

**North Yorkshire County Council****Health and Wellbeing Board****1 April 2014****Report on Adults autism self-assessment exercise 2013****Report of the Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services****1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 This report provides the Board with information about the self-assessment exercise regarding the adult autism strategy conducted in Autumn 2013. It provides a comparison between North Yorkshire's performance in 2011 and 2013, and headline information about North Yorkshire's performance in comparison to the other 152 respondents in 2013.

**2.0 Issues**

- 2.1 An initial self-assessment exercise was conducted by Public Health England in 2011 to establish the extent of the task in achieving the aims of the national strategy on autism entitled 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' (2010). This exercise reflected the position as at March 2011, soon after the publication of 'Implementing Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives', statutory guidance for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the autism strategy' (2010). The second self-assessment in 2013 followed the basic format of the first exercise. Its purpose was to:
- Help local authorities and their partners to assess their progress in implementing the strategy
  - Establish how much progress had been made since the baseline survey, reflecting the position as at March 2011
  - Provide examples of good progress and identify remaining challenges
- 2.2 The 2013 exercise ran between August and October 2013. Local authorities reported responses directly onto the Improving Health and Lives (IHaL) Learning Disabilities Observatory website. Local authorities were asked to co-ordinate their local responses, but instructions emphasised the importance of obtaining a multi-agency perspective, reflecting the task of implementing the strategy. They were specifically asked to include liaison with the new NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- 2.3 The self-assessment, which is attached as an Appendix, was completed in partnership with Health, was agreed by the multi-agency Steering Group and

shared with some people with autism and their carers before it was submitted. It has been shared with HAS Executive Members. It covered the following areas:

- Planning;
- Training;
- Diagnosis led by NHS Commissioner;
- Care and Support;
- Housing and Accommodation;
- Employment; and
- The Criminal Justice System

2.4 The returns were analysed by Public Health England and Improving Health and Lives (IHaL) Learning Disabilities Observatory. They have produced a report providing an initial outline view of the responses to coded questions. A fuller report providing regional breakdowns, maps and thematic analysis of comments will follow and will be considered in detail by the Autism Steering Group.

### 3.0 Findings

#### 3.1 Comparisons between North Yorkshire's performance between the initial self-assessment exercise in 2011 and the 2013 self-assessment exercise

3.2 The 2011 exercise was structured slightly differently to the 2013 self-assessment so it is not always possible to provide a like-for-like comparison. Similarly, some questions in the 2011 exercise required a 'RAG' (red/amber/green) status, where the 2013 version did not, and vice versa. The table below shows comparisons for the questions that were the same or similar in both the 2011 and 2013 self-assessment exercises.

Question	2011 response	2013 response	Comment
Do you know the number of adults with autism in your area?	Green	Yes (no RAG status requested)	We collect data on people with a diagnosis of autism, which is included in the JSNA.
How many adults receive a personal budget?	Amber	177	Personal Budgets are offered wherever possible and appropriate. In some cases this may be taken as a Direct Payment.
Do you have a commissioning plan for people with autism?	Red (no)	Yes (no RAG status requested)	There are a range of commissioning strategies and plans that reflect the data available on the needs of people with autism.
Does your housing	Amber	No (no RAG	This will be taken

Question	2011 response	2013 response	Comment
strategy mention autism?		status requested)	forward through the Chief Officers Housing Group and Supporting People Commissioning Board
Are you engaging with the Criminal Justice System?	Red	Red (as to whether it is engaged as a key partner)	Discussions have taken place about extending the e-learning to Criminal Justice staff. Further engagement around the strategy in general will take place through multi-agency partnerships including the Safeguarding Adults Board.
Have you held consultation events with people with autism in your area?	Amber	Green	Events took place in December 2012, which informed the content of the strategy. There were also a number of events during the consultation period for the strategy.
Is autism contained in your JSNA?	Amber	Green	There is a section in the JSNA focusing on autism. This will be reviewed as part of developing the all age strategy.
Is there a named lead officer for autism in your local authority?	Amber	Green	Anne-Marie Lubanski, Assistant Director, Operations
Have staff been trained to make adjustments to their support and planning for people with autism?	Amber	Green for HAS, Amber for Health	HAS has identified a group of assessment staff as Autism Champions. These staff have received more advanced training and provide support and guidance to other staff. All assessment staff use and autism checklist to help them with support planning. Training is being promoted to primary care, secondary and community staff who

Question	2011 response	2013 response	Comment
			undertake assessments.
Do transition processes consider employment as a key factor?	Amber	Amber	We are improving links between CYPS and HAS so that there is a better sharing of knowledge, and earlier involvement of the Supported Employment Team.

3.3 North Yorkshire has made a demonstrable improvement in its performance between 2011 and 2013 in several areas, including consulting with people with autism in the local area, including autism in our JSNA, having a lead officer for autism, providing training for staff to make reasonable adjustments for people with autism. However, there are areas where further progress still needs to be made, namely engaging with the Criminal Justice System, and considering employment as a key factor within our transition processes.

#### 3.4 North Yorkshire's and other authorities' responses (headline figures)

- a) All 152 upper tier local authorities responded to the exercise
- b) North Yorkshire is in the 8% of authorities working with four or more CCGs
- c) North Yorkshire is in the 99% of authority areas that have a lead commissioner with responsibility for autism
- d) North Yorkshire is in the 56% of authorities that report on autism in their JSNA
- e) North Yorkshire is in the 87% of authorities that report on autism in their commissioning plans
- f) North Yorkshire is in the 63% of authorities that collect data on people with autism using their services
- g) North Yorkshire is in the 60% of authorities that have involved people with autism and their carers in planning the implementation of their strategy
- h) North Yorkshire is in the 61% of authorities that have involved Criminal Justice Services in their training agenda, and 60% who are working to improve their involvement in planning work
- i) North Yorkshire is in the 50% of authorities that have provided specialist autism training to cohorts of staff carrying out statutory assessments
- j) North Yorkshire is in the 65% of authorities that deliver autism awareness training to employers on an individual basis
- k) 59% of authorities have a multiagency training plan. Whilst North Yorkshire does not have one in place at the current time, pursuing multi-agency training opportunities has been identified as a key task within the strategy for 2014/15.

- l) 61% of authorities reported that CCGs and primary care practitioners were involved in the training agenda. In North Yorkshire, workforce planning is considered by the Partnership Commissioning Unit (PCU) on behalf of CCGs.
- m) North Yorkshire is part of the 51% of respondents where further work is needed to establish a local diagnostic pathway. This is a key action for the PCU on behalf of the CCGs within the 2014/15 strategy.
- n) In common with other respondents, North Yorkshire needs to improve the autism-specific training for advocates (47%) and information about local support (74%)

3.5 No detailed comparative data has yet been published so it is not possible to compare North Yorkshire with similar large shire authorities, nor with its neighbouring authorities. On the evidence presented to date it would appear that North Yorkshire is, on the whole, performing at a similar level to other authorities. The areas where further development is required form part of the key actions within the 2014/15 strategy, with progress monitored through the multi-agency Autism Steering Group. If further work is still required, this will be included in the longer term all-age strategy.

#### 4.0 **Policy Implications**

4.1 The self-assessment has informed the development of the interim strategy for meeting the needs of adults with autism in North Yorkshire 2014/15. This strategy will drive the work on autism for the forthcoming 12 month period. During that time an all-age strategy to meet the needs of people with autism in North Yorkshire will be developed with Children and Young People's Services. This will be published in April 2015.

#### 5.0 **Financial Implications**

5.1 No additional resources have been made available by the Government for specific work on autism, so any developments will need to be within existing resources. Knowledge and understanding of autism is still evolving; a prevalence rate of 1% has been used, but this is increasingly considered an underestimate. Data would indicate that the number of new diagnoses within Children and Young People's Services will have increased by between 15-30% by 2015. The needs of this group of people will be passed onto HAS as children move into adulthood.

#### 6.0 **Legal Implications**

6.1 The national strategy for adults with autism in England, 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' (2010), gave the NHS, local authorities and other partners statutory duties with regard to improving the lives of those living with autism. The national autism strategy set out a clear directive for change to ensure that those with autism are included in society and supported to lead full and rewarding lives.

## **7.0 Impact on Other Services/Organisations**

- 7.1 The NHS and other public sector organisations are key partners in the continued improvement in performance in the self-assessment. It is vital that they are fully committed to contributing resources to developing services for autism.

## **8.0 Risk Management Implications**

- 8.1 The profile of the National Strategy remains high, with the National Autistic Society (NAS) lobbying national and local politicians. There would be strong challenges from national and local bodies and individuals should the strategy not be delivered.

## **9.0 Equalities Implications**

- 9.1 It is acknowledged nationally that women and girls are often under-diagnosed with autism and therefore prevalence rates for women and girls are probably lower than they would otherwise be. One of the actions for the strategy is to carry out research into this area and the findings will feed into the longer term strategy for all people with autism in North Yorkshire to be published in 2015.

<b>10.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
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|------|--|
| 10.1 | The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to note the results of the 2013 self-assessment exercise and to consider a further report once the detailed comparison data has been published by Public Health England later in 2014. |
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Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services

County Hall  
Northallerton  
19 March 2014

Author of report – Sally Ritchie, Development Officer (Autism Strategy)  
Presenter of report – Anne Marie Lubanski, Assistant Director Operations  
Background Documents – *North Yorkshire's autism self-assessment 2013*



# 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?

6

### Comment

6 Clinical Commissioning Groups. These are:

\* Harrogate and Rural District CCG

\* Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG

\* Scarborough and Ryedale CCG

\* Vale of York CCG

\* Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven CCG (from North Yorkshire's perspective the only North Yorkshire area covered by this CCG is Craven)

\* NHS Cumbria CCG (from North Yorkshire's perspective the only North Yorkshire area covered by this CCG is the town of Bentham in the west of the County)

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?

*We are not working directly with other local authorities to implement the North Yorkshire strategy at present. However we are linking with other local authorities in the region to share ideas and learn from best practice. We are part of a regional group of authorities that will be meeting in November 2013 to network and will be using that opportunity to learn from other authorities whose autism strategies are at a more advanced stage.*

*We are currently working with the Partnership Commissioning Unit on behalf of the CCGs and City of York Council to jointly implement the recommendations of the Winterbourne enquiry.*

## 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.

*Anne Marie Lubanski, Assistant Director Operations. Anne Marie Lubanski is the head of adult social care operations at North Yorkshire County Council. She reports to Helen Taylor, the Director of Health and Adult Services (HAS) at North Yorkshire County Council. Anne Marie's email address is annemarie.lubanski@northyorks.gov.uk.*

*Judith Knapton is Head of Mental Health and Vulnerable Adults for the North Yorkshire Partnerships Commissioning Unit and has responsibility for services for adults with autism. Judith's email address is judith.knapton@nhs.net.*

#### 4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

##### Comment

*The North Yorkshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) has a section focusing on autism which was updated in January 2013. This online document can be updated instantly when changes take place so this section will always reflect current knowledge about autism in North Yorkshire and the work that is taking place. It will be reviewed again in Autumn 2013. The current version of the North Yorkshire JSNA can be accessed via the North Yorkshire County Council website at [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk). The autism section is on page 59 of the JSNA.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

##### Comment

*For Health and Adult Services - yes, we have started to collect data on people with a diagnosis of autism. This is divided into two elements for people who are diagnosed with autism and those who have suspected autism but are undiagnosed. This is to recognise the wishes of some people who do not wish to be diagnosed with autism.*

*From a Health perspective there is work underway to analyse the current Continuing Health Care database to identify autism patients (currently people with autism are under one category of Learning Disability/Autism). Staff are now separating people on the database depending on whether they have autism or learning disabilities, but all previous records need to be changed.*

#### 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?

411

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

229

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

6



**Comment**

*From a Health perspective this data is not collected. However those who are jointly funded with the local authority (and therefore would meet the criteria) are recorded. There may be some individuals who are funded for assessment or some treatment that are not jointly funded and not known to social care.*

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

- Yes  
 No

**If yes, how is this demonstrated?**

*North Yorkshire County Council Health and Adult Services (HAS) has a range of Directorate commissioning strategies and plans that reflect the data available on the needs of people with autism. These will change to reflect the information we have received as a result of our local engagement events where people with autism and their families and carers gave us their views about their needs. Our plans and strategies will also develop as new knowledge becomes available through the work of central Government and national organisations specialising in autism such as the National Autistic Society.*

*From a Health perspective commissioning plans are not specific to people with autism.*

**8. What data collection sources do you use?**

- Red  
 Red/Amber  
 Amber  
 Amber/Green  
 Green

**Comment**

*Health and Adult Services use national prevalence data from the National Autistic Society, Office of National Statistics and PANSI. This in turn feeds the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). Localised data is recorded in terms of people with autism who receive a service and is monitored on the HAS database, the Adults Integrated System (AIS).*

*From a Health perspective data sources include:*

- \* Databases held within the Partnerships Commissioning Unit on behalf of the CCGs
- \* Continuing Health Care QA database
- \* Mental Health and Vulnerable People database
- \* Information is also held by the providers of mainstream services for Mental Health and Vulnerable People.

*New Information Governance arrangements mean that CCGs cannot handle and store patient identifiable information which makes the collection, storage and sharing of data of this nature to inform planning difficult.*

**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 Partnerships Commissioning Unit acts on behalf of the CCGs. The Mental Health and Vulnerable People leads in each CCG are involved by being given the opportunity to comment on the drafts of the strategy and action plan. They will support the implementation of the plans in their areas as appropriate.*

**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.

North Yorkshire commissioned NAS to carry out four local engagement events for adults with autism and their families and carers. Alongside this there was an online survey for people who could not or did not wish to take part in the events. The events took place in November and December 2012. These events were designed to get feedback about people's experiences with local services to date and their needs regarding services in the future. We will be consulting with people with autism and their families and carers again between November 2013 and January 2014 via local engagement events. These events will focus on the draft interim strategy for meeting the needs of adults with autism in North Yorkshire. We will be asking people for their views on the priorities contained in the draft interim strategy and will be making changes as necessary to the document before it is published in April 2014.

17 of North Yorkshire's provider services are currently undergoing NAS accreditation and will be engaging with people with autism and their carers throughout this process when planning their services in order to provide more appropriate services for people with autism.

## 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.

We found it very difficult to respond to this question as no specific detail has been requested.

There are examples of individual cases where this is happening. Please refer to the sample self-advocate story at the end of this document. However, further work needs to be done to ensure this is the case for all people with autism.

From a Health perspective no coordinated action has been taken to date. Some services may have made adjustments but this is unknown at present. This is an area that will be included in the internal action plan which will accompany the interim strategy for adults with autism.

Adjustments will be made to everyday services as part of the ongoing NAS accreditation that 17 North Yorkshire provider services are undergoing at present.

## 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.

As a result of the National Transition Support Programme, North Yorkshire County Council, through the Children's Trust, established a Multi-Agency Transition Steering Group which included adult services representatives. This group developed a multi-agency Transitions Protocol. There is also a Transition Action Plan which has established the following pieces of work:

- \* A 'Moving On' transitions pack which will further improve the information young people and their families receive during transitions.
- \* Work to set up a new database to support data sharing arrangements between services.
- \* Local Transitions Groups - these assess the future needs of statemented young people in their transition from schools and other settings.
- \* Personalised Learning Pathways (PLP) - a project to ensure that young people access more local provision specifically designed to meet their individual needs.

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

*All services provided by Health and Adult Services are for people over the age of 18 and are non-differential. People are not treated any differently because of their age.*

*North Yorkshire's draft interim strategy for meeting the needs of adults with autism will take into account the recommendations made by the 2013 NAS report, 'Getting On, Growing older with autism'. On an individual basis operational staff take people's age into account when assessing their needs and planning the support and services they require.*

*From a Health perspective the funding of assessment and treatment and ongoing care, outside of the block contracts with the main Mental Health and Vulnerable People services, is considered on a case by case basis and is tailored to the individual needs of the person.*

**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.**

*Health are working with the police and partners on the implementation of a health-based Place of Safety for those detained under s136. Part of this includes the development of a multi-agency training programme for Mental Health/Learning Disabilities/Autism. The biggest barrier appears to be releasing staff to attend the training. A range of options are being considered.*

*From a local authority perspective there is not as yet a multi-agency autism training plan in place. However internal meetings will be taking place to move this work forward and it is recognised as a priority of the work of the officers with responsibility for autism in both Health and Adult Services and Children and Young People's Services within North Yorkshire County Council.*

*Answer to question (15) Autism awareness training has been made available for all staff via an e-learning package. This has been deemed mandatory for all staff in Health and Adult Services and currently there is an 85% completion rate. In addition to this we are currently working on the development/provision of a new autism awareness package which will replace the existing one (as the contract for the licences for this expires 31/12/13). The new package, which should be available before the end of December 2013 will be available for all new staff to HAS but we will be working on extending it to other partner organisations and families of people with autism.*

*N.B. we would like to note that we consider Health and Adult Services' RAG status to be green for (15) but would consider Health's RAG status for the same question to be amber.*

*From a Health perspective the Royal College of General practitioners has a free e-learning package available to GPs 'Autism in General Practice'. It is unknown how many GPs in North Yorkshire have undertaken this training but the intention is to promote this with practices and monitor uptake.*

*People with autism have been invited to a workshop for members of the Learning Disability Partnership Board in October 2013 with the intention of providing delegates with first-hand knowledge of their experiences of having autism.*

*North Yorkshire is working on the development of a virtual forum for people with autism which will provide an opportunity for them to comment on and influence pieces of work as they develop.*

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

22 assessment staff have received training to raise their awareness of autism and how they need to consider their approach and communication methods when working with people who have/may have autism. These staff are being supported as 'Autism Champions' within their teams so that they can provide support and guidance to other assessment staff. A further 30 staff will receive the same training in November/December 2013.

To assist with this approach an autism checklist has been devised specifically to be used alongside the current Needs Assessment Questionnaire which is completed by social care staff during assessments with people.

From a Health perspective, see response to Question 15. Training will be promoted to primary care, secondary and community staff that undertake assessments.

N.B. we would like to note that we consider Health and Adult Services' RAG status to be green for (Q16) but would consider Health's RAG status for the same question to be amber.

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.

Workforce planning for autism is to be considered by the Partnerships Commissioning Unit on behalf of the CCGs, as part of future service development plans.

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

- Yes  
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

A representative from the Youth Justice services has been included in discussions regarding the availability of the new e-learning package being developed by Health and Adult Services and is keen for their service to be involved in piloting the new product.

## Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Please provide further comment.

This is in draft form at present. Some changes have been made to the process that has been in place since 2008 in order to improve governance. Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven have an established local diagnostic pathway. This has become available to the Craven area from 1 April 2013. The pathway was reviewed in 2012 and this has led to the CCG commencing further work to re-develop the local pathway.

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

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

Comment

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

Please report the total number of weeks

Comment

*Since changes were put in place in June 2013, the estimated average wait is approximately one month from approval from the GP to first appointment with a specialist. More detailed work is needed to monitor this more closely.*

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

Comment

*51 adults have been funded to undergo assessments between September 2012 and August 2013.*

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

- Yes  
 No

Comment

*The Partnerships Commissioning Unit acting on behalf of the CCGs will take the lead on developing the pathway.*

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 most of North Yorkshire the diagnosis of adults with autism is undertaken by a range of services that are external to the mainstream core services. Each funding request is considered on a case by case basis via a Mental Health and Vulnerable Adults triage panel which meets weekly.*

*Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven CCG use a specialist autism specific service from the independent sector.*

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?

Currently this would only happen if a Community Care Assessment was recommended by the assessing service or if an individual were to request a Community Care Assessment.

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

Following diagnosis recommendations are made to the referrer (usually the GP). A follow up appointment with the GP is made to discuss the outcome of the assessment and what support might be available. The Partnerships and Commissioning Unit will review the availability and accessibility of other health services such as counselling, psychology etc. for those with autism and make recommendations to the CCGs to improve access. Signposting to other services such as support for carers and advocacy will also be promoted after diagnosis. The CCGs and NYCC will ensure that any person with more complex needs will receive appropriate care in line with the recommendations and principles of the Winterbourne Concordat Action Plan.

For social care assessments, a new assessment tool, which will be used from 2014 will aid social care assessors by building an autism checklist into the standard assessment. This will enable the development of a personalised support plan to meet identified need.

## 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

177

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

49

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

128

### Comment

People with autism who have a personal budget: 177 (168 clinically diagnosed, 9 self diagnosed)  
 People with autism, no learning disability with a personal budget: 49 (45 clinically diagnosed, 4 self diagnosed)  
 People with autism and learning disability with a personal budget: 128 (123 clinically diagnosed, 5 self diagnosed)

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

The North Yorkshire County Council Customer Services Centre is the single identifiable contact point for all queries to the County Council. Some staff in the Customer Service Centre are specially trained to deal with social care enquiries and would advise people with autism and their families/carers on services/support available to them as a first point of contact. Two Customer Services Centre officers have been invited to become Autism Champions and will attend initial training plus regular action learning set meetings of the group in order to enhance their knowledge.

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

*From first point of contact with Health and Adult Services people follow a recognised pathway of care, the "Customer Journey". Health and Adult Services do not have a specific pathway for people with autism but without a learning disability to access a community care assessment and other support. People would be referred to the Customer Service Centre in the first instance via a self-referral, or a referral from their GP or carer.*

*From September 2013 all people with autism have moved into adult assessment teams, rather than learning disability specific teams.*

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 do not have a training programme for advocates in place as yet. However as training programmes develop they will be extended to include advocates. The initial focus of the North Yorkshire Autism Learning and Development group has been on training for front line staff. Once this is fully in train work will continue on developing training tools for others involved with people with autism. The forthcoming online training package has been designed so it can be completed by a wide range of people, including advocates.*

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

*Staff are able to signpost people to advocacy services as appropriate.*

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.

*The Customer Services Centre will provide signposting for self funders to services available for people with autism in North Yorkshire. Support for people with autism will be a key element of North Yorkshire's Prevention Strategy which is currently being developed and will shortly be available for consultation. North Yorkshire County Council has worked with NAS and other organisations through its Innovation Fund to provide a range of services for people not eligible for funding or support from social care.*

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**

*Links to national and local groups for autism are provided on the North Yorkshire Partnership website. North Yorkshire County Council is a partner organisation in the North Yorkshire Care Services Directory which provides details of care organisations in the County. This will become part of an e-marketplace currently in development by Health and Adult Services.*

## Housing & Accommodation

### 34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

*North Yorkshire's local housing strategy does not specifically identify Autism.*

## Employment

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

*NYCC has a Supported Employment (SE) team, who offer a range of services, advice, and information and if needed an individual supported employment plan to people assessed. Staff have all undertaken Autism awareness training. A number of staff have also undertaken further external training to develop a greater understanding of supporting people with Autism in the workplace. The North Yorkshire Autism Implementation worker works closely with the SE staff. She holds regular meetings with staff to advise on appropriate support for individuals either seeking employment or in work and requiring reasonable adjustments. The team have also undertaken extensive workshops with some assessment teams to raise awareness of the role they will play in supporting people with Autism to look for paid employment and/or voluntary opportunities. The team with the Autism Implementation worker have developed a vocational profiling tool which is customised to appropriately assess the vocational pathway for people with Autism.*

*Employers can be offered support before and after a person with autism starts work, including autism awareness training.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

*Within Personalised Learning there is a need to further strengthen relationships with the NYCC Supported Employment team and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). This is currently underway and it has been agreed that SE team will work alongside Personalised learning from September 2013 in order to share knowledge and to jointly agree what functions would be needed to ensure SE was involved in local pathways from the outset. Research has evidenced that earlier invention by SE teams and/or DWP (Year 9) leads to greater successes in employment once the child leaves school. There may be an in issue of capacity within the SE Team, or a need to refocus resources to ensure greater successful outcomes for young people who are accessing an Employment Pathway and school leavers.*

## 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

*Not at present. A representative from the CJS has been involved in the development of our online training tool and we will be seeking further involvement in our planning processes.*

## 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

11

Comment

*KP has autism, a complex learning disability and can experience auditory illusions. She has recently been reassessed following the restructure of day services. The reassessment demonstrated that any new care service provision needs to be specialised in autism and work consistently and effectively with her supported living team. KP's new support plan has been developed with her and includes the following actions:*

*\* The new team will be mentored by staff who previously worked with KP to ensure that all protocols and communication systems are consistent.*

*\* The new team will read all relevant autism specific documentation and KP's safeguarding file.*

*\* Teams will work together to produce a healthy balanced programme to be personalised to KP's needs and aspirations which incorporate independence training and travel training.*

*\* The team need to build up to supporting KP to experience different environments with the ultimate goal of supporting her to access various resources, experiences and short break holidays.*

*\* Clear and consistent communication is in place so that KP is kept up to date at all times. Changes are reported to her and coping strategies and alternative plans are prepared in discussion with her.*

*The key to successful transition to the new services is early intervention and sound communication between services.*

#### Self-advocate story two

Question number

35

## Comment

AT is a very capable young man with Aspergers. He had been in employment previously, however his anxieties and lack of confidence led him to give up or lose jobs after only a few weeks.

AT had completed a countryside management course at a local agricultural college and his ambition was to work in conservation and countryside management. However he had found the course stressful and was very anxious and depressed when he was referred to NYCC Supported Employment. They worked with him on his vocational profile, identifying his career path and supporting him to reach his goal. They helped him to explore different options looking at conservation volunteering, Countryside Ranger vacancies, or apprenticeships.

With Supported Employment's assistance, AT started applying for voluntary positions on long term placements with nature reserves around the UK. He went for a couple of interviews but was unsuccessful. This didn't deter him and he was eventually invited to an interview with the Yorkshire Wildlife trust on a nature reserve. He was successful in being accepted on their volunteer traineeship placement for a year.

AT was delighted about this opportunity but was worried about how he would cope away from home and with working with people who he didn't know. Supported Employment helped him to explore strategies he could follow when working. He said that he felt he would be able to cope, as it was what he really wanted to do and any difficulties with his anxieties around meeting people and his confidence should increase once he was in the right environment.

AT started on his placement in May 2013 with Supported Employment in the background in case he needed support. He has never looked back. He has moved to the area where he works and is sharing a house with others. He said that he is enjoying the work and is hopeful that there will be a job at the end of his placement.

## 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

29

Month

11

Year

2013