



Derby City Council

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
12 March 2015**

Report of the Strategic Director of Adults,
Health & Housing

ITEM 7

Department of Health Self Assessments for Learning Disabilities and Autism

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress within Learning Disability and Autism provision reported at February 2014 Board and on the outcomes of the subsequent 2014/15 Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability and Autism Self Assessments (SAFs).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board recognise the effective partnership work between officers from Derby City Adults, Health and Housing and Hardwick Clinical Commissioning Group and Derbyshire County Council Adult Social Care in the self assessment completion and action planning.
- 2.2 That the Health and Wellbeing Board accept and agree the priorities for development in 2015 /16 detailed in this report and to be supported by a detailed action plan report in September 2015.
- 2.3 That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the resource implications of the actions necessary to implement the improvements to the lives of local people with autism and learning disabilities.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Department of Health requires Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning groups to jointly complete annual self-assessments of local services against a national framework (known as SAF), one for Learning Disabilities and one for Autism. There is a requirement that each local Health & Wellbeing Board receives a report on each SAF.. This report summarises the outcomes and action plans of each SAF to ensure that all partners within the City are aware of, and updated on, the progress and implications of the self-assessments. Strategic Planning for Learning Disability and Autism is conducted in partnership with Hardwick Clinical Commissioning Group and Derbyshire County Council via the respective Joint Commissioning Boards. Both the Learning Disability and Autism self assessments are completed against a standard national framework developed by the Public Health Observatory in conjunction with the Department of Health. The overall outcome for Derby remains positive although several priority areas for improvement are noted below. Officers from the Hardwick

CCG, City and County Councils, and partner agencies met to agree action plans based on the Self-Assessment Framework outcomes. The Autism and Learning Disability Joint Commissioning Boards, both chaired by Hardwick CCG, are incorporating those actions plans into their 2015/16 commissioning strategies. Delivery of the JCB strategic plans are led by Commissioning Managers from the CCG, City and County. Within Derby, the delivery of the stated priorities for improvements to the lives of local people with learning disabilities and autism and their families is dependent upon Integrated Commissioning Team capacity which reduced in 2014/15 and will further reduce in 2015 / 16.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The **Learning Disability SAF** was submitted on time on January 28th. It required the collection a large volume of health and social care related statistical input followed by 26 questions requiring a RAG rating. The self assessment was positive overall, with the majority of the RAG ratings recorded as amber. Consultation with local customers and carers was conducted before the final submission and further consultation on the proposed action plans took place at the April Learning Disability Partnership Board and Derbyshire Joint Commissioning Board. Partner challenge was also conducted with Health and County Council colleagues before submission. Improvements on the 2013 return were reported. In general, customers, carers and professionals also noted that the Derby Learning Disability Partnership Board has benefited from a new and more inclusive approach in 2013/14. Five of the 26 rating improved from Amber to Green. These related to Health data collection, Safeguarding, Partnership working, Sport and Employment. One, communication of learning disability status within health changed from red to amber. The completion of Health Action Plans as a result of GP led Health Checks remained at red for the third year.
- 4.2 Officers from the Learning Disability Joint Commissioning Board are conducting further consultation with the City Learning Disability Partnership Board to produce an action plan based upon the SAF outcomes. The action plan will form the basis of the LDPB work plan for 2015/16 under the themes of Staying Healthy, Being Safe and Living Well. Lead responsibilities for Staying Healthy such as Annual Health Checks are the primary responsibility of NHS England with local support by CCGs, Strategic Health Facilitators and GP's. Responsibility for Section B, Being Safe, rest equally with Health and Social Care Commissioning Managers and Operational Teams. The third section, Living Well, relates to Corporate Council and Adults Health and Housing responsibilities. This will be reported in the September 2015 update to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Officers report that further gains could have been achieved in the areas of Transport, Co-Production of Plans and Carers if the successful one year jointly funded Commissioning Officer post could have been extended past June 2014.

- 4.3 The 2014 **Autism SAF** was submitted on time on March 9th. It required self assessment on 55 questions, 25 of which were RAG rated. It contained a wider range of data, RAG ratings and yes/no statements in answer to set questions than in previous years and therefore more officer time to complete. There were ten new questions and many of the defining criteria for the existing questions had been tightened since the 2013 SAF. Consultation with local customers and carers was conducted before the final submission although it is noted that face to face consultation is difficult for people with autism because of the nature of the condition. Opportunities are also limited by the fact that there are no funds for specialist customer and carer engagement. Further consultation on the proposed action plans took place with Derbyshire Joint Commissioning Board leads. Partner challenge was also conducted with Health and County Council colleagues before submission.
- 4.6 The self assessment was positive overall, with the two thirds of the RAG ratings recorded as amber or green. Two ratings that were previously amber are now green. These relate to employment and employment in transitions. However, two areas that were amber in 2013 are now assessed as being red, training in older people's services and the identification of autism in housing strategies. This is partly because fewer resources have been available but also because the criteria defining the question have tightened since 2013. Two former greens have become ambers, the provision of awareness training and training for specialist assessors. This is because of the reduced resources available for training. Four of the questions introduced in 2014 have been rated as red. Three relate to access to health based community therapies for people diagnosed with autism and the fourth to the general provision of general information about autism and the support available to diagnosed individuals and their families within the locality.
- 4.7 It was also noted that the waiting list for diagnosis, previously recorded as being 18 months, has grown and that those referred for diagnosis late in 2014 could experience a waiting period of three years or more. The availability of low level and therefore preventative support remains limited, that further work on agency referral and assessment pathways is needed and that individuals outside of the access criteria for social care (people with high functioning autism for example) may still have needs at times of high stress. There is further work to be done on autism within the criminal justice system, with older people's services and general awareness-raising on a shared agency, city-wide basis. Staff training needs to be completed and then refreshed and basic training needs to be provided on a wider basis. Data collection and sharing also needs to be improved across agencies as does the effectiveness of transitions protocols.

- 4.8 Officers from the Autism Joint Commissioning Board have met to produce a draft Joint Commissioning Strategy for Autism 2015/16 and supporting action plan based upon the 2014 SAF outcomes. This will prioritise;-
- i. A reduction in waiting times for diagnosis-currently 36 months+
 - ii. Autism awareness programmes for staff in statutory agencies
 - iii. Improved post diagnostic support and crisis prevention.
 - iv. Better quality and volume of information, advice and low level support.

Think Autism, which updates the 2009 Autism Act, was issued by the Department of Health in 2013. This places additional expectations upon local authorities, health and partner bodies with fifteen identified priority actions. Think Autism will be supported by national guidance due to be confirmed in February 2015. The draft guidance (summary attached at Appendix Two) is currently out for consultation and raises the bar in terms of the levels that statutory agencies are required to provide. It also emphasises the need for a more integrated approach to the delivery of statutory requirements, with increased involvement from community organisations, employment, criminal justice, business and corporate services responsible for universal services. Officers will therefore need to incorporate both the new guidance and the outcomes of renewed customer and carer consultation into a revised Joint Autism Action Plan by September 2015. Hardwick CCG, the lead clinical commissioning group for autism services also state that Better Care Fund resources will be allocated for the improvement of Autism services across Derbyshire and officers will also incorporate these developments into the Autism Action plan when further details are made available at the April Joint Commissioning Board.

- 4.9 An £18.5k Autism Equipment Grant was allocated to each local authority and is being allocated in March 2014 against national and local criteria, including customer and carer stated priorities. Whilst the national requirements placed on localities have been increased in 2014 / 15, no national funds other than Innovation Fund pilots have been made available to statutory agencies in support of delivery of the requirements the Think Autism Strategy and Supporting Guidance. Officers have identified that autism is a thread running through the under delivery of service for people in transitions, people with challenging behaviour, crisis intervention services and in high cost out of area placements across adults and children's health and social care. Recent figures from children and young people's services indicate a year on year rise on the cost of specialist placements that together with increased statutory requirements, place new pressures on adults, health and housing. For the first time, all local responses to the annual Autism SAF made to IHAL will be published in full online. The aim is to do this in a more interactive way than previously, so comments can be made in a "trip adviser" style on the information that is published.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Both the self assessments are mandatory requirements from the Department of Health. Participation is also necessary to ensure local practice and interventions for people with learning disabilities and autism are of the highest quality and that action plan progress can be monitored by the Board. It should also be noted that the Autism SAF becomes a public document once submitted and that the DoH intend to facilitate public comments on a national portal. "Respondents should be aware that all local responses will be published in full online. The aim is to do this in a more interactive way than previously, so comments can be made in a "trip adviser" style on the information that is published." IHAL 2014.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	n/a
Financial officer	n/a
Human Resources officer	n/a
Director(s)	Cath Roff, Strategic Director, Adults Health & Housing Andy Gregory, Chief Operating Officer, Hardwick CCG
Other(s)	

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Background papers:	Kirsty.everson@derby.gov.uk
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Implications Appendix 2: Learning Disability SAF Draft Action Plan 2014 Appendix 3: Summary of the requirements of the 2015 Autism Act Draft Guidance.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 There are no immediate financial implications from the Self Assessment Frameworks. Actions required to improve 2015/16 ratings will be prioritised at the Joint Commissioning Boards with potential resource implications reported from there. Investment in low level preventative service will reduce long term dependency on adult services.

Legal

- 2.1 There are no known legal implications at this point although it should be noted that Autism is the one long term condition with a statutory basis; the 2009 Autism Act and supporting Guidance which defines local authority and health responsibilities to be issued in March 2015.

Personnel

- 3.1 There are no immediate HR issues although it should be noted that the fixed term Integrated Team capacity reduces by 20% from June 2015 so limiting the capacity to deliver the increased requirements required by the new Autism Act Guidance.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The Learning Disability and Autism SAF Action Plans will increase the quality of the lives of local people with autism and their families. Capacity to co-ordinate these initiatives, particular access to universal services, health checks, timely diagnosis and subsequent post diagnosis support would contribute to wider Parity of Esteem objectives.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 There are no known health and safety considerations.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 There are no known environmental considerations.

Asset Management

- 7.1 There are no known asset considerations.

Risk Management

- 8.1 SAF Action Plan priorities and time scales are monitored by the separate City: County: CCG Joint Commissioning Boards for Autism and for Learning

Disabilities.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 Outcomes from the Learning Disability and Autism SAF actions plans are in line with the Derby Customer Journey, Joint Commissioning Board priorities and support the strategic objectives of the Derby Plan.