



Stockport Adult Autism Strategy 2014 - 2016



Foreword

We are very pleased to present the 2014 – 2016 Stockport Adult Autism Strategy. The Strategy provides a clear framework for action for public and local services to ensure that, by working together, we can make it easier for adults with autism to lead ‘fulfilling and rewarding lives’ in their communities. At its heart is the need to increase knowledge and awareness about how autism affects people’s lives across all services, businesses and within all the communities of Stockport.

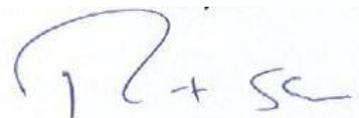
Adults with autism, their families and carers have delivered a clear message about what matters most to them at each of the consultation and networking events we have organised to develop our Strategy. They want improved access to services and support to live independently; information and advice and better access to employment opportunities. And they intend to continue to play a central part in developing and delivering those services and supports that improve their wellbeing.

The Council has a particular responsibility to work positively and persuasively to ensure that all partners, including local employers, work together and share the responsibility, risk and resources needed to implement our Strategy. In common with other local areas, this Strategy has been developed at a time of financial constraint. The challenge for us is to manage and refocus our current practices and resources and to work with partners to make reasonable adjustments to existing provision. A clear priority for 2014 is to set up our Autism Network and make links to other strategies that also have an impact on the wellbeing of people with autism, most importantly the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Carers Strategy.

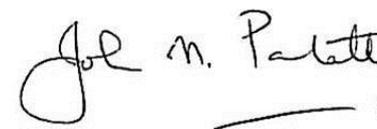
Although we have achieved a great deal in a short period of time, there is much to do to make the aims of the Autism Act a reality for all adults with autism in Stockport, and their families. This Strategy provides a clear vision to guide our work over the next three years.



Terry Dafter
Director, Adult Social Care



Ranjit Gill
Chief Clinical Officer, NHS Stockport CCG



Cllr John Pantall
Chair, Joint Health & Wellbeing Board

‘Someone with autism has taught me to think outside the box’

Background

In November 2009, the government published The Autism Act following a successful campaign that highlighted the particular difficulties experienced by adults with autism. In response, the Secretary of State published ‘Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives – the Strategy for Adults with Autism in England’ in March 2010 www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_113369.

The Strategy acknowledges that people with autism are among the most excluded people in our communities, sets out the direction for long term change and identifies specific areas for action over the following three years, with a review of progress in 2013. It focuses on five core areas of activity:

- increasing awareness and understanding of autism among frontline professionals
- developing a clear, consistent pathway for diagnosis in every area, which is followed by the offer of a personalised needs assessment
- improving access to the services and support which adults with autism need to live independently within the community
- helping adults with autism into work, and
- enabling local partners to plan and develop appropriate services for adults with autism to meet identified needs and priorities.

The Department of Health (DH) is now leading a formal review of the Adult Autism Strategy to identify progress and areas of good practice, and to consider next steps towards achieving its long term vision for transforming the lives of and outcomes for adults with autism. The review included a survey which the DH wanted as many people as possible to submit, and a second self-assessment exercise for local Councils to complete by the end of September 2013, working closely with their partners particularly the Clinical Commissioning Group. The DH will then make any necessary revisions to the Strategy by March 2014. Like most other areas, Stockport has done well at delivering some elements of the Strategy, for example training staff and public awareness raising and employment. And there are other areas that will be priorities for the next three years for example developing a clear and consistent diagnostic and assessment pathway and putting in place a range of options to support the transition from childhood to adulthood.

'If you have met one person with autism, you have met one person with autism'

Defining Autism

'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives - the Strategy for Adults with Autism in England' recognises that individuals and professionals use a variety of terms to refer to autism. These include autistic spectrum disorder, autistic spectrum condition, autistic spectrum difference, Pervasive Developmental Disorder and neuro-diversity. The national Strategy uses autism as an umbrella term for all such conditions including Asperger Syndrome, and this local Strategy will do the same.

Autism is generally defined as a lifelong condition that affects how a person communicates with and relates to other people, and how they make sense of the world around them. The three main areas of difficulty experienced by people with autism are social communication, social interaction and social imagination or flexible thinking. Many people also experience some form of sensory sensitivity. Autism can co-exist with other difficulties including Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Dyspraxia and learning disabilities. People with autism can also experience mental health problems and physical disabilities.

Autism is known as a spectrum condition because every individual with autism is affected differently. At one end of the spectrum people may have an average to above average IQ, may have been through mainstream education and have no need of specialist services. Alternatively people with autism may have a very low IQ, may have additional learning disabilities and other impairments, and may be using a range of specialist services. People with autism will make use of a wide range of services and support and in Stockport other strategies, for example the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, increasingly recognise the needs of people with autism.

‘Different but not less’

Co-production

Over the last three years we have organised a number of consultation and networking events as we have developed our Adult Autism Strategy for Stockport. There has been a high level of consistency in the three issues adults with autism and their families have identified at each consultation as being most important to them - improved access to services and support to live independently; information and advice and better access to employment opportunities.

In late 2012 and early 2013, we organised two events. In November 2012, adults with autism and their families were asked to come and tell us about what they think the priorities are for the continuing development of the Adult Autism Strategy for Stockport. Then in January 2013, we asked agencies and organisations what makes an agency autism friendly; what information and resources do organisations need to become more accessible to all adults with autism and how we can work together to develop a wide ranging Adult Autism Strategy for Stockport?

The issues that people raised at these events have been incorporated into the Action Plan below. Agencies pledged to create partnerships where they can, to attend and provide training and individual members of staff pledged to act as champions in their workplaces. Adults with autism wanted people to understand how their autism affects them and for support to be available for them to live their lives like anyone else.

Autism in Stockport

The lack of accurate, consistent information about the population of people with autism has been acknowledged to be a national issue. In Stockport, information is patchy but a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Autism was published in 2013 which pulled together the information we have from a range of sources. The JSNA estimates that approximately 2600 people of all ages are living with autism in Stockport today. The majority of people are adults, and most have Asperger’s or High Functioning Autism. More agencies, including Adult Social Care, are now recording information about the numbers of people with autism who use or request their services. If we know more about people with autism and gaps in current service provision, those who commission services in Stockport can target limited resources more effectively. The JSNA can be seen on the autism pages of the Council website at www.stockport.gov.uk/autism

‘Only 15% of adults with autism in the UK are in full time paid employment’

Working with Partners

Adult Social Care is the lead body responsible for implementing a local Autism Strategy. But the successful development of the Strategy needs the involvement and commitment of a wide range of partners. Chief amongst these are adults with autism and their families who have been delivering clear messages about what is important to them, and who have played a central role in devising and delivering autism training and awareness raising. Stockport is also an active member of the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium which has provided invaluable networking and learning opportunities, including funding and running events jointly with other Greater Manchester authorities.

There are a number of other stakeholders who play a key role in developing the Strategy in Stockport. The Clinical Commissioning Group, and other health partners, have a major role to play in developing a diagnostic pathway; social care services for children and young people; organisations that are funded to provide services; and a much larger group of agencies that are not specifically funded to work with people with autism. The Strategy is not just about putting in place autism services, but about enabling equal access to mainstream services, support and opportunities through reasonable adjustments, training and awareness raising in all areas of life.

Leadership and Governance

The decision was made in late 2012 to disband the Autism Partnership Board in Stockport. It had been important in getting our work started, but it was felt that there were more effective ways to include and involve a wider range of partners and voices in developing and implementing the Strategy for Stockport. Social care services are in the process of reviewing the way they provide services for all people with disabilities, of all ages, including those with autism through a programme of change called Making Choices Having Control. Reduced funding for public services means that we need to explore creative, collaborative approaches and to do things differently. The key challenge now is to put in place a new Autism Network that can harness all the energy and resources available to make Stockport a welcoming and vibrant place where people with autism and their families want to live.

VISION – WHAT DOES SUCCESS MEAN?

Increased awareness and understanding across all public services	Clear and consistent pathway for diagnosis and assessment	Enabling local partners to plan and develop appropriate services for adults with autism to meet identified needs and priorities.	Improving access for adults with autism to the services and support they need to live independently in the community	Helping adults with autism into work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff working in public services have access to autism awareness training • Specialist training is available to staff with assessment and other specific responsibilities to adults with autism • Adults with autism, their families and carers are involved in the development and delivery of training • Adults with autism have equal access to mainstream services, support and opportunities and live safely and well in their communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults with autism know how to get a diagnosis of autism • An easy to access, multidisciplinary diagnostic service is available locally for adults with autism • Post diagnostic support is available for adults with autism and their families • Adults who are diagnosed with autism have a clear route to an assessment of their social care needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults with autism, their families and carers are involved in agreeing priorities & planning and delivering services • An Autism Network meets regularly to share information; identify gaps in services and plan service development • Services meet the needs of people who are disadvantaged including people from BME communities, women and older people with autism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults with autism, their families and carers are involved raising public awareness about autism • Support is available at key transition points to independence, whenever that might be and as adults with autism get older • Adults with autism are supported to develop peer support networks • A single point of access to and information about services is available for all adults with autism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults with autism aspire to have and retain a job • Support to find and keep a job is available for as long as adults with autism need it • Employers support people with autism into work by providing work experience opportunities, internships and apprenticeships • Employers know how to make reasonable adjustments

ACTION - WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all partners are aware of training options including e-learning and courses • Actively participate in the regional training pool and share good practice locally, regionally and nationally • Work with partners to deliver targeted training. For example working with local police officers to improve the experience of people with autism locally • Audit the training needs of staff working with adults with autism • Actively offer training widely to local agencies for example to leisure centres, bus drivers • Raise public awareness of autism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn from good practice regionally • Work with partners, particularly the CCG, to commission a local diagnostic service • Work with partners to develop a post diagnostic service • Ensure that diagnostic and assessment services are easy to access, joined up and consistent • Ensure that adults with autism and their families know how to get a diagnosis • Ensure professionals know how to refer adults for diagnosis • Identify a lead GP or Champion or autism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with key partners, including CYDisP and health, to develop an integrated commissioning plan and services for autism • Know how many adults with autism live in Stockport • Work with colleagues in Strategic Housing to ensure people with autism are living in accommodation that meets their needs • Ensure the strategies, policies and key procedures of all agencies make reasonable adjustments that address the needs of adults with autism • Make sure services and support are available for all adults with autism, whatever their level of need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adults with autism who are eligible for social care support are benefiting from the personalisation agenda • Ensure people with autism and their families know where to go for up to date information and advice about services and support • Publish a regular newsletter • Encourage wide attendance at Autism Network meetings, information & consultation events • Organise public awareness events in a wide range of local public venues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map local services that support adults with autism • Learn from and share good practice • Work with local and regional partners to encourage local employers to increase the range of opportunities for adults with autism • Work with colleges, schools and other agencies to raise the aspirations of young people with autism • Ensure the Council acts as a Champion as an employer of people with autism • Ensure the Council makes 'reasonable adjustments' in its policies and practice around employment
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PERFORMANCE - HOW ARE WE MEASURING THIS?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive training plan in place • Increased numbers of people attending Autism Awareness training • Increased numbers of people attending Autism Assessment training • A wider range of agencies and organisations participating in training • Awareness raising events held in a wide range of public venues, delivered by people with autism and their carers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear and trusted diagnostic service is in place locally • A GP Champion is identified within the CCG • A post diagnostic service is being developed for adults with autism and their families • A clear pathway from diagnosis to social care assessment is in place • Adults with autism and their families are satisfied with local diagnostic and assessment services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSNA for Autism published • Increased numbers of adults with autism known to their GP • Partner organisations, particularly health & social care, collect information about people with autism and their needs • An Autism Network meets regularly; working groups in place for priority issues particularly diagnosis & employment; leaders identified to take the work forward • Increased participation by a wide range of agencies and individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults with autism and their families report more satisfaction with local services through the Autism Network, and other consultation events • Improved take up of personal budgets by adults with autism who are eligible for Adult Social Care services • Increased numbers of adults with autism using information and advice services • Improved take up of community based services by adults with autism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing numbers of adults with autism are economically active • Adults with autism retain their jobs for longer • More work experience opportunities • More young adults with autism taking up apprenticeships and internships • An increase in the number of people with autism employed by the Council
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

An interpreting service is available, if you need help with this information.

Please telephone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000. Email: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

تتوافر لدينا خدمة مثيرة للاهتمام فاذا كنت في حاجة لفهم هذه المعلومات باللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال بوحدة الترجمة في ستوكبورت
Eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk على الرقم التالي: 01614779000 أو على البريد الإلكتروني:

এই তথ্য বাংলা ভাষায় বুঝতে সাহায্যের দরকার হলে ইন্টারপ্রিটারের (দোভাষীর) ব্যবস্থা আছে। দয়া করে
স্টকপোর্ট ইন্টারপ্রিটিং ইউনিটে ফোন করুন: 0161 477 9000 বা ইমেইল করুন: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

如果你需要他人為你解釋這份資料的內容，我們可提供傳譯服務，

請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。電郵 eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

اگر در مورد این اطلاعات احتیاج به کمک داشتید خدمات مترجمی رایگان موجود است لطفاً با سازمان مترجمی استاکپورت با شماره تلفن و یا
01614779000 ایمیل eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk آدرس زیر تماس بگیرید.

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy z tą informacją dostępne są darmowe usługi tłumaczeniowe. Prosimy dzwonić
do Wydziału Tłumaczeń w Stockport pod numer 0161 477 9000. Email: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

اگر آپ کو ان معلومات کے ساتھ مدد درکار ہے تو انٹرپرائٹنگ سروس (ترجمانی کی خدمات) دستیاب ہے۔ براہ مہربانی سٹاکپورٹ انٹرپرائٹنگ یونٹ
کو 0161 477 9000 پر ٹیلیفون کریں۔ ای میل: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

If you would like this document in large print, Braille or audio format,
please phone 0161 474 4614 for a copy.

Minicom: 0161 217 6024

Fax: 0161 474 4666

Email: asc.comms@stockport.gov.uk

March 2014