



# Autism Self Evaluation

## 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

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?

## 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.

Deborah Cohen, Service Head for Commissioning and Health and John Rutherford (interim) Service Head for Adult Social Care. Responsible for strategic commissioning and adult social care and both report to the Director of Education, Social Care and Well-being who is responsible adult and children's social care services. Contact details: [deborah.cohen@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.cohen@towerhamlets.gov.uk) Tel: 0207 364 0497 and [john.rutherford@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:john.rutherford@towerhamlets.gov.uk) Tel: 0207 364 2127

4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

### Comment

The Tower Hamlets Joint Strategic Needs Assessment will be refreshed over the next 12 months, which will include a specific section on autism. In Tower Hamlets, a standardised framework covering the local picture, evidence base, and current actions to address issue, progress, user perspectives, information gaps and priorities will be covered.

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

### Comment

*The Council collects data of children with a statement of SEN with a diagnosis of autism, and of adults with autism and a co-occurring condition (i.e. learning disability) receiving social care services. However, it is recognised that the Council and many other local statutory organisations still do not routinely (or sufficiently) collect data on the numbers of people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) living in the borough, or receiving services.*

*Therefore, the Council is currently working with other key providers to ensure mechanisms are in place to capture information on those with a diagnosis of autism, which can be shared amongst partners delivering care. This includes working primary care providers to set up a comprehensive GP register of people with a diagnosis of autism, and amending existing electronic social care data systems to include those with a diagnosis of autism. This will ensure the authority captures information on people receiving a diagnosis, as well as those able to access social care services.*

*These changes will coincide with delivery of the new diagnostic service (April 2014) and will mean data will be gathered (mandatory) not only on those receiving services, but also on their condition - whether that is autism or Aspergers syndrome (high-functioning autism). It is expected that these changes will also reduce the need to conduct prevalence mapping in the future.*

## 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?

28

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

12

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

0

### Comment

*To date, figures to indicate the total number of people with ASD receiving care is 28. Of this total, 12 have been identified as also having a learning disability. There are no records of people with a diagnosis of autism and mental health in receipt of social care services. However, the Council recognises the need to amend existing data capture systems in order to ensure all those able to receive care are recorded appropriately. As mentioned, changes to data systems will coincide with delivery of the new diagnostic service (April 2014), which will collect data on all those receiving an automatic community care assessment with the diagnosis.*

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

- Yes  
 No

**If yes, how is this demonstrated?**

*The Council has in place a commissioning plan that sets out its intention to deliver a dedicated adult autism and intervention service by April 2014. The service will provide a clear and dedicated diagnostic pathway for adults with suspected ASD, which is also designed to facilitate local compliance with requirements of the Autism Act 2009.*

*Key components of the service are:*

- \* A core diagnostic team to provide assessment of adults with suspected ASD in Tower Hamlets aligned with NICE Clinical Guidance 142 for care of adults with autism.*
- \* Post diagnostic brief intervention programme to adults with ASD (high functioning) utilising techniques to improve general well-being (i.e. Cognitive Behavioural Therapies) and social relationships.*
- \* Support to service users, including young people, to access the service via effective transitional arrangements that lead to independent living and access to employment*

*The Council understands the analysis of local data is vital in identifying service gaps in order to deliver effective and 'in reach' services. In this light, the Council has utilised local data (e.g. JSNA), and feedback from a recently conducted adult autism consultation (2013), to ensure intentions reflect local need, and take account of views of adults with autism, their families and carers in the design of new services.*

*Key headline findings from the JSNA (2011) include:*

- \* A high estimated prevalence of autism amongst the adult population when compared to other London boroughs. (1,910 adults with ASD in Tower Hamlets, with approximately 765 without an additional learning disability).*
- \* A likelihood that a substantial number of people who have ASD in the borough have not received a diagnosis, or that the diagnosis has not been recorded.*
- \* Special Educational Needs (SEN) data indicating a disproportionate increase (69.8%) in the number of children (aged 18 and under) with ASD in Tower Hamlets, from 159 children in 2007 to 270 children in 2011*
- \* A need to implement locally a dedicated diagnostic pathway for adults with suspected autism*

*The 2011 census also noted that the population in Tower Hamlets increased by 29.6%, which may impact further on the prevalence of individuals with autism in the borough. Recent GP data also indicates there are 76 people with a diagnosis of autism living in the borough. However, this is not considered to accurately reflect ASD prevalence in the borough.*

*Additionally, an adult and carers consultation exercise was conducted in 2013, as a way to ensure the new service addresses local aspirations and need. The exercise reflected the significant challenges that local people with autism and their carers experience when seeking support. The majority of responses broadly supported the proposals and that, subject to effective implementation, the plan had the potential to impact positively on the lives of people with autism and their carers.*

*The consultation found that the highest priorities for local people included:*

- \* Support into employment,*
- \* Better information about autism,*
- \* Targeted support to assist adults with autism live independently,*
- \* Better training for support and other front line staff in understanding the prevalence and needs of people with autism.*

*Accordingly, the intended service will seek to fill this gap and provide dedicated provision towards diagnosis and follow on support for high function adults with ASD in the borough. The service will also work across agencies and assist young people's transition, and facilitate service users to access local employment and training opportunities where a need has been identified.*

**8. What data collection sources do you use?**

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

**Comment**

*Internal electronic social care systems (Frameworki) and the GP data*

### 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 LBTH Autism Project Team was established in 2011 to oversee the development of local adult autism services. The Project Team is chaired by the Service Head for Adult Social Care and has membership from education, Public Health, local special school, carer and a representative from the Clinical Commissioning Group (Mental Health lead).*

### 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.**

*The Council conducted an Autism and Carers consultation exercise to find out whether or not stakeholders and the general public agreed with the Council's approach towards improving services for adults with autism in Tower Hamlets.*

*This consultation ran from April to June 2013. The consultation was widely publicised, with communications sent to all known contacts with a connection to autism in Tower Hamlets, including individuals, schools, colleges, service providers and local community and Third Sector organisations. A questionnaire via which people presented their views was made available on the Council's website in various community languages.*

*In all, 5 consultation events were held across Tower Hamlets where people could find out about the local plans and forward their views. 1 of these events was a focus groups, which the Council's Equality and Inclusion team members were pivotal in supporting.*

*Of the respondents, 49 people replied to the consultation:*

- \* 6 people indicated that they were a person with autism*
- \* 40 were carers or parents of a person who has autism*
- \* 3 worked with people who have autism*

*The consultation found that the highest priorities for local people included:*

- \* Support into employment and further education*
- \* Better information about autism in terms of getting a diagnosis and also support around coping mechanisms for carers/family members*
- \* Targeted support to assist adults with autism live independently,*
- \* Better training for support and other front line staff in understanding the prevalence and needs of people with autism.*

### 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.

To date, the Council has implemented an Autism Awareness training programme, which is available to all front line staff (including health) following a review of the Council's E-Learning staff training modules. This has been developed using a tiered approach according to level of knowledge and required for roles. The Council is also considering the establishment of 'Autism Champions' within mainstream services, which will seek to embed autism awareness via service Champions with specialist knowledge. These Champions would receive a level of training and support that would enable them to advise their services on making them fully accessible to people with Autism. This continues to be a development area, which will be continually reviewed once the new service becomes operational.

## 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.

In Tower Hamlets, the transition phase starts at age 14 (Year 9) and continues for several years sometimes up to age 25. This is for children who have a statement of education need, or are known to the Children with Disabilities Team and during this time, children's service practitioners and their colleagues in adults' services work together with the family to understand the young person's needs and how those needs can be met by adult services when they reach the age of 18.

At present, the Transitions Team (situated with Community Learning Disability Service) conducts an assessment of the young person to ascertain if they meet the fair access to eligibility criteria for Adult Social Care. This will usually be carried out when the young person is 16 (Year 12), and ensures those who do not meet eligibility for continuing support are signposted and advised on other relevant services. All planning is undertaken with using a person centred approach, with family members involvement

The two sets of eligibility criteria are as follows:

- (i) A person has a Learning Disability which includes the presence of: A significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information and to learn new skills (impaired intelligence), with a reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning); which both started before adulthood, with a lasting effect on development.
- (ii) The person has to have a critical or substantial risk to independence as defined by the Council's "Fair Access to Care" criteria (i.e. how the person looks after themselves is causing extreme concern about their immediate safety).

If the planning process identifies that the young person doesn't meet the eligibility criteria for Adult Social Care once they are 18, information and support will be provided on accessing alternative universal services. Often this is the route for young people who have autism without a diagnosis of learning disability.

However, a key element of the new Autism Service (once implemented) will be to work with those young people not served by the transition process who do not meet the eligibility criteria for adult care services. This will include:

- \* Reviewing transitions planning process and assisting the young person to access into the new autism service (where required) and support elements.
- \* Ensuring that young person & their carers are informed of their right to assessment as transition approaches
- \* Delivering joint working, planning & robust communication between key services & agencies
- \* Ensuring full & appropriate involvement of young person with autism & families in the transition process.

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

## Comment

*The Council is currently reviewing its existing universal older people's care contracts (Link Age Plus) in order to ensure the care needs of older people with autism are appropriately addressed. This includes ensuring staff members receive appropriate training; developing referral access routes towards the new Autism service, and configuring services to enable access for people with autism living in the borough.*

*In addition, once the new autism service is in place, anyone over the age of 18 will be able to access the service and receive a diagnosis and intervention once initial screening process has been completed. However, whilst the Council expects a large proportion of those with suspected ASD will access the service, it is likely that a number of these will be high functioning older people seeking only a diagnosis without the need for follow on support. Therefore, the new service will provide effective sign posting to ensure this cohort are provided information to address any issues affecting those in old age. This includes: social care, housing and health information with onward referrals to health practitioners should issues be identified that requires further attention (i.e. dementia/mental health).*

## 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.

*The Council has developed a dedicated Autism Training programme to increase awareness of the condition amongst front line staff and accelerate learning on how best to deal with people with autism accessing services. To date, 12 sessions have been delivered, which has attracted staff from across the Council and external health services. The programme was also reviewed by attendees of the Autism Carers Drop-in (consisting of both people with autism and their carers) who advised on the course content. In addition, the Council has also developed links with the local special school (Phoenix) and NAS Tower Hamlets in order to ensure people with autism and their cares are able to access training to increase confidence and assist their aspirations on becoming self-advocates. Once a sufficient cohort are in place, the Council will seek to utilise their knowledge to deliver training across external agencies and partner organisations.*

### 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 Council is continuing to roll out its dedicated autism awareness training programme to frontline staff across Council services (i.e. social care and housing) and health services. This programme has been developed to enable staff to recognise autism, whilst providing guidance on how to respond appropriately when dealing with a person with the condition. This includes a specialist training programme for those delivering and assisting diagnostic assessments (i.e. DISCO). To date, 12 training sessions have been delivered (attracting over 200 staff) with further courses available (up to March 2014) to those requiring advanced knowledge and skills. The training has been a first vital step in delivering the local plan and is one of our key aims in increasing understanding across Council services. Further to this, the Council's adult social care service and human resource department has also developed an Autism awareness training pack for all staff and new starters, which provides basic information on the 2009 Act and how staff need to be aware of people with autism accessing services.*



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.

*Training & awareness for Primary Care workforce, including GPs, is an development area. Although the restructuring of the CCG means we do not yet have confirmation of how this will take place, we do have a lead GP for Autism within the CCG who will provide support in taking this forward. This work is expected to build on available best practice advice (such as the National Autistic Society guidelines for CCGs) and may be incorporated into the annual training programmes for GPs as part of their continuous professional development. This could take place in a number of ways, including the annual GP appraisal and revalidation scheme (a recommendation for NHS bodies).*

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

- Yes  
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

*The Council is currently engaging with local Criminal Justice agencies via the Community Safety Partnership, the borough's key statutory forum which includes all CJ agencies operating in the borough. A meeting to raise the profile of autism at the Partnership has been scheduled for November 2014. A key aim of this engagement will be to raise awareness of the 2009 Act and identify areas of joint need and working, including training and joint communications.*

## Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Please provide further comment.

*There is an established diagnostic pathway for children and young people in Tower Hamlets. The Autistic Spectrum Disorder Assessment Service (commissioned by TH CCG) provides a service to children from 2 years up to the age of 19 years with suspected autistic spectrum disorder via medical and multidisciplinary assessments. Although autism diagnosis is available for adults with a learning disability (delivered via the Community Learning and Disability Service) there is (at present) no dedicated diagnostic pathway for adults with suspected autism (high functioning) as the primary condition.*

*For adults, persons presenting with suspected autism will be referred via a single entry point to Community Mental Health Teams (East London Foundation Trust). If a particularly complex need is identified that require specialist assessment and treatment that ELFT are not able to provide, ELFT will refer on to the specialist service at South London and Maudsley Foundation Trust (within 28 days).*

*However, LBTH is currently in the process of securing an external provider to deliver a dedicated Adult Autism Service in order to meet its statutory obligations as set out in the Autism Act 2009. The service will provide a high quality diagnostic and intervention service for high functioning adults (aged 18 years and over) with suspected Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Tower Hamlets. This includes delivery of a core diagnostic team to provide assessment of adults with potential ASD in Tower Hamlets, which uses best clinical practice and in line with NICE clinical guidelines for care of adults with autism. The service will also operate an open referral system, which will include an option for self referral, from a GP or social worker.*

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

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

Comment

*New dedicated local diagnostic pathway for adults (high functioning) expected to operational by April 2014*

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

Please report the total number of weeks

Comment

*A dedicated local diagnostic pathway will be implemented April 2014. However, using best practice, the new service will issue an appointment for diagnosis within 8 weeks from initial referral (whether by self referral or by GP/Social Worker)*

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

Comment

*New dedicated local diagnostic pathway for adults (high functioning) expected to operational by April 2014*

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

- Yes  
 No

Comment

*An LBTH Autism Project Team was established in 2011 to oversee the development of a dedicated local pathway for adults with suspected autism in Tower Hamlets. The Project Team is chaired by the Service Head for Adult Social Care and has membership from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) education, Public Health, carer and social care commissioning representatives. This Group is also supported by a 'Clinical & Practitioner Reference Group' and has membership across social work, speech and language therapy, psychology and psychiatry and includes staff from the transition service. The group is specifically tasked with developing a clear and consistent pathway for diagnosis and ensuring that health and social care staff make reasonable adjustments to services to meet the needs of adults with autism.*

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 new service will be a Specialist Autism Specific Service. However, the Council understands the requirement for improving the lives of adults with autism is wide-ranging and complex, which involves a multi-agency approach at every level. Therefore, the Council will ensure joined up and integrated approach is made across a range of partners in order to make comprehensive progress in meeting the needs of people with ASD, including Health, Social Care, Employment, Education, Criminal Justice and the local Third Sector.*



## 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?

*All Community Care Assessments are triggered by an identified need - rather than a diagnosis. However, people with a learning disability (and autism) receive an assessment, as do all young people in the transition process, which are conducted within the Community Learning Disability Service. Any person receiving a diagnosis for autism will be notified along with their carer/parent, GP and social worker.*

*However, a dedicated local diagnostic pathway for adults will be implemented by April 2014. It is expected the core diagnostic team will include a social worker, nurse and psychology input to ensure Community Care assessments are carried out in-house and health needs are addressed. The team will be also required to provide written notification to the individual's GP/health worker that a diagnosis for autism has been carried out, with the results and any further intervention.*

*The team will offer specialist information, advice and support for people with Autism ( both FACS eligible and non-FACs eligible) including GP Health Checks Programme for (1) young people in transition; and (2) for adults with Autism (also information advice and support to carers.) All individuals will also have their details entered on to the Council's electronic social care systems, which will be configured to ensure effective data capture of all those accessing the new service, which will be shared amongst both health and social care professionals.*

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

*At present, FACS eligibility plays a huge part in the level of support an adult diagnosed with Autism receives. However, some reasonable adjustments to 'universal services' have been made to ensure people diagnosed with Autism are able to access services in the borough. This includes:*

- \* Carers drop in: Peer led service providing support to people with autism and their carers. Participants of the group receive training and advice, whilst the service provides an important vehicle for engagement from external organisations.*
- \* Information, Advice and Advocacy Services: This service provides an advocacy and support to residents (including people with autism) requiring information and possible access into key services.*

*In terms of those who are FACS eligible, support is also provided via the Community Learning Disability Service who provided post diagnostic intervention for those with a learning disability and autism. This includes psych-education for clients and families, family and marital work concerning understanding autism, psychological consultation to health services and social care support services, anxiety-management and anger-management interventions, art therapy and other psychotherapeutic approaches as appropriate. The Council also commissions a 'Jobs, Employment and Training' service, which assist service users (FACS eligible) to gain skills to enter the jobs market.*

*For children and young people with a diagnosis of autism, the following direct services are available:*

- \* Early Years Service providing parental support (Portage) and pre-school home teaching*
- \* Short Breaks provision, which also assist in providing respite for those with a caring or parental responsibility*
- \* School out reach*
- \* Family Support (delivered by National Autistic Society)*
- \* Disabled Children's Outreach Service*
- \* Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service*
- \* Educational Psychology*

*It should be noted, the Council is currently implementing its plan to deliver an adult Autism Diagnostic and Intervention service, which will provide post diagnostic support to both non and FACS eligible residents with a diagnosis of autism. This will include:*

- (i) A programme of post intervention support to adults with ASD (high functioning) and assistance with developing social relationships*
- (ii) Service user support to access employment and training programmes. This will be delivered via a local Third Sector organisation, which will ensure the service is 'in reach' to the borough's diverse communities and other hard to reach groups. Under this scheme, adults with ASD will be made aware of wider employment initiatives, training options and work placements. Lifelong learning and development are included, ensuring adult education learning opportunities are accessible to people with autism. This service will also link closely to local colleges and Job Centre Plus.*
- (iii) Sign posting and referral to other services should a primary condition be other than ASD (i.e. mental health) or a risk be identified (i.e. self harm or harm to others) that may require in-patient treatment*

## 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 Council recognises there is a lack of information about the number of people with a diagnosis of autism in the community. Better diagnosis and a more consistent approach in capturing information will help improve the quality of data. Until these are in place (April 2014), the lack of information will be a limitation in understanding the level of need, how this need presents, and how well services are meeting those needs.*

*At present, none of the current data fields exclusively capture information on people with autism. Where those with autism are known, this is usually with a co-occurring condition (i.e. learning disability). In order to address this issue, a review of data systems is currently taking place. From 2014/15 health condition information will be routinely collected and reported for all those entering the new autism service.*

*Within the proposed list of conditions Autism and Aspergers will be specifically identified. With improved recording of autism it will become possible to specifically determine the outcomes for these clients within the Adult Social Services and beyond - particularly in relation to clients in paid employment, living in settled accommodation with any satisfaction levels reported*

*In addition, the NHS are also leading the development of a single data platform (Orion) to provide a single data source for health and social care needs in the borough. This system will extract data from a number of sources, leading to better data sharing across lead organisations.*

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

*The Council has in place a network of Information, Advice and Advocacy services, which are free to access for both non FACs eligible and eligible residents. Within this network, residents have access to single entry points across a diverse range of options in health, leisure, housing volunteering and welfare advice. The services are needs led and provide universal Information, Advice and Advocacy Services residents say are important to them. This includes provision to support people with autism, including 'autism friendly' access to sessions, which are delivered via drop-ins or surgeries, specific outreach support and within people's homes. The services operate an open access policy, or via referral from other organisations or service.*

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

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

*The Council is continuing to roll out its dedicated autism awareness training programme to frontline staff across Council services and its external delivery partners delivering universal services including Information, Advice and Advocacy services to people with autism. This programme has been developed to enable staff to recognise autism, and deliver a response appropriately to their needs. At present, 12 sessions have been delivered, which has attracted over 200 staff members from across social care, health and community services including housing.*

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

*Yes. In 2011, the Council commissioned an external organisation to coordinate a consortium of organisations to deliver a Information, Advice and Adocacy Service in Tower Hamlets. This service is aimed at people with support needs including those with sensory impairments, physical and learning disabilities, autism and living with HIV/AIDS. The Council understands that good information, advice and advocacy are essential for all adults and their carers who need support in order to know their rights and to live independently. Therefore, the service offers support to people with Autism (and their carers) to make informed choices, enable them to take control and help service users and carers to maintain their abilities, skills and independence well into the future.*

*The following specialist services are delivered:*

- \* Benefits and welfare information and advice*
- \* Housing advice and information*
- \* Legal advice for service users with disabilities*
- \* Welfare, money management and benefits information and advice*
- \* Volunteering information and advice*
- \* Crisis, one to one, group, citizen and self-advocacy*

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.

*The following services are currently available to people with autism (non FACs eligible):*

*(1) Carers drop in: Peer led service providing support to people with autism and their carers. Established in 2013, the service has received recommendation from the National Autistic Society as a model of good practice. Participants of the group receive training and advice, whilst the service provides an important vehicle for engagement from external organisations.*

*(2) Information, Advice and Advocacy Services: This service provides a advocacy and support to residents (including people with autism) requiring information and possible access into key services. This includes:*

*\* the provision of accurate, up-to-date and objective information about personal and lifestyle issues, learning and career opportunities, progression routes, choices, where to find help and advice, and how to access it*

*\* the provision of advice through activities that help residents of Tower Hamlets to gather, understand and interpret information and apply it to their own situation*

*\* the provision of impartial advocacy and specialist support to help residents understand their needs, confront barriers, resolve conflicts and develop solutions.*

*The delivery of holistic universal Information, Advice and Advocacy Service targets support for residents of Tower Hamlets with additional needs. This includes ensuring residents and carers understand what services are available and how to access them.*

*Additional support is offered to those with learning difficulties (including autism) and disabilities by trained staff.*

### 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

*The Council has made some progress in raising the profile of existing support to people with autism (and their carers). For example, the Council has delivered an Autism Carers drop in, which provides a key mechanism for information flows between the Council and people with autism and their carers living in the borough. Recently established (2013) the group has informed plans for a dedicated autism service, and enabled better engagement between services (housing) and external agencies to increase awareness of available support. Due to its success, the National Autistic Society (NAS) has recently recommended the group as a model of good practice to other London boroughs. In addition, the Council has also set up an autism library, which provides up-to-date and easy to read literature on the condition and techniques to improve social interaction. This includes information in a number of community languages with supported awareness training available to those with English as a second language.*

*In terms of its future plans, the Council is also leading the development of a comprehensive multi-agency communications plan, which will dovetail with delivery of the new service. The purpose of the plan will be to raise the profile of the new service across agencies (and the wider public) and increase awareness of the condition amongst front line staff working including health, social care, criminal justice and schools.*

## Housing & Accommodation

### 34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

#### Comment

*The Council recognises that support with housing is key to helping adults with autism live more independently. Housing staff have been provided information and training on the needs of adults with autism and how to communicate effectively with them. The Council's Housing Service are also currently developing an ASD action plan to improve services for adults with autism.*

## Employment

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

### Comment

*A local provider has been commissioned by LBTH to deliver a Jobs, Enterprise and Training (JET) programme for people with a learning disability and autism in Tower Hamlets. This programme works with local employers to develop employment opportunities for people with autism, and leaning disabilities.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

### Comment

*Support is provided at transition from school to employment or further education. Support is on an individual basis, providing tailor made support for each person. Support includes Transition, work preparation, support into further training/college, CV preparation, interview skills training, work experience placements, voluntary work, supported paid permitted work, in- work support.*

## 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

*The Council is currently engaging with Criminal Justice agencies (via the local Community Safety Partnership) to ascertain levels of ASD awareness amongst CJ organisations in the borough, and to raise awareness of the new autism service. The Council aims to initiate further joint working between agencies so that communication needs and behaviours of people with autism are better understood, which will reduce the likelihood of misinterpretation of behaviours and lead to better support within the criminal justice system.*

## Optional Self-advocate stories

### Self-advocate stories.

Up to 5 stories may be added. These need to be less than 2000 characters. In the first box, indicate the Question Number(s) of the points they illustrate (may be more than one). In the comment box provide the story.

#### Self-advocate story one

Question number

Comment

#### Self-advocate story two



Question number

Comment

### Self-advocate story three

Question number

Comment

### Self-advocate story four

Question number

Comment

### Self-advocate story five

Question number

Comment

## 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:

1. to allow entry of the dates on which Health and Well Being Boards discuss the submission and
2. 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