

	<p>BARNET CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD</p> <p>13 February 2020</p>
Title	Draft Autism Strategy
Report of	Executive Director, Children Services, London Borough of Barnet Executive Director, Adults and Health, London Borough of Barnet Director of Commissioning, Barnet CCG
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
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Summary	
This report contains: - contextual information about the needs of children and young people living with Autism in Barnet, including current provision and gaps in services. This contextual information includes feedback from residents - the draft recommendations for future service development, which will form the cornerstone of the children and young people's element of the Barnet Autism Strategy.	

Recommendations
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the Children's Partnership Board notes the progress being made on the development of the autism needs assessments and strategies across the life course.2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board agrees the draft recommendations to improve services and quality of life for children, young people and adults with autism as well as their families and carers.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Children's Partnership Board have recognised that the number of people (both young and adults) being diagnosed with autism is increasing and that people are living longer with increasingly complex health conditions. Therefore, the Board has established that it wants to review the partnership plans to support people with autism in the borough in the future it wants to develop an Autism Strategy for children and young people.
- 1.2 Work has been undertaken since the last update to the Children's Partnership Board to build the Autism Strategy. This has included:
 - A development day for representatives across the partnership in October 2019, to help understand where we are at the moment
 - Survey and focus group work with parent-carers and young people, to identify where they feel we are
 - Data work to look at the numbers of children and young people, and their needs
 - Conversations with individual partners on what opportunities are available, and how to overcome current barriers
 - Reflections on best practice elsewhere, and national and international research in the area.
- 1.3 The result of this work so far is presented as Appendix 1. This document contains draft recommendations which will form the cornerstone of the Children and Young People's part of the Barnet Autism Strategy, and will guide the development of the Action Plan over the next few months.
- 1.4 As the children and young people's element covers age ranges up to 25, it contains recommendations that cover what are traditionally considered adult orientated services (e.g. Adult Social Care, employment services), but are important to bring into the strategy and action plan as they form an important part of a young person's transition into Adulthood. Therefore, any

recommendations affecting over 18s have been taken to Health and Wellbeing Board for their review, and they will have final sign off on this part of the strategy.

1.5 The draft recommendations are on slides 27 -29 of Appendix 1.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Partnership are asked to review and approve the draft recommendations – subject to conversation at the board. The next step will be to develop a detailed action plan to achieve the recommendations, which will come back, with the final strategy document to the Children’s Partnership Board for ratification in May 2020.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

Not applicable.

4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Comments from the Board will be incorporated into the strategies being developed and inform the development of services

4.2 The final CYP Autism Strategy and action plan will be presented to Children’s Partnership Board for sign off in May 2020, following consultation.

4.3 The final Adults Autism Action Plan will be presented to Health and Wellbeing Board in May 2020.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 Autism and/or the Learning Disability / Autism programme (formerly Transforming Care) are a priority within the following strategies:

- Children and Young People’s Plan (2019 – 2023)
- CYP Mental Health Transformation Plan (2019 refresh)
- NHS Long Term Plan

5.1.2 The approach taken supports the corporate and committee aims to:

- Integrate health and social care to provide services for people with complex needs
- Improve services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 There is no financial decision associated with the recommendations outlined in

this report. As solutions are further developed, resources will be considered and approval will be sought through appropriate governance.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under various legislation including the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004. They have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, if this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They also have a duty to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing services appropriate to the child's needs, provided this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where practicable, takes account of the child's wishes and feelings.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 Risk assessments will be undertaken as services and solutions are developed. Working across the life course, reviewing needs assessments and receiving feedback from families reduces the risk of developing inappropriate services and unidentified needs.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public-Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies **to have due regard** to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

5.6.3 Protected characteristics will be reviewed as part of the needs assessments

and any changes to provision will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

5.7 Corporate Parenting Principles

5.7.1 In July 2016, the Government published their Care Leavers' strategy *Keep on Caring* which outlined that the "... [the government] will introduce a set of corporate parenting principles that will require *all departments* within a local authority to recognise their role as corporate parents, encouraging them to look at the services and support that they provide through the lens of what a reasonable parent would do to support their own children.'

5.7.2 The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:

1. to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
2. to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
3. to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
4. to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
5. to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
6. for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and;
7. to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

5.7.3 The needs of children in care with ASD are being considered in the strategy development process.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 The information to be presented at Health and Wellbeing Board has been informed by a considerable programme of engagement work, including:

- 0-25 Development Day involving professionals from social care, education, health, voluntary sector and parent carers
- Parent-carer and young people surveys, which have received over 50 responses to date
- Four focus groups with young people in Barnet a range of different Barnet schools
- Prioritisation exercise with over 50 parents at the Social Care Conference
- Continued work with the Adults Autism Working Group, which involves

parent-carer representatives

- Parent involvement in Autism Diagnostic Pathway review group.

5.8.2 Following the decision by the Partnership Board, consultation and engagement work will continue on the strategy and action plan documents throughout Spring 2020 until the final documents are signed off by the Partnership Board in May 2020.

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 The needs analysis has been undertaken by Public Health and has been built on local data including social care, education, health and third sector data (commissioned services), and recent national research by bodies such as the National Autistic Society, and the Tizard Centre at the University of Kent.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None

REPORT CLEARANCE CHECKLIST

(Removed prior to publication and retained by Governance Service)

Note: All reports must be cleared by the appropriate Committee Chairman, Chief Officer, Legal, Finance and Governance as a minimum. Report authors should also engage with subject matter experts from other service areas where this is required (e.g. procurement, equalities, risk, etc.). The name and date that the chairman or officer has cleared the report must be included in the table below or the report will not be accepted.

Legal, Finance and Governance require a minimum of 5 working days to provide report clearance. Clearance cannot be guaranteed for reports submitted outside of this time and your report is likely to be withdrawn from the agenda and deferred to the next scheduled meeting.

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