


<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	
<b>Report of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>2013 Adult Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF)</b>	

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Robert McCulloch-Graham Corporate Director for Education, Social Care and Wellbeing (ESCW)
<b>Contact Officers</b>	Deborah Cohen Service Head Commissioning and Health (ESCW)
<b>Executive Key Decision?</b>	No

## Executive Summary

As part of the implementation of the Government's 2010 National Autism Strategy (*Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*), Local Authorities and CCGs nationally have been requested by the Department of Health (DoH) to self-evaluate their performance (via an on-line return) in meeting the five quality outcomes for improving the lives of people with autism. This includes reporting on progress in implementing adult autism diagnostic pathways; increasing awareness of autism to front line workers; improving access to services and involving people with Autism their families and carers in service planning

Following completion and submission of the SAF to the DoH on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013, this report provides a summary of key findings from both organisations, with a brief description on next steps for on-going monitoring and reporting.

This report also:

- Updates on progress towards establishing a local diagnostic and intervention service for adults with autism.
- Highlights key areas of progress and where additional work is being advanced since the 2012 baseline survey.

## Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is recommended to:

1. Note the content of the report and the final Autism Self-Evaluation document (provided as Appendix One).

2. To include the questions contained within Appendix Two into quarterly HWB performance reports. This will enable the HWB to track delivery and progress of both the Council and the CCG in implementing measures to improve outcomes for local people with autism.

## **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 No decisions are required for this report.
- 1.2 HWB requested to note the submitted SAF, which ensures compliance to DoH directive to submit the completed self-assessment to the HWB Board.
- 1.3 To also note reporting considerations set out in Section 8 to enable the HWB Board on-going oversight of the Council's and CCG's progress in implementing measures aligned to the 2010 National Strategy - *Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 N/A

## **3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

### **The 2010 National Adult Autism Strategy**

- 3.1 The National Adult Autism Strategy - *Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives* was published in 2010 and sets out the Government's long term vision for transforming the lives of and outcomes for adults with autism. The Department of Health (DoH) is the lead policy department for the Strategy, with delivery shared across a range of government departments and agencies, and local health and social care providers.
- 3.2 The Autism Strategy defines five areas for action aimed at improving the lives of adults with autism. These are:
  - increasing awareness and understanding of autism;
  - developing a clear, consistent pathway for diagnosis of autism;
  - improving access for adults with autism to services and support;
  - helping adults with autism into work; and
  - enabling local partners to develop relevant services.
- 3.3 The Government considers the above outcomes as key in driving long term change in how services meet the needs of people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). As such, local areas are encouraged to develop innovative approaches to ensure people with ASD are able to access services and

dedicated support in their area. This includes the delivery of clear and consistent adult diagnostic pathways and ensuring organisations make reasonable adjustments to enable people with autism to access services.

3.4 Local Health and Wellbeing boards are therefore tasked with overseeing delivery of local planning and ensuring alignment with the emerging priorities of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG).

4. **Tower Hamlets Adult Autism Diagnostic and Intervention Service:**

4.1. The Council is currently progressing a procurement process to secure a provider to deliver an adult autism diagnostic and intervention service for the borough. The service contract will be for three years and funded from already allocated S256 monies.

4.2. Key components of the service include:

- A core diagnostic team to provide assessment of adults with suspected ASD in Tower Hamlets based on Clinical Guidance 142
- A post diagnostic brief intervention programme to improve service user well-being, including building social relationships.
- Support to service user to access employment and training opportunities (delivered by subcontracted local Third Sector organisation)

4.3. A procurement route plan setting out intended delivery and associated timelines was agreed by Cabinet on 5th June 2013. Subsequent approval from the Completion Planning Forum (Tollgate 1) was also received on 5th August, 2013.

4.4. A standard (two stage) restricted tender process has been applied for this contract, whereby bidders were requested to complete and submit a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ), as part of the first stage, with tender documentation and method statement submitted for the second. Both phases have now ended, and evaluations of returns have been conducted panel consisting of representatives from Public Health, ESCW Commissioning, the CCG and Children Services.

4.5. Final shortlisting will be conducted via an interview and presentation (16<sup>th</sup> January 2014) with representation required from both the prime organisation and subcontracted partner. It is anticipated that contract mobilisation will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

5. **2013 Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF)**

5.1. As part of the implementation of the Government's 2010 National Autism Strategy (*Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*), Local Authorities (including the NHS) have been requested to self-evaluate their performance to date. This includes collecting data across specific themed criteria, including the establishment of

adult diagnostic services; data capture; increasing awareness; improving access to services and involving people with Autism their families and carers.

- 5.2. On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2013, the Minister of State at the Department of Health (Norman Lamb) wrote to local authority leads to obtain assistance in taking forward the second self-assessment exercise via an on line return. The covering letter from the Minister of State was copied to Directors of Public Health, Directors of Children's Services, CCG leads and Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs.
- 5.3. This Adult Autism SAF (submitted on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013) builds on the first self-assessment (submitted last year), which provided a base line survey on progress made since the launch of the National Strategy (2010). Although the Local Authority was tasked with the consolidation of the return (as the lead local body), the exercise also placed an obligation on Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) to highlight their progress, so that a multi-agency perspective was captured in each area.
- 5.4. The intention is to obtain a national overview of local area implementation of the National Strategy and identify where barriers exist and any examples of good practice that can be shared. Local Health & Wellbeing Boards are required to consider the outcomes of the self-assessment exercise prior to February 2014, as evidence for local planning and supporting local implementation work.
- 5.5. A copy of the completed return is provided as Appendix 1

## **6. Coordination of data capture**

- 6.1. Officers within Education, Social Care and Well-being (ESCW) were responsible for coordinating the data and submitting the on-line return.
- 6.2. The 2013 SAF contained 37 questions across thematic areas concerning health and local authority provision. For some questions a RAG rating system with scoring criteria was applied, with respondents requested to provide further information on any issues preventing progress and/or where successes had been achieved.
- 6.3. A copy of the uncompleted on-line return was sent to CCG leads in order to capture data on areas relevant to health (i.e. GP register), whilst areas pertinent to the Council were captured via direct liaison with officers across Housing, Human Resources, Social Care and Community Safety.
- 6.4. Once all returns had been collated, a draft version was submitted to the Autism Project Board and the Autism Carers Group for comment prior to receiving approval from the Corporate Director of ESCW. The completed return was submitted to the Department of Health (prior to deadline) on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.

## **7. Summary of key findings**

- 7.1. Since the first DoH autism evaluation exercise, the Council and CCG have progressed a number of various work streams in order to meet statutory obligations as set out in the 2009 Autism Act and 2010 National Strategy, including:
- **Delivery of the LBTH Autism Awareness Training programme for LBTH frontline staff:** To date, 12 sessions delivered to accelerate learning on the condition and how to work with people with ASD. This training was also made open to NHS staff.
  - **Delivery of the peer led Autism Carers Drop-in:** Established in 2013, the group provides support and advice to carers of people with autism. Recently recommended by the National Autistic Society as a model of good practice
  - **Cabinet agreement (June 2013) to deliver a dedicated Adult Autism Diagnostic and Intervention Service:** Currently going through LBTH procurement processes (expected contract start date 1st, April, 2014), this new service will provide people with and suspected of having ASD a clear pathway towards diagnosis and support.
  - **Delivery of Adult Autism consultation:** Completed in mid-2013, this exercise has enabled the Council to better understand residents' and stakeholder views regarding local plans, which have been used to inform development of the new adult autism service.
- 7.2. However, whilst the submission pinpoints areas in Tower Hamlets where progress is being made, it also highlights challenges that will need to be addressed in order to ensure the national outcomes are reached. For instance, the gathering of local data to identify the numbers of local people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) continues to be an area requiring further attention from both the Council and local NHS agencies.
- 7.3. The submission sets out planned measures to be implemented in order to ensure effective data capture across both health and social care services, including:
- Reconfiguring internal social care I.T systems (i.e. Frameworki) to enable effective data capture on those with ASD who may or may not be eligible for social care provision
  - Development of a single NHS data platform (Orion) to provide a single data source for health and social care information across organisations
  - Creation of a comprehensive borough-wide GP register of people with a diagnosis of autism
- 7.4. These changes are anticipated to be delivered by April 2014 and will enable the mandatory capture of information on, not only those receiving services, but also on those receiving a diagnosis of the 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.

- 7.5. Furthermore, the requirement to raise awareness of autism across agencies (including primary care, criminal justice system and housing) continues to be a development area for both the Council and the CCG. Although the Council is progressing delivery of autism awareness training for its front line staff, engagement with criminal justice agencies is still to be advanced. In order to address this, a request has been submitted to the Community Safety lead (CLC), so that discussions around autism awareness and the National Strategy can be initiated via the Community Safety Partnership forum.
- 7.6. Additionally, to support the recent announcement (November 2013) by the Royal College of General Practitioners to make autism a clinical priority from 2014, the CCG have agreed to review its annual training programme via the lead GP for autism (Dr Shah Choudhury) to increase understanding of the condition amongst the primary care workforce (including GPs). This work will also be further complimented by liaison from clinical leads within the new autism service (specified in the contract) to ensure effective referral processes between agencies are implemented.
- 7.7. Of the 37 questions, 17 required a RAG rating to highlight progress in implementing specific work areas. A breakdown of the RAG ratings is provided in Table One

7.8. Table One: Breakdown of RAG status

Red	Amber	Green
0	15	2

- 7.9. Although not directly comparable to the previous submission format, there is an overall improvement in how services are meeting the needs of people with autism (e.g. previous submission contained one red rating, this submission has none).
- 7.10. A breakdown of the questions with RAG ratings is provided as Appendix Two.

## 8. Next steps:

- 8.1. As part of the next steps, the Department of Health are currently drafting a high level report using the information submitted nationally, to highlight national response rates and headline figures – although without local breakdowns. This report is expected to be circulated to local authorities later in the year.
- 8.2. The results of the exercise will also inform the DoH's formal review of the national Strategy. This process will provide the Government the opportunity to assess whether the set objectives of the Strategy are fundamentally the right ones, whilst providing assurance that progress by Local Authorities and the NHS is being achieved in meeting them. The investigative stage of the Review

will last until the end of October and the Strategy will be revised (as necessary) by March 2014.

- 8.3. As part of local monitoring of progress, it is also proposed to include the questions contained within Appendix Two into quarterly HWB performance reports. This will enable the HWB to track delivery and progress of both the Council and the CCG in implementing measures to improve outcomes for local people with autism. Background and main details of the report.

## **9. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 9.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report, as there are no decisions sought.

## **10. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 10.1 In noting the findings of the Adult Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF) HWBB will be exercising its functions in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and supplementary regulations and guidance. In particular:

- Encouraging integrated working between persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social services in Tower Hamlets for the advancement of the health and wellbeing of the people in Tower Hamlets.
- To be involved in the development of any CCG Commissioning Plan that applies to Tower Hamlets and to give its opinion to the CCG on any such proposed Plan.

- 10.2 The HWBB will also have regard to the National Autism Strategy, which is issued by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 1 of the Autism Act 2009, together with 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives', the associated statutory guidance for local authorities and the NHS for the implementation of the autism strategy, published on 17 December 2010. This guidance is issued under s7 of the Local Government Social Services Act 1970, so must be followed unless there is good reason.

## **11. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1. There are no equality or diversity implications associated with this report. The Tower Hamlets SAF does, however, highlight areas of positive achievements in meeting the needs of people with autism, their families and carers (e.g. delivery of the Autism Carers Drop-in).

## **12. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 12.1. N/A

13. **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1. The self-assessment report was submitted on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013 prior to deadline, which mitigated any reputational risk associated with not providing a return.

14. **CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1. As part of the Self-Assessment Framework, the Council were asked whether the Criminal Justice System were engaging in planning for adults with autism. An 'amber' rating was submitted due to contact being made to the Council's Community Safety lead, so that direct liaison with Criminal Justice agencies can be progressed via the Community Safety Partnership. The borough also intends to work closely with its CJS partners around autism once the new planned adult autism diagnostic service becomes operational (April 2014).



## **15. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

- 15.1. There are no major expenditure or resources implications associated with this report. In accordance with EU procurement legislation, the Council is currently progressing a procurement exercise to secure an external provider to deliver the new Adult Autism Diagnostic Service. The service contract will run for three years and is funded via a S256 agreement. This will cover all service expenditure including staffing and providing clinical and support elements of the contract. .
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### **Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Appendices**

- Appendix One: Full version of Tower Hamlets SAF submission
- Appendix Two: Summary of RAG ratings

#### **Background Documents**

- NONE.