

Subject:	Autism Self-Assessment 2016
Reason for briefing note:	To enable the Health and Wellbeing Board to be involved in the completion of the Autism Self-Assessment 2016
Responsible officer(s):	Service Development Officer
Senior leader sponsor:	Head of Commissioning Adults, Children and Health
Date:	31 st August 2016

SUMMARY

This paper provides a summary about the Autism Self-Assessment 2016 to enable the Health and Wellbeing Board to be involved in the completion of this local self-audit tool for services affecting people with autism.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Autism self-assessment is a local self-audit tool for services affecting people with autism. It reflects the priorities set out in the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy (as updated by Think Autism in 2014) and the key themes that feature in the associated statutory guidance for Local Authorities and the NHS.
- 1.2 A letter was sent from the Department of Health and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care asking for the continued support of Directors of Adult Social Services in this undertaking and commitment to raise awareness and equality of people on the autistic spectrum.
- 1.3 The self-assessment has two purposes. First it is intended to provide an opportunity for local autism strategy groups to review their progress and revisit future planning with partners including people with autism and their families.
- 1.4 When the exercise is complete, local findings will also be published nationally thus also allowing local comparison to national benchmarks. The exercise is also a key means for the Government to identify progress across the country in the implementation of the Strategy. The information provided will be analysed by the Public Health England learning disabilities observatory and will help in this process.
- 1.5 This exercise builds on the third autism self-assessment exercise completed between December 2014 and March 2015. Some questions have been modified. In most cases this is to clarify ambiguities or uncertainties or to reflect changes, such as the introduction of the Care Act. As far as possible questions have been kept the same to show the progress that has been made since the 2014 exercise.

2 KEY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 All our responses will be published in full online.
- 2.2 The completed Autism Self-Assessment 2016 spreadsheet must be emailed to Public Health England by Monday 17th October.

- 2.3 The Public Health England team will periodically update the progress summary to show which local authorities are in touch, have a nominated representative subscribed to the Knowledge Hub group – and, in due course, which have returned their findings on the spreadsheet.
- 2.4 The response for our Local Authority area should be agreed by the Autism Partnership Board, and the ratings validated by local people who have autism.

3 DETAILS

- 3.1 The exercise comprises specific questions with opportunities for comments. For some questions there is a RAG (Red / Amber / Green) rating system. There are also some simple Yes / No questions and a few questions asking for numbers or dates. RAG questions provide clear guidelines about how areas should score themselves. Respondents are usually invited, if they wish, to comment briefly on their response. In a small number of cases the tool simply asks for a brief narrative response. For all comments we are asked to keep to the length limit suggested.
- 3.2 In responding it is important to have a multi-agency perspective from health, employment, criminal justice and other sectors. Health partners should specifically be involved, reflecting the requirements of the implementation of the strategy, although the Local Authority, as the lead body locally, is asked to make the return.
- 3.3 Respondents are asked to ensure that as far as possible responses also reflect the perspective of service users with autism and their carers.
- 3.4 As in previous years, the assessment invites us to ask people with autism living in The Royal Borough to contribute personal accounts of using services to illustrate responses to particular questions. These are intended to give an overall view of the experiences of people with autism using health, social care and other public services in our area.

4 RISKS

- 4.1 Failure to engage and gain a multi-agency perspective on autism services means a risk of being unable to complete all sections of the submission by the deadline. If we do not submit a completed assessment that information is shown online.
- 4.2 The Autism Partnership Board do not agree with the responses in the Self-Assessment and ratings are not validated by local people with autism. The submissions would not meet the criteria requirements.
- 4.3 To not submit the completed Autism Self-Assessment spreadsheet to Public Health England by Monday 17th October 2016 would mean being listed as one of the authorities that have not complied.

5 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 To continue to engage with all partners to ensure their timely responses to enable completion in time for the Autism Partnership Board to agree the responses and local people with autism to validate them.

- 5.2 The Autism Partnership Board agree the responses in the Autism Self-Assessment 2016 and local people with autism validate them.
- 5.3 When completed the Autism Self-Assessment is signed off by the Director of Adult Social Services and the Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Operating Officer.
- 5.4 Submit the completed Royal Borough Autism Self-Assessment 2016 before the deadline on Monday 17th October 2016.