



Public Health
England

Autism self-assessment exercise 2013

Sheffield

About Public Health England

Public Health England's mission is to protect and improve the nation's health and to address inequalities through working with national and local government, the NHS, industry and the voluntary and community sector. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

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Local authority area

1. How many Clinical Commissioning Groups do you need to work with to implement the Adult Autism Strategy in your local authority area?

1

Comment

NHS Sheffield CCG has representation on the Autism Strategy Implementation Group and was instrumental in setting this group up. This includes the Clinical Commissioning Executive lead GP for autism, and the Senior Commissioning Manager (SCM) for autism.

2. Are you working with other local authorities to implement part or all of the priorities of the strategy?

- Yes
 No

If yes, how are you doing this?

CCG and Sheffield City Council (SCC) regularly attend autism regional group and have shared the specification for a new Autism Diagnostic Service (see below) with regional commissioners through the regional NHS commissioning group network.

Planning

3. Do you have a named joint commissioner/senior manager of responsible for services for adults with autism?

- Yes
 No

If yes, what are their responsibilities and who do they report to? Please provide their name and contact details.

Joe Fowler, Director of Commissioning Communities Portfolio Sheffield City Council, reporting to Richard Webb Executive Director Communities Portfolio Sheffield City Council.

4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Work has commenced on upgrading the information included in Sheffield JSNA. Public Health is engaged with commissioners to improve our information.

5. Have you started to collect data on people with a diagnosis of autism?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Comment

There is good data on people with autism and learning disability. There is some data available through contact with Adult Social Care and Adult Mental Health Services. There is good data collected on children with autism, and this has been highlighted within a Health Needs Assessment. The new Autism Diagnostic Service that has been commissioned by the CCG has been asked to contribute to the development of more accurate data to be included in the JSNA. This has been written into the contractual obligations outlined in the service specification.

6. Do you collect data on the number of people with a diagnosis of autism meeting eligibility criteria for social care (irrespective of whether they receive any)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, what is

the total number of people?

the number who are also identified as having a learning disability?

the number who are identified as also having mental health problems?

Comment

The adult social care Carefirst database does not currently record information about autism. Plans are underway to implement a change to Carefirst, and to update and skill relevant staff, to enable autism information to be recorded. This change will be in place by the time it becomes a mandatory requirement in 2014. The Learning Disability Case Register and health Insight database do not directly record information about social care eligibility. However, it is possible to estimate that, during 2012-13, 297 people with autism on Insight received some kind of social care service.

7. Does your commissioning plan reflect local data and needs of people with autism?

- Yes
- No

If yes, how is this demonstrated?

There has been a long established Autism Practice Development Group and autism strategy within the learning disability commissioned service. This was based on data on the needs of this population identified through the Sheffield Case Register, noted to be one of the best databases in the country for learning disability. The new commissioned Autism Diagnostic Service draws on this data, in addition to national prevalence rates and some other local information collected within the Individual Funding Request process.

8. What data collection sources do you use?

- Red
- Red/Amber
- Amber
- Amber/Green
- Green

Comment

The sources are Learning Disability Case Register; Individual Funding Request data; the Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) clinical Insight database for contact with CLDTs and MH teams; Health Needs Assessment for children. We will be working on consistency for this data and the new commissioned Autism Diagnostic Service has been specified to contribute to data for the JSNA.

9. Is your local Clinical Commissioning Group or Clinical Commissioning Groups (including the Support Service) engaged in the planning and implementation of the strategy in your local area?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Comment

The CCG is fully engaged and working collaboratively to implement the NHS responsibilities of the strategy, and are partners in the implementation of the strategy at a local level. Both the MH Portfolio Clinical Lead and the Senior Commissioning Manager have provided the leadership for the development of the Autism Diagnostic Service, and engaged with partners on the local Autism Strategy implementation Group (ASIG) in its design. Members of the group (particularly experts by experience) were involved in a 'Meet the Bidders Event' as part of the procurement process.

10. How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their carers in planning?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Please give an example to demonstrate your score.

A variety of mechanisms are being used to engage people on the autistic spectrum. This includes membership of people with autism and family carers in the Autism Strategy Implementation Group. There have been subgroups chaired jointly by the CCG MH Portfolio Clinical Lead, the Senior Commissioning Manager, which helped to determine the design and model for the new diagnostic and post-diagnostic service commissioned by CCG. Further sub-groups covering employment, training and housing have involved people with autism and family members.

11. Have reasonable adjustments been made to everyday services to improve access and support for people with autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please give an example.

Sheffield City Council has a reasonable adjustment policy but no specific reference to autism. However, to support its staff and customers, SCC has adopted the toolkit devised by the Hidden Impairments National Group for launch in October 2013. A range of autism training materials have been brought together on SCC and social care websites to help promote autism awareness for key staff. Sheffield Teaching Hospital (STH) have reviewed the strategy relating to their care and implemented elearning training on autism for staff, and engaged in workplace-based training. Additionally, Royal College of Nursing guidelines on autism have been issued to all ward areas. The Autism Diagnostic Service will be expected to contribute to advice for services.

12. Do you have a Transition process in place from Children's social services to Adult social services?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please give brief details of whether this is automatic or requires a parental request, the mechanism and any restrictions on who it applies to.

The Transitions Service does not require parental request and takes referrals from schools, children's services and other sources. Eligibility for the Transitions Service is based on likelihood of requiring adult social care in the future. There are still gaps in the pathway from children's services to adult services that affect all disabled children. However, the Autism Diagnostic Service will provide a service from 16 years, which will address one of the known gaps in transitions in the city.

13. Does your planning consider the particular needs of older people with Autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The newly commissioned Autism Diagnostic Service takes account of the evidence base surrounding under representation of females, older people and BME groups within the autism-diagnosed population. An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed on this basis, and the new service will be expected to provide data on demographics and advise referrers on the needs of all of the autistic population, including older adults.

Training

14. Have you got a multi-agency autism training plan?

- Yes
 No

15. Is autism awareness training being/been made available to all staff working in health and social care?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment: Specify whether Self-Advocates with autism are included in the design of training and/or whether they have a role as trainers. If the latter specify whether face-to-face or on video/other recorded media.

People with autism are involved in developing and delivering face-to-face 'Understanding Autism' training to services across all sectors, with a current emphasis on services working with people with learning disabilities and autism. This established training is part of a range of learning options that have been coordinated and are being made available to staff in health, social care and wider Sheffield City Council services. The learning includes personal video testimonies, elearning, reports and tips. These resources are now available on the Social Care on-line in Sheffield (SCOLIS) website and Sheffield City Council's elearning zone. The council has also signed up to and adapted the Hidden Impairment National Group toolkit to help understanding and support for staff and customers with autism and other hidden impairments. There is information available about training take-up. Autism training is available for staff through SHSCT and STH. GPs can access training through the Royal College, and a specific Protected Learning Event on autism is scheduled for GPs in 2014. The ASIG has a role in developing publicity and take-up for this range of autism training.

16. Is specific training being/been provided to staff that carry out statutory assessments on how to make adjustments in their approach and communication?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comments

The statutory assessor already in post with SCC, and who will be part of the new Autism Diagnostic Service, has undertaken appropriate autism training and applied the good practice 'Social Care Assessment of need for adults with an autism spectrum disorder', amongst other information and guidance. Assessors working in learning disabilities have received autism training from the service's Autism Practice Development Team.

17. Have Clinical Commissioning Group(s) been involved in the development of workforce planning and are general practitioners and primary care practitioners engaged included in the training agenda?

- Yes
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

Through the ASIG, the CCG have been involved in discussions on workforce planning. Sheffield Teaching Hospitals have developed elearning training for their staff. Training for GPs is under development through a planned Protected Learning Initiative event for GPs to be held in early 2014. The Local Medical Council (LMC) have been asked to advise on best practice approaches to delivering this training, and to comment on elearning packages available through the RCGP.

18. Have local Criminal Justice services engaged in the training agenda?

- Yes
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

The ASIG is supporting work to coordinate autism information and training across all relevant sectors. Currently, professionals working in criminal justice access training through their own processes - e.g. the Court Diversion Scheme accesses this through Sheffield Health and Social Care Foundation Trust. The NAS good practice guide, 'Autism: a guide for criminal justice professionals' is also used and applied amongst professionals, however it is difficult at this present time to confirm the level of overall training take-up in the field. ASIG is liaising with key criminal justice representatives during the autumn 2013 to enhance autism training take-up and understanding. The new Autism Diagnostic Service will make further links with criminal justice.

Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please provide further comment.

For a number of years, there have been a learning disability pathway, a mental health pathway and an Individual Funding Requests process for exceptional cases for assessment and diagnosis. Harmonisation of these different routes began from April 2013 with the establishment of a social work post. The new Autism Diagnostic Service has been commissioned by Sheffield CCG working in partnership with SCC to provide a NICE compliant service. This will enhance and reconcile the existing pathways.

20. If you have got an established local diagnostic pathway, when was the pathway put in place?

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

4

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

2013

Comment

Although there have been various pathways in place for a number of years, April 2013 is given as the date when these began to be harmonised. The first phase was the appointment of a specialist autism social worker with SCC. This worker will become part of the new commissioned Autism Diagnostic Service. Evidence on population needs derived in part from Individual Funding Requests was used to put in place a revised and more accessible pathway. A business case was presented to Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group in Autumn 2012 with a view to developing a procurement process from Spring 2013. The CCG went out to tender for the provision of the service in March 2013. A contract was awarded on conclusion of the tender process and a service will commence on 1 October 2013.

21. How long is the average wait for referral to diagnostic services?

Please report the total number of weeks

Comment

Service not yet commenced so data unknown.

22. How many people have completed the pathway in the last year?

Comment

[Text removed] individual funding requests were approved in the last year. The number of people completing the pathway through the learning disability or mental health routes is unknown.

23. Has the local Clinical Commissioning Group(s)/support services taken the lead in developing the pathway?

- Yes
 No

Comment

The CCG Lead Senior Commissioning Manager and CCG Clinical Lead GP have developed the pathway, based on engagement with senior experienced clinicians working in the field in Sheffield, people with autism and family members as members of the ASIG.

24. How would you describe the local diagnostic pathway, ie Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis or a specialist autism specific service?

- a. *Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis*
 b. *Specialist autism specific service*

Please comment further

The diagnostic and post diagnostic pathway is a specialist commissioned service by the CCG from a Sheffield based NHS provider. This will integrate with existing Learning Disability Service pathways and Mental Health Service pathways. It is consistent with NICE guidance. There will be integration with SCC through a social work post, which is already in place. The service will also assess, diagnose and support people with related neurodevelopmental conditions, including adults with ADHD.

25. In your local diagnostic path does a diagnosis of autism automatically trigger an offer of a Community Care Assessment?

- Yes
 No

Please comment, i.e. if not who receives notification from diagnosticians when someone has received a diagnosis?

Sheffield City Council's autism lead social worker is in post and will become part of the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) for the Autism Diagnostic Service. This social worker identifies the appropriate application of the community care assessment, and offers and provides support as well as assessments. Diagnosticians will advise the social worker as part of the MDT functioning.

26. What post-diagnostic support (in a wider personalisation perspective, not just assuming statutory services), is available to people diagnosed?

The service specification for the new Autism Diagnostic Service includes post-diagnostic support. The approach to personalisation will be an integral part of the approach of the service. Sheffield City Council is committed to personalisation. Individuals are already being supported to access appropriate universal services - e.g. DEAs, specialist autism employment services and other voluntary organisations, and peer support groups. Once in place, post-diagnostic support will be available from the MDT. This will also include close working with non statutory and voluntary sector organisations.

Care and support

27. Of those adults who were assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and are in receipt of a personal care budget, how many people have a diagnosis of Autism both with a co-occurring learning disability and without?

a. Number of adults assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and in receipt of a personal budget

b. Number of those reported in 27a. who have a diagnosis of Autism but not learning disability

c. Number of those reported in 27a. who have both a diagnosis of Autism AND Learning Disability

Comment

The adult social care Carefirst database does not currently record information about autism. However, plans are underway to implement a change, and to update and skill relevant staff, to enable this to be possible. This change will be in place by the time it becomes a mandatory requirement in 2014.

28. Do you have a single identifiable contact point where people with autism whether or not in receipt of statutory services can get information signposting autism-friendly entry points for a wide range of local services?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please give details

Sheffield has a database called 'Help Yourself' which identifies numerous services, groups and activities across Sheffield. While it is not itself an autism-specific resource, its search functions enable people to search for things related to autism.

29. Do you have a recognised pathway for people with autism but without a learning disability to access a community care assessment and other support?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please give details

The new Autism Diagnostic Service will refine and coordinate referral arrangements. Currently, there are different pathway routes - increasing numbers of people are referred for social work support through Adult Social Care contact; others are referred via a GP for case-by-case specialist support.

30. Do you have a programme in place to ensure that all advocates working with people with autism have training in their specific requirements?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

31. Do adults with autism who could not otherwise meaningfully participate in needs assessments, care and support planning, appeals, reviews, or safeguarding processes have access to an advocate?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

People are able - and encouraged as necessary - to make use of an advocate. Some people prefer a family member or friend, but for others, trained/professional advocates may be appropriate. Most trained/professional advocates in the local market have mental health or learning disability experience at this stage, as opposed to autism.

32. Can people with autism access support if they are non Fair Access Criteria eligible or not eligible for statutory services?

- Yes
 No

Provide an example of the type of support that is available in your area.

People not FACS-eligible are receiving social work and voluntary sector support with benefits, employment, housing and other issues, such as support for carers.

33. How would you assess the level of information about local support in your area being accessible to people with autism?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Comment

Sheffield's 'Help Yourself' database is a well-established and well-known means to search and find information about a range of information and support, including in relation to autism. The database has logical and accessible search functions - e.g. through 'autism' and other key words. However, the range of appropriate autism support revealed through the database is perhaps not as extensive as needed.

Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Comment

SCC Housing Strategy 2013-2023 references housing needs of disabled people, although autism is not specifically referenced. It is expected that actions relating to people with autism will be included in council's Housing Equalities Plan. Productive dialogue has taken place between commissioners, family members and people with autism and housing colleagues.

Employment

35. How have you promoted in your area the employment of people on the Autistic Spectrum?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Comment

Sheffield City Council works closely with two local autism specialist employment support providers and supported an 'Undiscovered Workforce' marketplace event in early 2013, which brought together employers, support providers and people with autism. The council has also signed up to, and adapted, the Hidden Impairments National Group toolkit for employees, which, with close input from HR, is on track to be implemented in October 2013. The local Autism Strategy Implementation Group has had a key focus on employment and inclusion.

36. Do transition processes to adult services have an employment focus?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Transition plans include reference to employment and activities but the picture is not consistent across the board.

Criminal Justice System (CJS)

37. Are the CJS engaging with you as a key partner in your planning for adults with autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Initial contact has been made with South Yorkshire Police and the Court Diversion Scheme, and ASIG will develop this into more systematic links, awareness-raising and training in autumn 2013.

This marks the end of principal data collection.

Can you confirm that the two requirements for the process to be complete have been met?

a. Have you inspected the pdf output to ensure that the answers recorded on the system match what you intended to enter?

Yes

b. Has the response for your Local Authority area been agreed by the Autism Partnership Board or equivalent group, and the ratings validated by people who have autism, as requested in the ministerial letter of 5th August 2013?

Yes

The data set used for report-writing purposes will be taken from the system on 30th September 2013.

The data fill will remain open after that for two reasons: to allow entry of the dates on which Health and Well Being Boards discuss the submission and to allow modifications arising from this discussion to be made to RAG rated or yes/no questions.

Please note modifications to comment text or additional stories entered after this point will not be used in the final report.

What was the date of the meeting of the Health and Well Being Board that this was discussed?

Please enter in the following format: 01/01/2014 for the 1st January 2014.

Day

Month

Year