



Derby City Council

**Health and Wellbeing Board  
November 2018**

Report of the Strategic Director of People  
Services

# ITEM 08

## Derby City Autism Self Assessment Framework November 2018

### SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details the outcomes of the Derby City 2018 Autism Self Assessment Framework return to Public Health England.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To accept the outcomes of the Derby City 2018 Autism Self Assessment Framework (SAF) return to Public Health England.
- 2.2 To note the areas identified by the Autism SAF for further development within the report.
- 2.3 To receive a further report on the Derby City Autism SAF Action Plan by April 2019.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The national Autism SAF requires local areas to assess their provision of assessment and support for autistic people and their families against a national framework developed by Public Health England. This report identifies the areas of good practice and areas for further development within Derby City.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### 4.1 *The Autism Self Assessment Framework*

The Autism SAF is developed by Public Health England (PHE) and consists of a series of questions which aim to assess the status of local autism provision. The SAF primarily assesses provision for adults, but with some questions relating to children who are preparing for adulthood. Local Authorities are required to compile and return the SAF template to Public Health England by December 12<sup>th</sup> 2018. However, the return is a self assessment of provision by all local partners.

The return is compiled in conjunction with Hardwick Clinical Commissioning Group which is the lead commissioner of clinical assessment and support for Learning Disabilities and / or Autism across Derbyshire and with Derbyshire County Council Adult Social Care who are also partners in the city: county joint planning processes for Learning Disabilities and / or Autism.

The 2018 Autism SAF is the fourth in a series issued by PHE commencing in 2013. Each SAF contains a set of questions relating to the statistical data for the locality, a set requiring simple yes / no responses and a set of qualitative RAG rated questions on the status of local autism services. The 2018 SAF is the most complex issued to date. The self assessment criteria for a number of existing questions have been tightened and several new questions added.

In the 2018 version, there are 129 questions in all which encompass;

- Joint Strategic Planning for Autism
- Training
- Diagnosis Led by the local NHS Commissioner
- Care and Support
- Housing and Accommodation
- Employment
- Criminal Justice System
- Local Innovation
- Extent of Local SAF Sign off

The diagrammatic summary attached at Appendix Two concentrates upon the qualitative RAG rated responses and has been signed off by the City: County Autism Partnership Board.

#### 4.2 *Autism SAF Return: Key Points*

Overall, the predominant trend is that the provision of autism assessment and support since 2013 has remained constant with the majority of the self assessment questions maintaining an amber rating. There has been a positive and consistent approach to joint strategy *planning* across health and social care in Derbyshire and this section remains as Amber.

*Training* for health staff has been increased in recent years as has training provision to social care staff which also has seen the involvement of autistic people in the planning and delivery of training. The provision of specialist training to assessors in social care is rated red against the stated criteria

because staff originally trained have changed roles and new appointments are due to be trained. Similarly, less housing staff have received autism specific training between SAF's and the original green rating has reduced to amber. Training leads have plans in place to address these issues.

Waiting times for an autism *diagnostic* assessment have been considerably reduced since 2016. This has been achieved despite a steady rise in the total referrals for diagnosis year on year since 2013, a rise which is anticipated to continue as national awareness of autism rises and previously underdiagnosed group's come forward for diagnosis.

There have also been improvements in access to specialist clinical assessment and support for people with a learning disability and autism such as Psychology, Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy. Access to post diagnostic support has also improved but access for autistic people without a learning disability to such specialist clinical support remains limited.

The general provision of *Care and Support, Accommodation, Employment and Criminal Justice* have all remained constant, mainly as Amber, across the years. In some instances, such as employment, there have been improvements in the ways in which local partners have supported autistic people but the criteria for the SAF question have tightened therefore despite local initiatives, the rating remains as amber.

There are several new RAG rated questions in the 2018 Autism SAF. One relating to access to mental health support by autistic people which has been rated as amber as has another relating to the level of encouragement that the local authority and its partners provide to autistic people to take part in culture and leisure activities which have been rated as amber.

#### 4.3 Conclusion

The 2018 SAF identifies improvements in local autism provision in some of the self assessed area, most notably the reduction in diagnostic waiting times which have come down from 52 to 32 weeks. Overall, autism provision in the key areas assessed by the SAF has not progressed significantly over five years but amber/ green ratings has been maintained in the majority of areas. This is against a background where the numbers of people being referred for diagnosis and post diagnosis support has risen year on year.

This is due to two factors. First the success of local autism awareness work campaigns and secondly because of a historic under diagnosis of autism, mainly older people who were not referred as children and of girls and women. Therefore the current accepted 1% prevalence in the UK will rise in coming years presenting increasing demand on locality services. Whilst individuals in Derby can benefit from support funded by their direct payments, there has been little national autism specific funding, apart from small targeted DHSC grants, the last of which was received in 2014/15.

- 4.4 The 2018 Autism Self Assessment Framework findings outlined above and detailed in Appendix Two were presented to and approved by the joint Derbyshire Autism Partnership Board on December 6th.

Further information on autism and children in Derby can be found here <https://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/special-education-needs-disabilities/autism/>

Further information on autism and adults in Derby can be found here <https://www.derby.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/disabilities/autism/>

### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The Autism Self Assessment is a requirement of localities by Public Health England and the Department of Health and Social Care. Participation is productive in that it benchmarks local practice and identifies both the strength of the locality and areas for further development to improve the lives of those living with autism in the city. It also ensures that action plan progress can be monitored by the Board. Autism is unique in that it is the one long term condition underpinned by statute, the 2009 Autism Act and subsequent guidance. Responsibilities under the act fall upon both health and local authority commissioners therefore the Derby City Implementation Plan Autism Strategy is developed within the Derbyshire wide strategy with progress reporting to the Transforming Care Partnership.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Emily Feenan, Principal Lawyer  .
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<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Trevor Wright, <a href="mailto:trevor.wright@derby.gov">trevor.wright@derby.gov</a> None Appendix 1: Implications Appendix 2: Derbyshire Autism Strategy and Implementation Plan 2017.
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## IMPLICATIONS

### Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Actions required to improve upon the 2018 Self Assessment Framework ratings by will be prioritised at the Transforming Care Partnership Executive Board with the full resource implications noted in this report further noted by Peoples Division.

### Legal

- 2.1 Autism has a statutory basis, the 2009 Autism Act with supporting guidance, Think Autism, issued by the Department of Health in 2014 and reinforced in 2015.

### Personnel

- 3.1 Further capacity may be required to deliver the 2018 Autism SAF Action Plan. The capacity of Integrated Commissioning has been reviewed with a restructure entering consultation from November 2019.

### IT

- 4.1 There are no IT implications from this report.

### Equalities Impact

- 5.1 Customers who access local Autism and universal services are potentially amongst the most vulnerable individuals in the City. The Autism SAF enables the locality to assess local provision against national indicators and so can increase the quality of the lives of local people with autism and their families.
- 5.2 Our new Equality, Dignity and Respect Policy specifically includes a section on people living with autism under the section 'Equality target groups and key areas.

### Health and Safety

- 6.1 There will be a strong focus on the delivery of services which are safe and sustainable. The quality assurance processes in place have a strong emphasis on safeguarding and provider development work will take place to increase the capacity to deliver services safely.

### Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 There are no Environmental sustainability implications from this report.

## **Property and Asset Management**

8.1 There are no Property and Asset implications from this report.

## **Risk Management and Safeguarding**

9.1 Derbyshire Autism Strategy implementation and its associated risks are monitored by the Derbyshire Transforming Care Board. Safeguarding will be a key area in which we support individual's in choosing their care and shapes how we support local providers.

## **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

10.1 This report supports the Council objectives that all people in Derby will enjoy good health and wellbeing via good quality services that meet local needs.