

## **Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 18 March 2020**

### **Staffordshire Autism Joint Implementation Plan 2020-2023**



**Cllr Alan White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing said,**

“As part of our All-Age Disability Strategy, we want to develop a new approach to how we support people with Autism, along with our partners in the CCGs. By engaging with service users, their families and carers, we are able to design services that will really make a difference to people’s lives, help them achieve the independence they have told us they want, and prevent the need for long-term reliance on social care services.”



**Cllr Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People said,**

“We want to help as many people, including young people, with Autism to maximise their opportunities and live fulfilling lives. The Joint Implementation plan aims to encourage all services and organisations to ‘think autism’, and increase the resilience of individuals and communities so we can focus our resources on those who are most in need of support.”

#### **Report Summary:**

The Whole Life Disability Strategy 2018-2023 set out the Council’s vision for people with disabilities and commitment to implement a series of Plans to improve services. The Staffordshire Autism Joint Implementation Plan 2020-2023, attached at Appendix 1, is one of these Plans.

The Plan is joint between the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). It covers Children and Young People and Adults and has been based on the 15 “I Statements” from the national Autism Strategy.

A comprehensive engagement has been undertaken to inform development of the Plan. These have included an event for professionals and providers, and two events for people with lived experience of Autism. An on-line survey has been conducted to capture the views of people who were unable to attend the events or wished to contribute in this way.

The Plan has been considered in draft form by the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee and the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020, and the feedback received has been reflected in the final version.

As the Plan is joint with the CCGs, approval is being sought through their own governance in parallel to the Council's, with all partners working towards implementation commencing in April 2020.

## **Recommendations**

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Endorse the Staffordshire Autism Joint Implementation Plan 2020-2023 and delegate authority for final approval to the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.
- b. Support implementation of the Plan and ensure that it is used to inform future planning and commissioning of services.

<b>Local Members Interest</b>
N/A

## **Cabinet – Wednesday 18 March 2020**

### **Staffordshire Autism Joint Implementation Plan 2020-2023**

#### **Recommendations of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Endorse the Staffordshire Autism Joint Implementation Plan 2020-2023 and delegate authority for final approval to the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.
- b. Support implementation of the Plan and ensure that it is used to inform future planning and commissioning of services.

#### **Report of the Director of Health and Care and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities**

##### **Reasons for Recommendations:**

1. The Autism Act (2009) places a duty on all Local Authorities to produce an Autism Strategy. This Plan (a full copy of which is attached at Appendix 1), which is joint between the Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and covers Children & Young People and Adults, fulfils that duty in Staffordshire and is written with due regard to relevant UK legislation and statutory guidance.
2. The Government, as part of the Think Autism Strategy (2014), identified five domains for national action as well as 15 priorities for local action, which were presented as “I Statements”, and which form the basis for this Plan.
3. To inform the development of this Plan, the Council and CCGs held a number of engagement events during September and October 2019 with professionals, providers and people with lived experience of Autism, as well as establishing an on-line survey to capture the views of people who were unable to attend the events or wished to contribute in this way. The engagement explored what life is like for people with Autism and their carers, and how well they feel the Council and CCG are performing against the 15 “I Statements”.
  - a. 21 people attended the event for professionals and providers;
  - b. 31 people attended the events for people with lived experience;
  - c. 83 people submitted a response to the online questionnaire.
4. Of the 15 “I Statements”, feedback was that the priorities were:
  - a. I want a timely diagnosis from a trained professional. I want relevant information and support throughout the diagnostic process;

- b. I want to know that my family can get help and support when they need it;
  - c. I want staff in health and social care services to understand that I have Autism and how that affects me;
  - d. I want services and commissioners to understand how my Autism affects me differently through my life. I want to be supported through big life changes such as transition from school, getting older or when a person close to me dies;
  - e. I want Autism to be included in Local Strategic Needs Assessments so that person-centred local health, care and support services, based on good information about local needs, are available for people with Autism.
5. Engagement also identified the following key themes;
- a. A need for more consistent training and awareness of Autism across all services and staff working in those services;
  - b. A need to ensure that there are adequate diagnostic services;
  - c. A need for increased communication and sharing of information, across all professionals, to prevent individuals having to repeatedly tell their story;
  - d. A need for clear advice, guidance and signposting, from staff that understand Autism, to the support available in local communities;
  - e. A need to ensure sufficient capacity and quality of support available;
  - f. A need to focus on an individual's health and well-being, not their diagnosis.
6. A summary of the feedback obtained through engagement can be found in Appendix 2.

### **Review by Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee and the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee**

7. The draft Plan was considered by the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee and the Safe and Strong Communities Committee on 03 February 2020 and Table 1 below identifies the feedback received and actions taken:

**Table 1: feedback from Select Committees**

<b>Committee feedback</b>	<b>Actions taken</b>
Assurance that the CCG will approve the Plan in a timely manner	Plan in approval process with final stage of CCG Governing Body in Common on 26/03/20.
Assurance that NHS Trusts, including A&E departments, will receive appropriate training with consideration of Autism Champions	Plan updated to confirm NHS ambitions and timescales for relevant training and plans for a 'digital flag' in patient records
Need to promote an Autism friendly culture within all stakeholders	Reflected within the wider Plan and will be a key focus for the Implementation Group
Transport to be considered	Plan updated to reflect how transport will be considered as part of the assessment process
Consideration of Safeguarding and potential exploitation of vulnerable	Plan updated with additional section in respect of potential exploitation and

individuals	radicalisation of people with Autism and Prevent duties
Consideration of Employment opportunities	Plan updated to expand on existing reference to working with the DWP via the Implementation Group, to include Job Centre Plus
Expand on work with Criminal Justice system	Plan updated to further enhance work through the Implementation Group with Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement agencies
Awareness raising in schools, particularly at primary school level	Plan further enhanced to reflect wider role of the Autism Outreach Team
Enhance information sharing	Plan further enhanced to include the sharing of relevant information between all stakeholders, including District and Borough Councils, to support it's successful delivery
Consider formal sign up to the Plan by all key agencies	To be addressed and reviewed as part of the Implementation Group and it's members

## Implementation and Governance

8. Then Council and CCGs will establish an Autism Joint Implementation Group, which will include people with lived experience as well as a range of partners from public, private and voluntary sector organisations, that will oversee implementation of the Plan. The Group will use the Plan as a basis to continue to engage with people with Autism to get their views about prioritising and making changes to local services.

## Community Impact Assessment (CIA)

9. Table 2 below summarises the key domains of the CIA. An Executive Summary is included in Appendix 3, with the full CIA accessible as a Background Reference Document.

**Table 2: Community Impact Assessment summary**

Domains	Benefits	Risks
<b>PSED:</b>  Disability Age	The Plan aims to ensure the Council and CCGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourage all services and organisations and society to “think autism”, supporting those with Autism, and their family/carers, to maintain their health and wellbeing and live fulfilling lives and feel part of society</li> <li>• redesign services, via</li> </ul>	Risk of complaint and challenge from people with Autism and their family/carers, as well as wider organisations, who may feel the Plan does not fully address their areas of concern

	<p>application of reasonable adjustments, to meet people's needs and make best use of resources available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adopt a whole family approach to assessments</li> <li>• work in partnership with people with lived experience</li> <li>• ensure links between children and young people and adult social care via Preparation for Adulthood.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Health &amp; Care:</b></p> <p>Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing Healthy Lifestyles Access to Social Care Independent Living Safeguarding</p>	<p>See PSED above</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Council and CCGs will ensure staff have an awareness of the needs of people with Autism and the appropriate skills, knowledge, competence and training to support them, and their family/carers</li> <li>•NHS will reduce health inequalities, improving uptake of annual health checks, reducing over medication and take action to prevent avoidable deaths</li> <li>•Support plans, to meet eligible needs, will be underpinned by personalised outcomes which may include 'Healthy Lifestyles'</li> <li>•potential vulnerabilities of people with Autism and associated risks aligned to exploitation will be identified and addressed through relevant Safeguarding and/or Prevent duties</li> </ul>	<p>See PSED above</p>
<p><b>Economy:</b></p> <p>Economic Growth Poverty &amp; Income Workplace Health &amp; Environments Access to jobs/Good quality jobs</p>	<p>The Plan commits the Council and CCGs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•support the ongoing development of communities to ensure a credible local offer for people with Autism and their family/carers;</li> <li>•support people with Autism</li> </ul>	<p>Local communities unable to provide sufficient and appropriate resources (e.g. in more remote areas) to support people with Autism and their family/carers.</p>

	to develop their skills and independence and work to the best of their ability, which will include support to get a job and support from their employer to keep it. This will involve work with the DWP and Job Centre Plus as well as wider awareness raising with employers.	
<b>Localities/Communities:</b>	See Economy above	See Economy above
Community Development/Capacity Crime/Community Safety Educational Attainment and Training Leisure and Culture Volunteering Best Start Rural Communities	<p>The Plan commits the Council and CCG to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• raise awareness with Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement agencies and include them on the Joint Implementation Group</li> <li>• support people with Autism of all ages and will include work with parents and education settings</li> <li>• work with DWP and Job Centre Plus, and wider employers re awareness and opportunities</li> <li>• ensure equitable access to leisure and cultural opportunities</li> <li>• ensure support planning for eligible needs underpinned by personalised outcomes which may include access to physical/social resources in the community</li> </ul>	We experience difficulties engaging with relevant partners.

### **Legal Implications**

Not Applicable

### **Resource and Value for Money Implications**

Not Applicable

### **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Staffordshire Joint Implementation Plan 2020-2023

Appendix 2 – Autism Engagement Summary

## Appendix 3 – Community Impact Assessment – Summary Document

### Contact Details

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