

Sheffield JSNA 2013 extract

2.16 Autistic spectrum disorders (ASD)

There are as many as 6,000 adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) locally (63) and we know this is the fastest growing area of 'primary need' in Sheffield.

Whilst some adults with autism live fulfilling lives, contributing to their communities, the economy and their own families, too many are not able to do this, and are dependent on benefits and on the care and support of their families (65).

Those without this support are at increased risk of physical health and mental health problems, homelessness, of being involved in crime, and of addiction. Autism is approximately four times as common in men as in women (66) and it is significantly higher in adults with a learning disability - approximately 19% of adults with a learning disability have autism (67).

There is a need for further work to better understand the number and needs of local adults with autism, improve the sensitivity of local services to people with autism, increase awareness within strategic planning and establish a local diagnostic pathway (68).

Notes:

63 *National Autistic Society projections*

64 *Comprehensive Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment for Children and Young People with LDD (Learning Disabilities or Disabilities), The Consultancy Company, June 2009.*

65 *Fulfilling and rewarding lives: the strategy for adults with autism in England, 2010.*

66 "Estimating the prevalence of autism in adults: Extending the 2007 Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey", *NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care, January 2012.*

67 *Sheffield Case Register records*

68 *Autism Strategy Implementation Plan, Sheffield City Council, 2013.*