

<b>Subject:</b>	Royal Borough Windsor & Maidenhead Joint Autism Strategy 2017 – 2022.
<b>Reason for briefing note:</b>	To present the Joint Autism Strategy for information and strategic oversight by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
<b>Responsible officer(s):</b>	Debbie Dickenson, Public Health Commissioning Officer.
<b>Senior leader sponsor:</b>	Hilary Hall, Deputy Director Strategy & Commissioning.
<b>Date:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> August 2017.

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Royal Borough  
of Windsor &  
Maidenhead

## SUMMARY

This paper presents The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's Joint Autism Strategy 2017 -2022.

## 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Royal Borough Commissioning Strategy for Adults with Autism was published in 2012 and was developed in line with the National Autism Strategy – Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives 2010.
- 1.2 The vision for the Royal Borough Joint Autism Strategy 2017-2022 updates the previous strategy and puts the person with autism and their family at the heart of all that we do. It explains how support and services will be developed in the next five years to achieve this outcome and describes an integrated approach reflecting the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and future vision for residents.
- 1.3 By including both children and adults in this strategy and accompanying action plan, the Royal Borough is aiming to take a more holistic approach, developing opportunities and realising potential for people with autism at all stages in their lives.
- 1.4 The following areas formed the basis for engagement with stakeholders during development of the refreshed strategy:
  - Improving information and awareness of Autism.
  - Autism friendly services and environment.
  - Independent living.
  - Housing support.
  - Employment support.
  - Social inclusion.
  - Opportunities in education
- 1.5 To make the engagement as inclusive as possible, feedback was taken from diverse multiple stakeholder workshops to:
  - Gain a balance of clinical, social care and service user feedback, including families of people with autism, both children and adults, and workshops for older children.
  - Survey public perspectives from different sources.
  - Involve Partnership Boards and members of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **2 KEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 2.1 The consultation which received 112 responses reflected five important priorities to people living in the Royal Borough:
1. I want support as I need it, throughout my education to fulfil my potential and enhance my skills.
  2. I want to be able to live as independently as possible and have access to housing support.
  3. I want support to get a job and support from my employer to help me keep it.
  4. I want to be safe in my community and free from the risk of discrimination, hate crime and abuse.
  5. I want to know that my family can get help and support when they need it.
- 2.2 In relation to children and young people, the increase in demand has had the greatest impact in the secondary and special school sectors. Between 2014 and 2017 the percentage increase of children with Autism in special school has been 51.6%. If demand was to grow by the same amount, there would be a need for over 500 children in special school by 2025.
- 2.3 For adults, the number predicted to be on the autistic spectrum in The Royal Borough aged 18-64 years by 2025 is 917.
- 2.4 The Royal Borough currently provides out of borough placements to some people where it is the best option in terms of meeting their needs such as dual diagnosis, which could mean autism and a mental health condition such as bipolar. The cost of this over the last two years has been:
1. 2015/2016 - Yearly cost £403,200 for seven people.
  2. 2016/2017 - Yearly cost £456,000 for seven people.

## **3 DETAILS**

- 3.1 The Action Plan, see Appendix 1, has been developed by the Autism Partnership Board and takes into account all elements of the needs analysis – the expected need and what people have expressed a need for through the consultation. It aims to link the needs identified to achievable priorities and on to items for action which will be reviewed and assessed by the Autism Partnership Board regularly throughout the strategy lifetime.

## **4 RISKS**

- 4.1 Not delivering the actions presented in the Autism Strategy and Action Plan could lead to less positive outcomes for residents with autism.

## **5 NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 To launch the Joint Autism Strategy and Action Plan at a conference planned for the end of the year.
- 5.2 Continue to develop and monitor the outcomes in the action plan, reporting back on an annual basis to the Health and Wellbeing Board.