

1	Dudley Autism Strategy
1a	To consider the implications of the Dudley autism strategy to be approved by Cabinet on 21 September 2011
2	Lead Officer : Richard Carter
3	Completed by : Richard Carter
4	Head of Service : N/A
5	Assessment began : September 2010
6	Assessment Completed: July 2011
7	<p>Purpose of the Function</p> <p>In March 2010, the Government published a national strategy for people with autism – "Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives", followed by a first year delivery plan in April 2010. The Government's vision is that:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">'All adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can get a diagnosis and access support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents.'</p> <p><i>Towards fulfilling and rewarding lives: a strategy for adults with autism in England</i> set a direction for long-term change to realise the Government's vision but also identified specific areas for action over the next three years. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing awareness and understanding of autism among frontline professionals • developing a clear, consistent pathway for diagnosis in every area, which is followed by the offer of a personalised needs assessment • improving access for adults with autism to the services and support they need to live independently within the community • helping adults with autism into work, and • enabling local partners to plan and develop appropriate services for adults with autism to meet identified needs and priorities. <p>Dudley was one of the first councils to develop its own strategy for services for people with autism, which was approved by Cabinet in June 2007. The strategy requires updating and reissuing to take account of the priorities in the national strategy.</p> <p>Extensive consultation has taken place on the new draft Dudley strategy; details are given in appendix A.</p>

8	Target population that will be affected		
	The strategy mainly relates to people with high functioning autism. People with autism who also have a severe learning disability are covered by the 2009 Learning Disability Strategy.		
9	Main Issues relating to equality areas below		
Age	The strategy addresses the needs of all people with autism, Aspergers and related conditions aged 18 and above. The strategy envisages that support will also be offered to young people in transition aged 16 to 18. We will be using the new assessment process under Transforming Social Care which will take account of age, disability, gender, ethnic origin, religion and sexual orientation. These issues are only significant if they affect the person's level of need		
Disability	The councils Fair Access to Care eligibility criteria will apply. People with higher care needs of therefore more likely to be able to access services and funding. In practice many people with high functioning autism do not have social care needs which are substantial or critical; and for these people we may only be able to offer initial assessment and signposting to alternative services.		
Gender	Assessments of need are applied equally to all people who meet our criteria for service regardless of gender, religious belief, sexual orientation. Support and care services are delivered in ways that are sensitive to these issues and focus on the outcomes to be achieved for each person. (see 12 below)		
Ethnic Origin	The needs of people from minority ethnic communities are assessed and supported by the Autistic Spectrum Team, drawing on advice from the specialist BME worker in the CTLD as necessary.		
Religion/belief	We will assess the person's social care needs, taking into account how religious belief may impact on those needs.		
Sexual Orientation	We will assess the person social care needs, taking into account how sexual orientation might impact on those needs.		
10	Are there systems in place to monitor the current & future impact of this function in relation to		
	Yes	No	N/A
Age	√		
Disability	√		
Gender	√		
Ethnic Origin	√		
Religion/Belief		√	
Sexual Orientation		√	
11	Details of systems used and data collected for each of the equality strands		
	Data about people with autism and Aspergers is now recorded on the Special Needs Register. Currently details of 223 people have been logged on the system. This enables comprehensive reports to be accessed by a wide range of fields and adds greater detail to the		

	reports that can be accessed through SWIFT.
12	<p>From the monitoring information, are there differences between outcomes and the objectives of the function?</p> <p>In April 2011, the Coalition Government published a framework to evaluate progress with implementing the national strategy. This framework is based on visible and measurable quality outcomes, which have been developed with ADASS and the National Autistic Society. These outcomes reflect the priorities and principles set out in the government's "Vision for Adult Social Care", in particular promoting personalisation and ensuring a positive experience of care and support.</p> <p>The seven quality outcomes are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adults with autism achieve better health outcomes 2. Adults with autism are included and economic reactive. 3. Adults with autism are living in accommodation that meets their needs. 4. Adults with autism are benefiting from the personalisation agenda in health and social care, and can access personal budgets. 5. Adults with autism are no longer managed inappropriately in the criminal justice system. 6. Adults with autism, their families and carers are satisfied with local services. 7. Adults with autism are involved in service planning. <p>We will be using the monitoring information to measure progress with implementing the strategy against these seven quality outcomes. This will be done in conjunction with other councils in the region, so that we can compare our performance.</p>
13	<p>Is there a need to gather better information than is currently available to assess the impact of this function</p> <p>Yes, in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A significant number of people with high functioning autism are not yet recorded On the Special Needs Register. 2. Individual reviews will continue to monitor the outcomes for individuals who use services. 3. People who are receiving housing related support funded by Supporting People

	<p>4. GP registers; hospital inpatients; housing and employment, to identify people with autism who use the services and may require support</p>
14	<p>Are there any groups who might be expected to benefit but do not?</p> <p>Services will continue to be provided for people who meet the ordinary residence and FACS criteria agreed by the Council. Realistically the majority of people with high functioning autism will not meet the Council's eligibility criteria, and therefore will not benefit from social care services. Some may however benefit from work undertaken as a result of the strategy to improve diagnosis, employment or housing. Others who succeed in achieving independent living with a personal budget and a tailored package of support, will gain greater choice and control over their lives.</p>
15	<p>Are there any groups that are not satisfied with the function or who have made more complaints?</p> <p>Carers of people with autism and Aspergers have been concerned for a long time about the lack of services for this group in Dudley. Carers recognise that there have been some improvements as a result of the 2007 strategy, but continued to complain about lack of available housing, lack of employment opportunities, lack of a recognised diagnostic pathway and lack of services for carers. Carers are supportive of the new strategy, but sceptical about whether it will deliver lasting improvements, especially in the present financial climate.</p> <p>In order to reassure carers, that the national strategy is being implemented locally, councils are expected to report on three "service ambitions" as well as the seven outcomes. These three ambitions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local authorities and partners know how many adults with autism live in the area. 2. A clear and trusted diagnostic pathway is available locally with subsequent access to social care assessment where appropriate. 3. Health and social care staff make reasonable adjustments to services to meet the needs of adults with autism.
16	<p>Are there factors/barriers within the function which could contribute to adverse/differential impacts?</p> <p>The main barrier to full implementation of the strategy will be the imperative to deliver savings across all services over the next three years. Services to people with autism may be vulnerable, as in spite of the national strategy, this group has a relatively low profile. Some agencies and their staff still fail to recognise the specific needs,</p>

	including communication needs, of people with autism. The ASC team is not resourced to support people with autism to access support and services from other agencies or to liaise with those agencies to improve understanding of the needs of people with autism.
17	Does the function have any differential/adverse impacts on certain groups? Explain what they are and the reason As 16 above
18	As the result of this assessment is a level 2 assessment required? No
19	Please detail any further actions necessary within the function highlighted as a result of this initial assessment Actions to mitigate any differential/adverse impacts are included in the draft strategy.
20	Date to commence L2 assessment if needed: Not applicable
21	Signed by Assessment lead Officer
22	Signed by Asst Director – Richard Carter

Appendix A

AUTISM STRATEGY: SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION MEETINGS ETC

In the course of preparing the strategy we have met with various relevant stakeholder groups as follows:

Date	Meeting
15/11/2010 and 01/02/2011	Health and Social Care Commissioners
7/12/2010	DAP
11/1/2011	Autism Consultation at Bonded Warehouse ¹
3 /2/2011	Specialist ASC Social Workers
8/2/2011	Dudley Autism Partnership (DAP)
14/2/2011	DAP Autism Strategy Consultation
23/2/2011	No Limits
28/2/2011	Transition Steering Group
8/3/2011	Bonded Warehouse Drop In Group
8/3/2011	Dudley Autistic Support Group
9/3/2011	No
30/3/2011	Me and You Youth Club
19/4/2011	DAP
27/4/2011	Autism Outreach
18/5/2011	DAP
14/06/11	Assistant Director met with people who attend the drop-in group to discuss the draft strategy
Week commencing 20 June	Carers meeting to discuss the draft strategy.

In addition, there has been the ongoing opportunity for members of Dudley Autism Partnership to consult their relatives and their organisations and to feed their comments into the Strategy as it has evolved.

A small number of people sent written comments and suggestions. These included:

- Two members of the Tuesday Drop In
- Three parents
- One member of the Me and You Youth Club
