from the specialist team is offered a place on a post-diagnostic psychoeducational group. The group runs weekly for six sessions, and addresses a range of issues relating to being diagnosed with an autism spectrum condition, including: providing detailed, evidence-based information about current theories of autism, how autism affects each individual participant, how it was to receive a diagnosis, what to consider when disclosing a diagnosis - specifically in terms of rights under the Equalities Act (2010) - along with information with regard to where people might be able to access additional support.

Following this, individuals who have received a diagnosis can then access weekly support through the Bristol Autism Advice Service. Primarily, the aim of this service is to help people with ASCs to access a range of appropriate mainstream services. People can book one to one support sessions with a range of health, social care and voluntary sector staff, in addition to attending a variety of group interventions, designed to promote wellbeing, reduce distress and increase levels of social inclusion. 1:1 support sessions are typically utilised for: signposting to mainstream statutory and voluntary sector agencies, support to manage difficult emotions, problem-solving, advice and help with regard to welfare rights and access to benefits, and support relating to education or employment (provided by specialist employment advisors). Group interventions include: mindfulness, anxiety management, post-diagnostic support, support for partners of people diagnosed with autism, and enhanced social communication skills.

In addition to this, the Advice Service aims to be a safe place where people with ASCs can meet and share their experiences - a range of resources and books are also provided for people to utilise, as well as a computer area with internet access.

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

4624

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

35

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

18

Comment

The figure of 4,624 is the RAP SD1 total. As mentioned in number 5. above, plans are in place to collect this information more robustly.

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

All residents in Bristol can contact Care Direct (the City Council's initial contact point for adult social services) for information, advice and signposting to mainstream community support. Care Direct have been prioritised to receive specific training on autism to enable them to work more effectively and appropriately with autistic people.

Bristol City Council has a new web page specifically for autism: www.bristol.gov.uk/autism. This page not only contains links to the Bristol strategy and national strategy, it also contains links to local and national support and the NHS Choices page 'Living with autism'.

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

Autistic people who do not have a learning difficulty can access a community care assessment through Care Direct. Assessments can also be accessed through the specialist autism service BASS, who can provide support to the autistic person during the assessment and to the professional carrying out the assessment.

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

We commission a number of organisations to provide advocacy services. Within these contracts there is a requirement to ensure their staff receive adequate training in their service area, however we have not specified that there must be dedicated autism training. If an advocate is working with an autistic person however, it is expected that the organisation would provide adequate training for that worker to be effective in their role.

As part of our ongoing relationship with the voluntary sector, we will be ensuring that our contracts comply with the requirements of both the national autism strategy and the Bristol Autism Strategy in terms of staff training.

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

Please see our response to number 30 above. We currently commission a number of organisations to provide advocacy which are available to autistic people.

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.

Autistic people in Bristol can contact Care Direct for information, advice and signposting as can all residents of Bristol. Autistic people who have a diagnosis can also access support, advice and 1:1 appointments with a specialist worker through the weekly BASS Advice Service. For more information on this service, please see the response to question 26 above.

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

The Autism Forum will review the provision of information within Bristol, with a view to ensuring it is accessible to autistic people. As mentioned in response to question 28 above, Bristol City Council has developed a new web page to host information about autism www.bristol.gov.uk/autism. This site has been developed with our specialist partners and with input from autistic people. As the work of the Forum progresses, this web page will be further developed and it is anticipated that it will hold the meeting papers of the Autism Forum.

In direct response to feedback from users of the BASS service, the specialist autism team have sought help and advice from people with autism with regard to both the services offered, and the information that is circulated about these services. Significant changes have been made both in terms of service delivery, and particularly in the way the specialist team communicates with users of its services. The Advice Service has recently been rigorously evaluated in terms of user satisfaction, and a particular focus has been on the accessibility of information to people on the spectrum. Work to continue to develop and improve this is anticipated to be on-going.

Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

While the current Bristol Housing Strategy does not directly reference autism, the specific and broad ranging needs of autistic people are being considered within the specialist accommodation strategy. This specialist strategy is designed to ensure people with autism, mental health needs and / or learning difficulties are supported appropriately to access a range of suitable housing, and then to maintain their tenancies.

Employment

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Employment and the presumption of employability is a major theme within the Bristol Autism Strategy. Bristol City Council has funded and participated in the Project Search initiative, in which autistic people and people with a learning difficulty gain work experience. This provides the individuals with a sense of what kinds of work they enjoy, and provides useful work experience to add to their CV. Bristol City Council has also funded a project which supplies job coaches to provide support within the workplace for autistic people. These job coaches ensure reasonable adjustments are made within the workplace and support autistic people to achieve their maximum potential. The job coaches are employed by the third sector and are jointly funded between Bristol City Council and the City of Bristol College.

Bristol City Council has also appointed a Councillor as an Autism Champion. One of the stated aims of the Autism Champion is to act as a role model for autistic people in Bristol. The Councillor Autism Champion is also the co-chair of the Bristol Autism Forum.

People with ASC are able to access the Bristol CCG funded employment service as part of Wellbeing Therapies, where reasonable adjustments should be taken to ensure it is accessible to people with ASC.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The Bristol Transitions Strategy 2013-15 and the accompanying Transitions Protocol clearly sets out the agenda of high expectations for all children and young people with autism, learning difficulties, physical disabilities and mental health needs. The aim of the Transitions Strategy is that 'Bristol young people will benefit from a good transition process into adulthood. Bristol agencies will work together with young people and their families towards maximising their independence, based on young people's own aspirations for social inclusion, education, employment and quality of life.'

One of the clear aims of the Strategy is there to be an increased range of opportunities for improving the life chances of young adults with additional health and social care needs. These opportunities include meaningful occupation, such as volunteering, career and job opportunities. Some of the outcomes expected from the Transitions Strategy are that 'young people have an independent life which includes accommodation, employment, preferred occupation and leisure' and that 'young people have achieved their goals in education and economic independence'.

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

Discussions with the CJS are at an early stage, and are currently centred on training and awareness raising within Avon and Somerset Police. As the Bristol Strategy implementation progresses, it is hoped that there will be broader engagement from the CJS.

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

Comment

Self-advocate story two

Question number

Comment

Self-advocate story three

Question number

Comment

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

28

Month

11

Year

2013