

	<p>BARNET CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD</p> <p>6 August 2020</p>
Title	Autism Plan
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	Appendix 1 – Barnet Autism Plan 2020
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Summary	
This report contains the Autism Plan which contains the final recommendations and actions.	

Recommendations

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| 1. That the Children's Partnership Board agrees the final Autism Plan to improve services and quality of life for children, young people and adults with autism as well as their families and carers. |
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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 Plan for children and young people.
- 1.2 The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy for the borough sets the vision, aims and priorities for delivery for young people with SEND aged up to 25. The Autism Plan sets out the detail on how the partnership will deliver this vision and aims for children and young people with Autism.
- 1.3 The draft Autism Plan was taken to the Children's Partnership Board on 6th February 2020. It was developed using:
- 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.
- 1.4 Since the Children's Partnership Board reviewed the draft plan in February 2020, the draft plan has been consulted on during February-March 2020 with:
- Barnet Schools
 - Barnet Parent-Carers Forum
 - Barnet Young People
 - SEND Partnership, including health commissioners/providers, education services, children's social care and adults social care
- 1.5 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 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 sign off on actions affecting over 18s. The Adults Autism action plan will also be reviewed at a future meeting of the Adults and Safeguarding committee.

- 1.6 The Autism Plan was due to be signed off by the Children's Partnership Board in April 2020. However, due to Covid19 the Board was cancelled. The Autism Plan is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children's Partnership Board asked for an Autism Plan to be developed for Barnet. This has now been developed, and members of the Board are asked to review and approve the Autism Plan – subject to conversation at the board.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

Not applicable.

4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Following the Board's decision on the plan, the plan will be finalised and circulated to all partners. It will then be handed over to the SEND Partnership to lead the delivery of the plan.

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 The Autism Plan has required some investment to ensure the actions are implemented. These resources are considered via each partners' budget

setting and approval process, and will be reported to the SEND Partnership Board.

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.

5.4.2 The Autism Act 2009 requires the Government to publish an autism plan and guidance for public bodies including Local Authorities. The guidance requires Local Authorities to work with key partners and stakeholders to review plans for people with autism.

5.4.3 As outlined in the Barnet Children's Partnership Board Terms of Reference, Council's Constitution Article 7 – The board is responsible for reviewing summary updates and signing off all agreed Plans and Strategies relating to Children and Young People in Barnet prior to presentation to executive groups (e.g. CELS, H&WBB)

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 autism spectrum conditions are being considered in the plan 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
- Further 1-1 conversations on the draft plan and recommendations.

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 Barnet SEND Strategy,

https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/appendix_a_send_strategy_2017-2020.pdf

6.2 Barnet Children's Partnership Board, Draft Autism Plan (13th February 2020) -

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=456&MId=10223>
