

## APPENDIX 1B

### BURY AUTISM STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESULTS

#### PROFESSIONALS SURVEYS

The consultation for the Bury Autism Strategy ran for 12 weeks from 5 March until 26 May 2012. The consultation consisted of an event on 7 March for all stakeholders, questionnaires for customers, carers and professionals. Seven drop in sessions to enable people to talk to someone confidentially and/or get help to complete a questionnaire. The questionnaires were available in hard copy format, online and help to complete via the telephone.

The consultation was advertised widely by post, email, facebook, twitter, on the website, in public buildings and via poster.

The full results of the professionals survey is given below. There were 73 respondents to the professional's questionnaire.

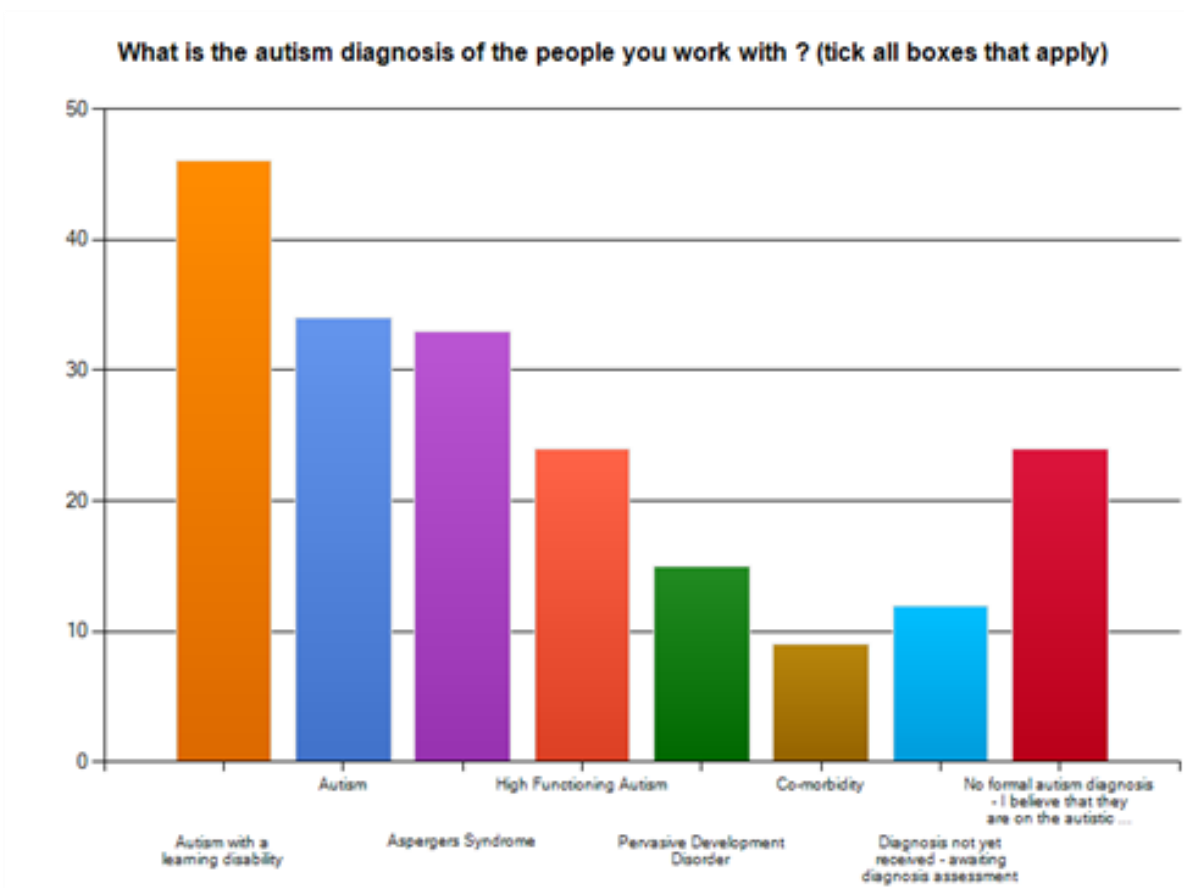
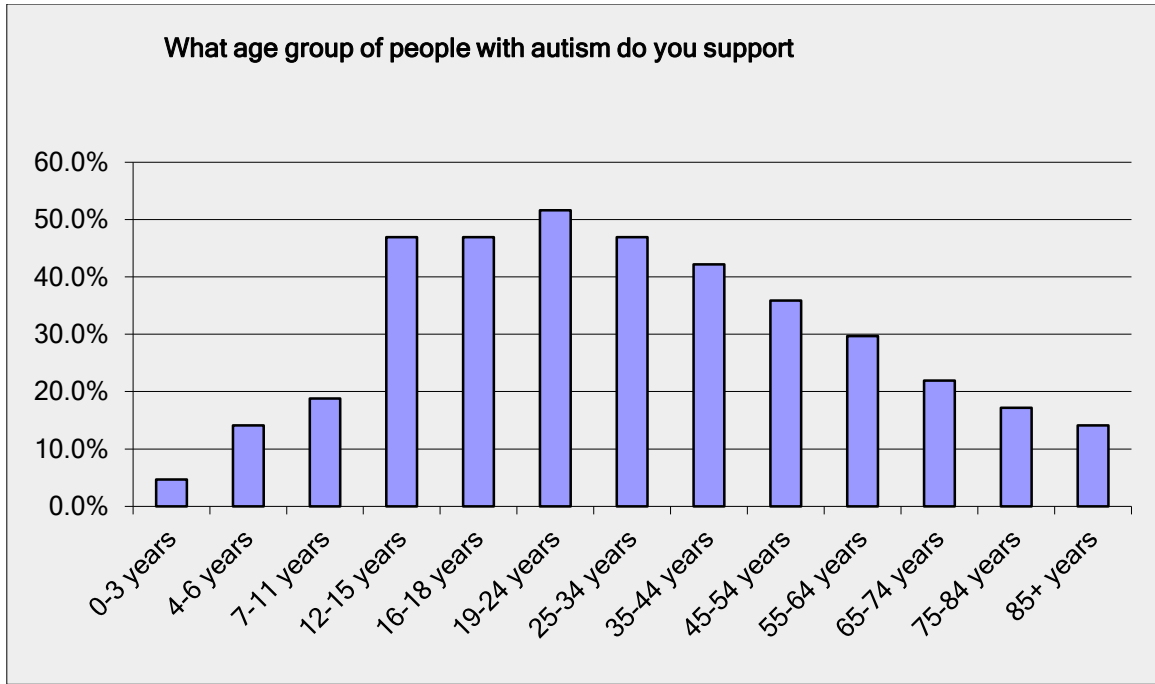
#### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

What area of work are you employed in?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Not employed - I am a volunteer	3.0%	2
Advocacy Service	3.0%	2
Voluntary Organisation	7.6%	5
Housing Service	3.0%	2
Employment Service	4.5%	3
Social Services - Children's services	3.0%	2
Social Services - Adult Services	34.8%	23
Education - mainstream	7.6%	5
Education - SEN	30.3%	20
Training College - SEN	1.5%	1
Further education college	1.5%	1
University	1.5%	1
Community Mental Health Team (CMHT)	3.0%	2
Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAHMS)	1.5%	1
Community Learning Disability Team (CLDT)	10.6%	7
Mental Health Service (in patients)	1.5%	1
GP surgery	1.5%	1
Community Health Centre	1.5%	1
Police Service	1.5%	1
Youth Offending Service	3.0%	2
Criminal Courts	1.5%	1
Probation Service	1.5%	1
Residential Services	6.1%	4
Supported Living Service	10.6%	7
Domiciliary Care	4.5%	3
Other (see below)		9
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>66</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>7</b>

Other responses:

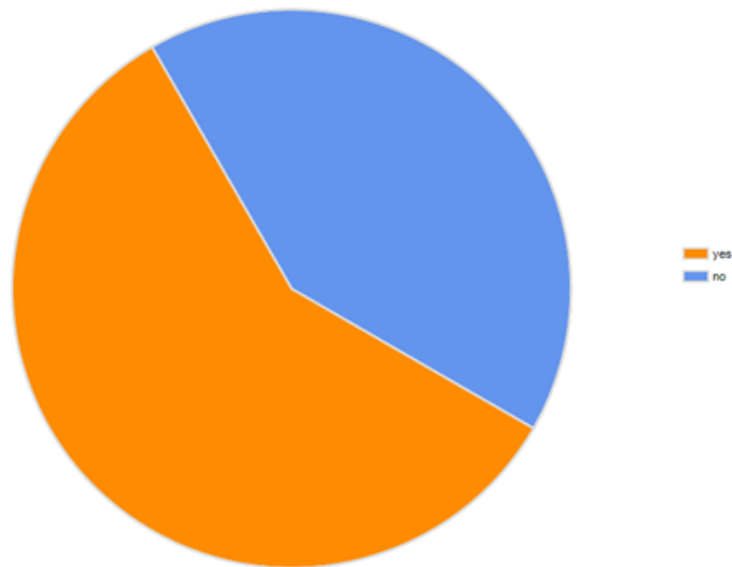
- Psychiatrist
- day services
- speech and language therapy team for learning disability

- Youth Support Service
- Charity
- Connexions



## 2. TRAINING

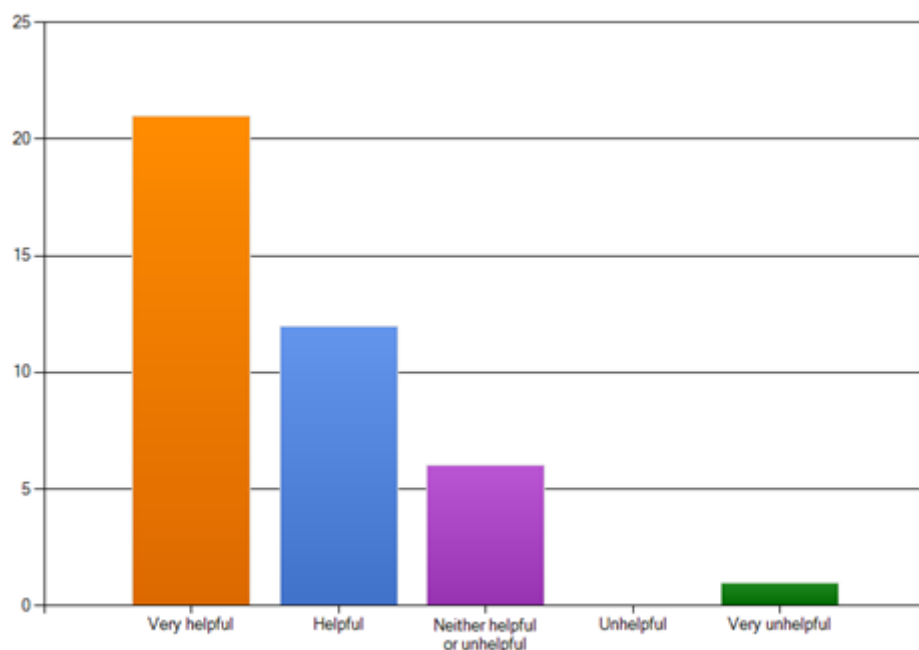
Have you ever undertaken specific autism training?



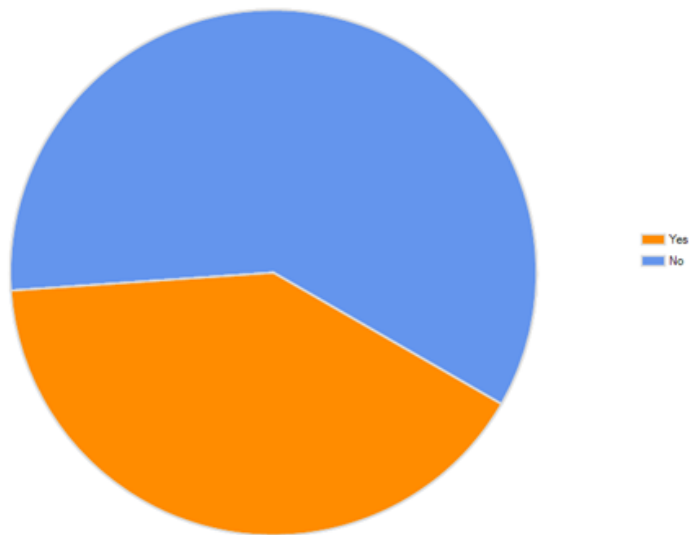
### If yes, was the training:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
In house (Bury Council)	35.7%	15
External (please name provider in box if you know who delivered it)	71.4%	30
Online resource (please provide the web link or details in the box if possible)	2.4%	1
Other (please state)	16.7%	7
<b>answered question</b>		<b>42</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>31</b>

If yes, how helpful was the training?



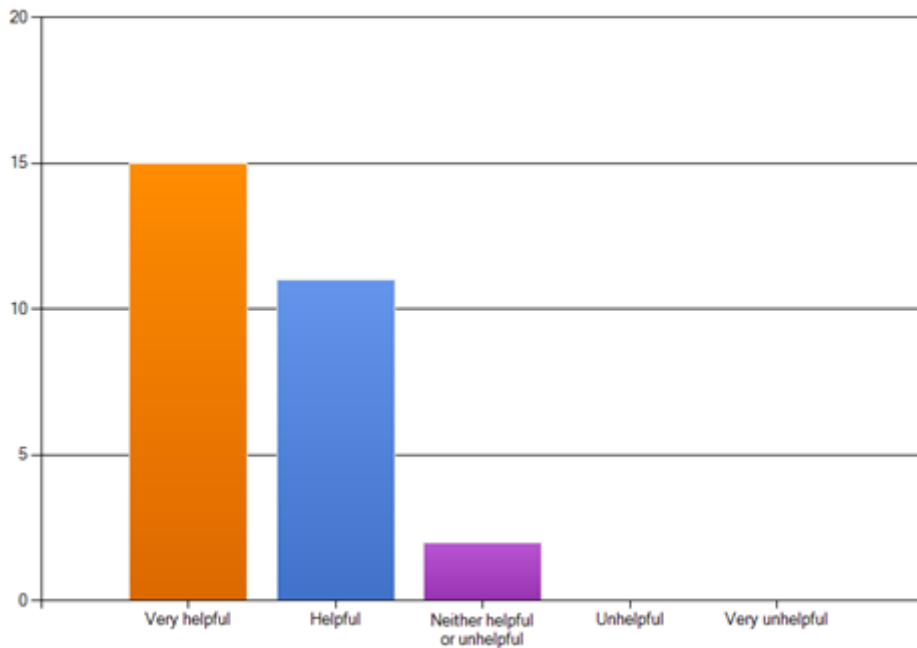
Have you ever undertaken any autism awareness raising courses?



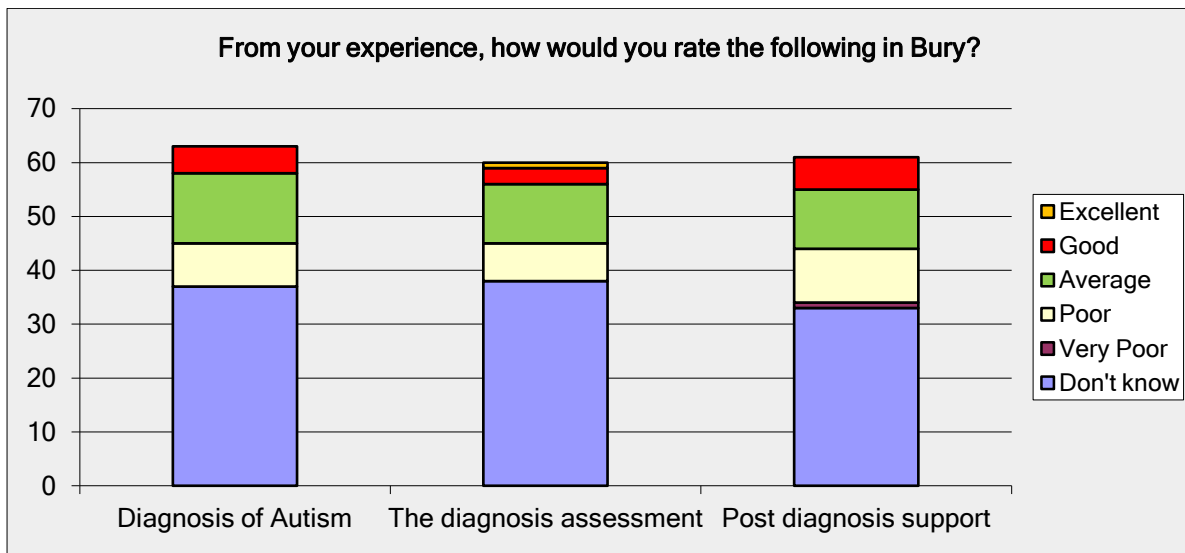
**If yes, was the training:**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
In house (Bury Council)	35.7%	15
External (please name provider in box if you know who delivered it)	71.4%	30
Online resource (please provide the web link or details in the box if possible)	2.4%	1
Other (please state)	16.7%	7
<b>answered question</b>		<b>42</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>31</b>

If yes, how helpful were the awareness raising courses?



### 3. DIAGNOSIS



Many of the respondents did not have any experience of diagnosis. Of those that did, the majority listed diagnosis in Bury as poor or average.

#### Comments:

- Families need time to accept diagnosis and some need support at different times.
- Post diagnosis support from social services has been limited to annual reviews.
- Diagnosis assessment for residents of Bury takes place in Sheffield. The assessment is excellent but post diagnosis support only includes one follow up appointment.
- There is a lack of established services for adults which needs to be far ranging eg supporting people and initial steps into employment, voluntary work, education etc. Social groups/activities would be useful especially for establishing friendships; practical advice is needed for carers and families. People need support to access mainstream activities
- We need more dedicated resources to improve diagnosis and as importantly to meet the needs whether or not a diagnosis is made.
- The services lacked consistency across the spectrum.
- I feel that there is a multi disciplinary approach to diagnosing autism and feel that post diagnosis support is also multi disciplinary.
- Whilst we do not have any resource in Bury for diagnosis of adults with autism I feel that we are able to support adults with learning disabilities well who have autism
- From my experience of working in a community mental health team, I found that people who have very high needs often fall between the gap of learning disability teams and community mental health teams. This often led to people being moved out of area to services that were deemed appropriate. However in my current job role, many of the service users who are high functioning appear to be well supported and happy with their support plans.
- There are people in Bury with a diagnosis and are not adequately supported, even when commissioning has been highlighted to the authority this has not been carried out.

- *It is extremely difficult for clients to receive a diagnosis. For example I had to push for a client to be referred down to Sheffield so that he could receive a long awaited diagnosis of Aspergers. From experience, many staff and social workers have lacked in awareness of communicating and supporting individuals who are on or suspected of being on the autistic spectrum which has at times had a detrimental effect on clients I have supported.*
- *From the feedback from the people I have supported in Bury they have found the process of diagnosis exceptionally stressful. It has been a continual fight to obtain funding and few have received post diagnosis support. The lack of appropriate support has, on occasions, resulted in people going into crisis and reaching critical need.*
- *There are people in Bury with a diagnosis and are not adequately supported, even when commissioning has been highlighted to the authority this has not been carried out*

### **Key areas for consideration:**

- Lack of diagnostic team in Bury
- Lack of post-diagnosis support
- Lack of timely information
- Need to join up services more effectively
- Lack of autism awareness

### **What suggestions do you have on how the diagnosis of autism could be improved?**

- *More information available on how to obtain a diagnosis*
- *Use of online self-assessment as a starting point and more awareness from GPs.*
- *There needs to be a consultant post and team. The consultant needs to be able to advise in overlap areas (eg mental health), other consultants, professionals, etc*
- *Listen to parents, they seem to know their child is developing differently*
- *Standardisation of assessment tools*
- *Early diagnosis*
- *Improved joint-working between social work teams and clarification on the team eligibility criteria*
- *Awareness with GP's and medical professionals alike. Establish clear referral and assessment procedures. Ensure that there is someone within the borough who is actually able to give a diagnosis of conditions on the autistic spectrum. (This has been a real issue in the past.)*
- *More knowledge and training not everyone fits in with the stereotype of autism*
- *A clear and simple pathway. People need to listen and act upon individual's concerns and observations. Information needs to be shared, with consent, to avoid the need for repetition. One consistent person needs to be the link throughout the process to avoid the need of the person having to speak to a variety of people, keep the person informed and maintain agreed timescales*

### **Key areas for consideration:**

- Clear pathway should be developed for diagnosis
- Diagnosis should be available in Bury
- Autism awareness training for professionals
- Services work together better
- Timely and appropriate information

## **What suggestions do you have on how diagnosis assessment could be improved?**

- *Having an assessment which gives a profile of strengths and needs in different domains. This could really assist with then completing or updating the community care assessment following diagnosis*
- *Enable a diagnosis to be undertaken in Bury*
- *By identifying a distinct autism service with a base, team etc*
- *Awareness rising, especially to those who are completing the assessment. All too often essential information is missed by inappropriate methods of questioning as in most cases those on the autistic spectrum are often most literal and may not always be fully understood.*
- *Service users, carers/parents get tired of saying the same thing to different people doing the repeated assessments*

### **Key areas for consideration:**

- Diagnosis should be available in Bury
- Autism awareness training for professionals
- Listen to the views of parents and carers
- Timely and appropriate information

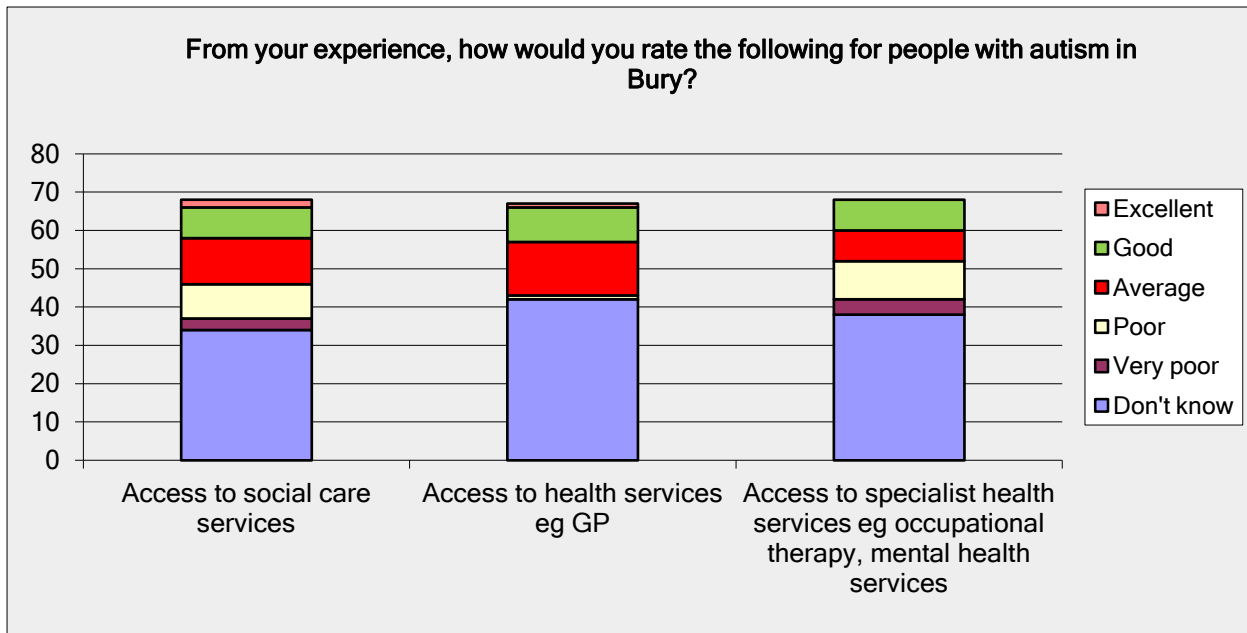
## **What suggestions do you have on how post diagnosis support could be improved?**

- *Specific roles for staff to support families post diagnosis; this is currently a role filled by others involved with the family but needs to be more specific.*
- *Clear information to families on how to access support Adult social care to be alerted that a diagnosis has been made - so that they are ready to accept the referral but also for JSNA*
- *Currently on the 'clustering' tool someone diagnosed with aspergers or autism comes up as 'various' which excludes them from criteria of inclusion to CMHT. Not everyone having these disorders will exhibit self harm or issues warranting service intervention, but some will but cluster low but will not be taken on anywhere.*
- *Family workers to support residential services; workshops etc as those that are aimed at children and families; social support groups/clubs etc; help with self directed support and access to this; development of befriending (especially adolescents)*
- *Support services that are triggered into action by diagnosis or if a certain level of concern is raised to support parents. Clear links between agencies with multi disciplinary follow up.*
- *A general increase in resources. Great access to Positive Behavioural Support courses.*
- *Better sign posting and info for parents/carers*
- *Follow up support from someone who understands Autism. Information, put in contact with services and other parents. Written information as to services which may support.*
- *More support in borough less out of borough placements.*
- *A co-ordinated approach.*
- *Greater awareness of support mechanisms, benefit entitlement etc.*
- *Training on specific skills and strategies for professionals to deploy on supporting people with autism.*
- *Better communications between partners, so that an holistic approach to a person's needs is taken. That the person is given every opportunity to articulate their needs and wants on all aspects of their life.*
- *There should be better joint working between learning disability teams and CMHT's to ensure the well being of any individual who does not fall into a clear cut category. Assessment should not be about what teams cannot do to support people; it should be what they can do, and how they can work together.*
- *More befriending schemes, leisure activities, respite services, more opportunities*
- *Autism specific assessors undertaking Community Care Assessments and Autism specific brokerage*

### Key areas for consideration:

- Family support following diagnosis
- Autism awareness training for professionals
- Services work together better
- Timely and appropriate information
- Point of contact for information and advice

## 4. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



### Comments:

- *Need information on services available and how to access them.*
- *Social care criteria does not fit with autism*
- *Lack of "reasonable adjustments" within services*
- *Adult services, learning disability and mental health all have inclusion policies that appear to exclude those with a diagnosis of autism or aspergers.*
- *In mental health, the awareness/component of autism is often missed and generally there is not an appreciation of autism within social care services*
- *I can only comment on Learning Disability Services and I feel the service we offer is based on individual need and is person centred.*
- *It can be difficult where there is dual diagnosis, whose team should the person be overseen by?*
- *If a learning disability is also diagnosed mental health support can be difficult to access. Learning disability diagnosis makes it difficult to obtain mental health services*
- *I have tried to support many people to access specialist assessments, with absolutely no success. People who are not supported by the learning disability Team also do not seem to fit the criteria for Occupational Therapy assessments via Seedfield. Referrals via the GP take an incredible amount of time and at the end of the project no-one I supported managed to achieve a positive outcome. The support offered by one young man from the Mental Health Team was shocking. Their lack of knowledge, consistency and approach was unbelievably poor. Some people were waiting for a long time for assessments from Social Services Teams and were informed that they no longer had a Social Worker by letter.*

### Key areas for consideration:

- Social care criteria does not include people with autism
- People with autism do not fit into any current services as there is no specialist team
- Lack of autism awareness



## What suggestions do you have on how access to social care could be improved?

- *Reduce paperwork and time it takes to receive services*
- *More information on services*
- *Better communication within the different areas and specialisms within Adult Care. Improved knowledge of all departments and their job/information in relation to the relocation of teams and how to access the appropriate services*
- *Clear information with GPs, local advocacy services, libraries etc e.g. poster on pathways Also using community links to assist , particularly for 'harder to reach' groups*
- *Specialist support services. Training for practitioners already involved. Inclusion policy review for all services on the inclusion of those diagnosed with autism*
- *Increased awareness/training, specialist services, appreciation that non-specifically autism focussed services can be used so long as there is an individual appreciation of what a client's needs are and how they can be met*
- *Eligibility criteria that includes autism*
- *Early diagnosis*
- *Have the resources to work more pro actively.*
- *A designated key worker*
- *More holistic approach, all services working together-health Social care*
- *Establish a team or champions who have experience of working with individuals who are either on or are suspected of being on the autistic spectrum.*
- *Share assessments, work in partnership with other agencies, more work on transition between being a child and entering adulthood*
- *Autism specific assessors and brokers*
- *Increased training, awareness and mentoring. A possible specialist team supporting the referral of people with autism that do not fit the criteria for learning disability services. Consistency, timescales and an awareness of what will happen and when. A quicker response time/pathway to access specialist services. Improved facilities at GP's e.g. quiet room to wait away from the main population and not the baby changing area!*

### Key areas for consideration:

- Autism awareness training for professionals
- Services work together better
- Timely and appropriate information
- Reasonable adjustments made
- Eligibility criteria that includes autism
- Specialist services
- Specialist support workers/assessors/social workers

## **What suggestions do you have on how access to health services such as a GP could be improved?**

- *GPs, as with all professional working with pupils who have autism, could benefit from some form of helpline.*
- *Have accessible health services at the weekend.*
- *Improved multi-disciplinary working - better communication when someone accesses services from outside a specific borough. Have an allocated GP service for easy allocation*
- *Training for GPs so that they feel confident in advising on next steps*
- *Develop approaches to make reasonable adjustment for appointments either at home- provide awareness training to GPs and practice nurse staff*
- *GP having information on specialist services, and having an idea of what service is required rather than refer to all and taking pot luck on who assesses first.*
- *Use of "autism aware" people within other services, increased awareness of autism within services*
- *Specific rooms where clients can wait to see their GP without being in the main waiting area. Crowded waiting areas can be over stimulating for people with autism who may struggle to remain seated for up to 40 minutes.*
- *Raising awareness in and out of GP surgeries.*
- *Gp's being able to quickly refer to specialist autism psychologist.*
- *give GP's more information and a named contact person to talk to if they have a query or know of someone with autism or supporting someone with autism*

### **Key areas for consideration:**

- Autism awareness training for GPs
- Reasonable adjustments to make GP appointments less stressful
- Timely and appropriate information for GPs and patients

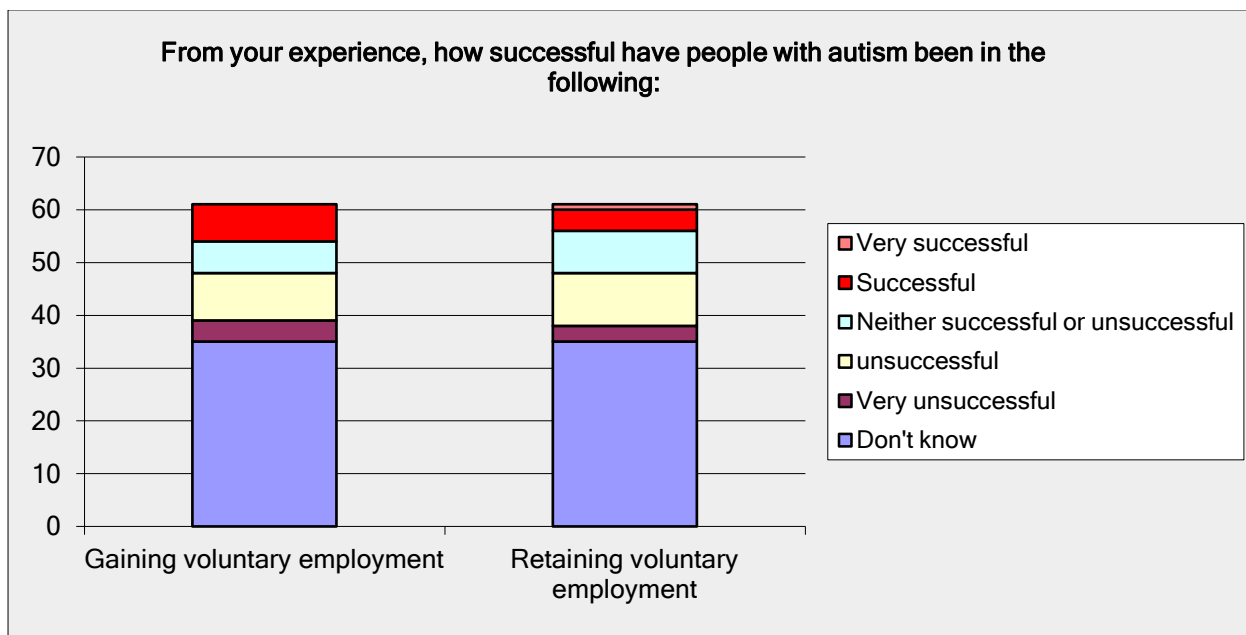
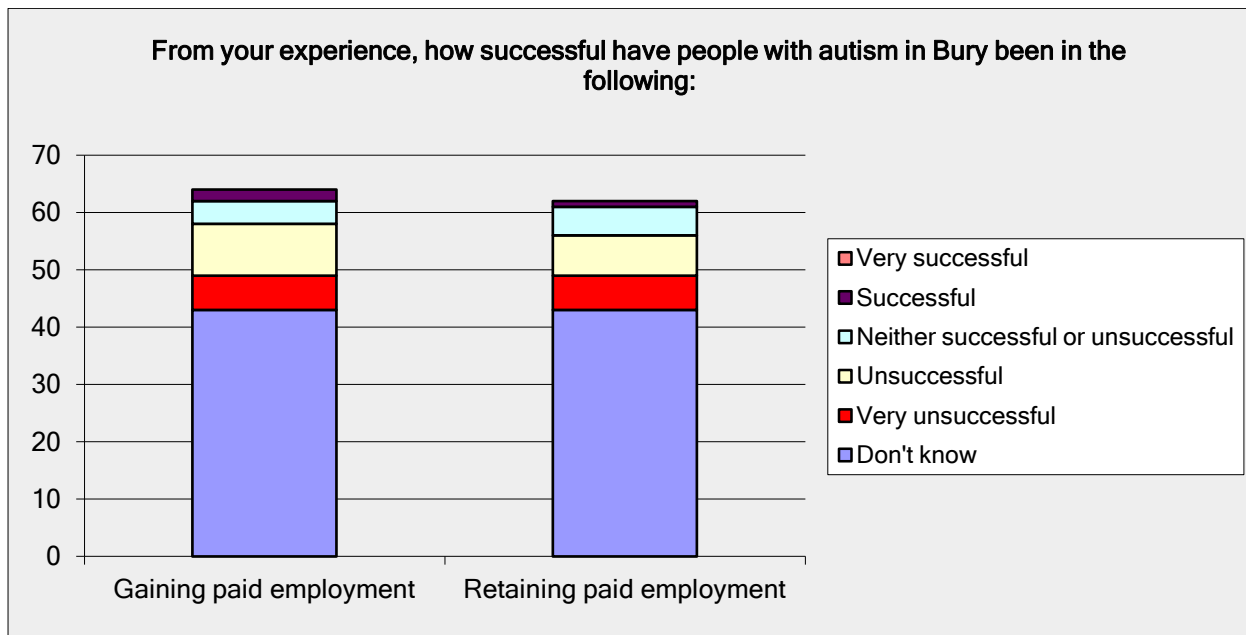
## **What suggestions do you have that could improve access to specialist health services such as occupational health?**

- *Longer opening hours*
- *Improved multi-disciplinary working - better communication when someone accesses services from outside a specific borough. Have an allocated GP service for easy allocation*
- *Clear information (including pictorial) Real life case examples e.g. use of Disabled Facilities Grant to fund - people may think that Occupational Health is only for physical difficulties*
- *Training, for professionals involved in assessment and treatment. OT's to be given the OK to assess and not put these as low priority so hence waiting ages for an assessment. I am at the point where the consultant wants to discharge one of my clients, services are putting pressure on me to discharge due to the clustering inclusion criteria, and I am waiting for Occupational Therapy to hopefully show some level of need that will enable her to continue to access services.*
- *Better sign posting and a key worker to coordinate services*
- *Stop the issues about learning disability/mental health label - agree joint funding*
- *Information*
- *Increased provision*

### **Key areas for consideration:**

- Autism awareness training for professionals
- Services work together better
- Timely and appropriate information
- Reasonable adjustments in hospital settings

## 5. EMPLOYMENT



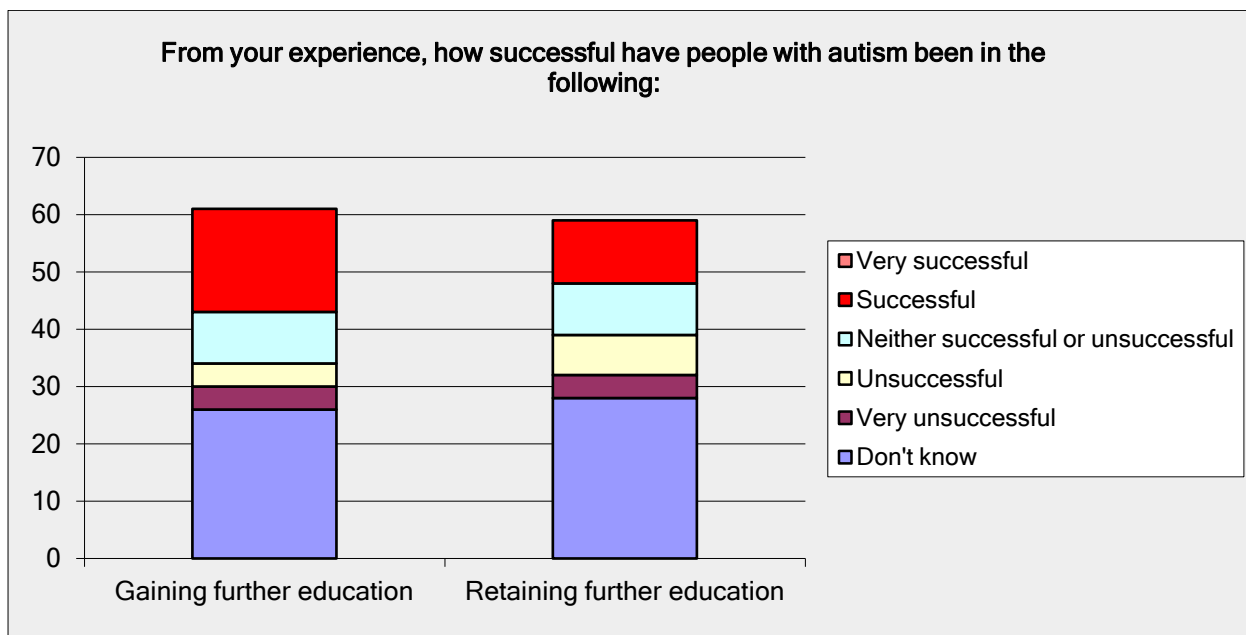
**Comments:**

- *Very few meaningful work placements. Lots of voluntary options but not enough paid work or employer understanding.*
- *Bury EST is a marvellous service but with limited resources and people have to wait a long time for support. Many people do not like the group activities offered by providers like Remploy. People who are employed still struggle alone to deal with issues within the workplace and there is not enough specialist support available to people who need pre-employment training and support.*
- *businesses need to come to school to see what they can do and what skills could be used in their business*
- *My clients have gained voluntary roles but then left after their condition got in the way or the organisation was not supportive of them. I feel this is down to their lack of knowledge about autism.*
- *Retention is important - working positively with employers to raise awareness and understanding and the positives that people with autism bring*
- *Voluntary work is a lot easier to gain however as there is no longer a project/organisation that provides supported voluntary work this means a number of customers cannot sustain this. I have had to support a number of clients towards this even though it is not in our remit. We are now unable to do this and have to signpost.*
- *More opportunities for voluntary work than paid work. This can be tokenistic.*
- *Most people I have supported have not yet managed to access voluntary employment. Can Do project very successful in finding employment opportunities but these were not acted upon for a variety of reasons.*
- *support which explores their strengths and needs Identification of supportive staff in the work place Recognition for good employers Face-to-face or online coaching to assist with retention in a more cost effective way Publicise the positives that someone with autism can bring*
- *Develop workers and advocates(self) to provide support and understanding of the persons presentation and behaviour*
- *More life skills built in to the curriculum and real opportunities to use them, someone to monitor them.*
- *Bury EST service to be built on. Promote voluntary opportunities in school, and community. Involve Bury 3rd Sector in all this. Actively work with Employers to consider Voluntary/paid opportunities for young people.*
- *Intensive support for 3-6 months at the start.*
- *Education of local businesses and support in work experience around communication etc. to help the young person with autism to succeed.*
- *Better support at attending interviews preparation for work.*
- *Providing some sort of recognition for employers that are in support of the autism strategy. Similar to the clubmark accreditation in sport.*
- *Establish appropriate means of funding, perhaps a commissioner may be beneficial. This would allow for more support needs to be met in both paid and voluntary employment.*
- *Brokers user led organisations, employment services*

### **Key areas for consideration:**

- Raise understanding of autism or the benefits of employing people with autism by employers
- Increase opportunities for people
- More information for people
- Specialist support
- Education for employers
- Life skills to enable people to cope with work

## 6. FURTHER EDUCATION



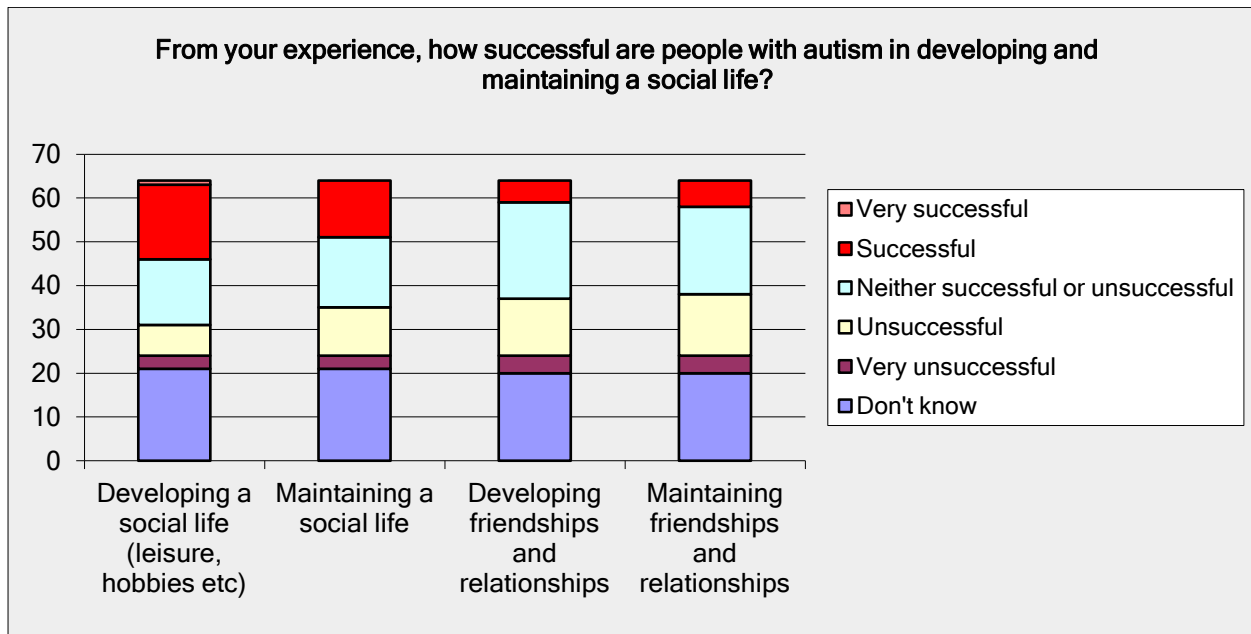
### Comments:

- Pupils that have little behavioural issues do have access but do need to be supported as many drop out due to lack of support
- Bury need to support more as a lot of pupils have to go out of brought for college, and there isn't much after college so what happens to them now.
- Bury college offer many courses for autistic pupils
- The Bury Diversity Apprenticeship has helped a lot of my clients who have autism and associated learning disabilities (not the high end of autism)
- Again, retention and putting in place a 'safety net' so that students know at the start where to go for support. Awareness raising as some students may not be diagnosed until after they have gone to college/ university
- behaviour presentation within classes was not tolerated by teaching staff - did not/ was not able to make adjustments to keep others safe
- More placements and choice needed
- They already have mental health problems which mean it is hard to work in groups and they have issues with funding from education that are so extremely complex it can put everyone involved off.
- Some people I have worked with have achieved degrees at various Universities and Colleges but this has been with a lot of hard work, effort, stress and support. Some people who have accessed local Colleges have had a terrible experience and have dropped out due to lack of appropriate support and understanding. This in turn has led to fear, rejection and isolation. Some people have started various higher education courses and dropped out due to lack of appropriate services.

### Key areas for consideration:

- Lack of autism awareness
- Lack of reasonable adjustments
- Lack of choice
- Lack of information
- More support staff needed

## 7. SOCIAL LIFE



### Comments:

- *Opportunities are limited for people. some people have needs in these areas- have a need to be supported to understand or be understood*
- *Better levels of support to access this opportunity is needed*
- *It depends on the individual some have and maintain good relationships whilst others really struggle, some have good social skills others don't. Some choose to spend time alone with their own interest others would like friends.*
- *Socially isolated, due to lack of opportunity, limited support.*
- *Lack of befriending scheme in Bury contributes towards feelings of isolation - People with autism may not wish to access services associated with people with a learning disability.*
- *It is difficult to achieve independently. With appropriate support and well matched peer groups individuals can be more successful.*
- *This is one of the main areas of difficulty that people with autism have. It is a daily struggle to get up, get out, be with and understand people. There are few exclusive social opportunities for adults with autism where they feel safe, accepted and comfortable. People need the chance to learn and practice their skills.*

## **What suggestions would you make to improve how people with autism develop and maintain a social life?**

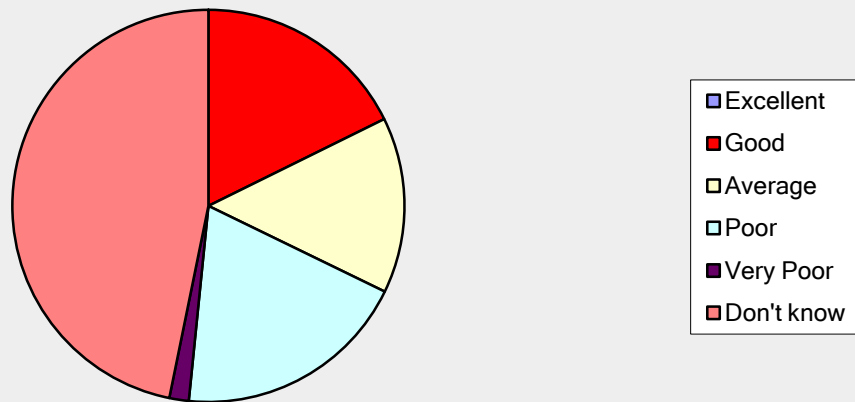
- *Close supervision by carers to demonstrate and help them form social bonds.*
- *More support to access social activity*
- *Accessible groups backed up by online presence ( include pictures) so that people with autism can find out more in a safe way*
- *There will need to be investment of both time and money.*
- *develop approaches and understanding for people - facilitate people to maintain a social life*
- *transport is often an issue- develop more reliable transport than ring and ride- possible volunteer car schemes*
- *Raise awareness of autism*
- *Promote Personal budgets / develop PA schemes.*
- *social clubs, probably specifically aimed at people with autism, learning disabilities or other social needs*
- *More information to the general community*
- *Improve support networks.*
- *Introduction of a Befriending Scheme*
- *Transition project - introducing young people to adult services and developing a pathway that includes social activity.*
- *More realistic resources available dealing with risky situations, many young people have developed substance issues to cope with low mood and been exploited.*
- *Need more opportunities to meet other people who really want to form relationships. A variety of setting or support people to go to already formed groups which are inclusive i.e. local gardening clubs or art classes or choirs.*
- *Giving people and their parents and carers, a focal point to access information on local services.*

### **Key areas for consideration:**

- Development of social groups or support to access mainstream activity
- Raise awareness of autism
- Develop peoples social skills
- A range of activities
- Continuation of what is available in children's services into adulthood

## 8. SERVICES

From your experience, how would you rate the services offered and provided in Bury for people with autism? (eg support groups, voluntary organisations, social care, health services, community services).



### Comments:

- The quality and quantity are insufficient
- Because they need more and more communication is a good thing to with parent/carers and all other bodies who are involved in a child/adults life.
- The services that are there are good (but not always autism specific). There just needs to be more of them and provide more autism specific support
- there are some very good voluntary agencies within Bury that can offer a range of services
- Very few bespoke services

### Key areas for consideration:

- Very few autism specific services
- Lack of autism awareness

## 9. PRIORITIES

What three priority areas of support would you like to be available within Bury? (Tick up to 3 boxes)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Social inclusion/befriending	78.7%	48
Help with finding employment	45.9%	28
Help with finding suitable housing	34.4%	21
More information about what support and services are available	54.1%	33
More support for parents and carers	47.5%	29
Access to specialist health services	23.0%	14
Access to social care professionals	21.3%	13
Support to access a personal budget	16.4%	10
Other (please specify)		3
	<b>answered question</b>	<b>61</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>	<b>12</b>

### Other:

- There needs to be places for pupils to gain employment as many have aspirations

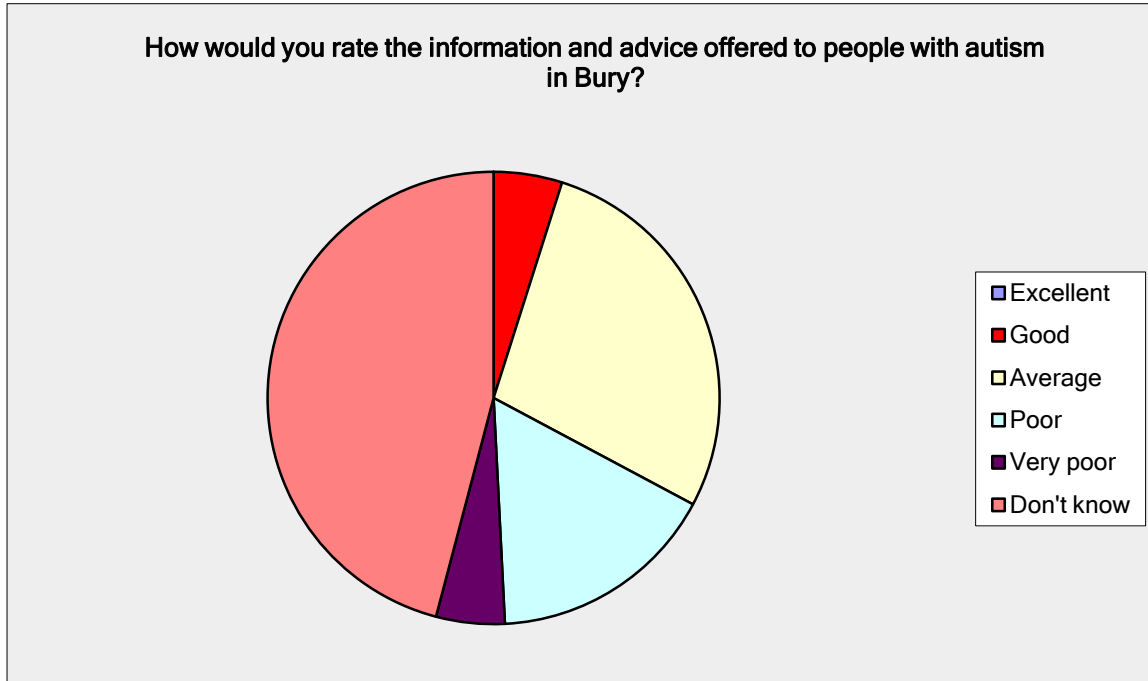


- It is important to educate the general public on Autism so all the above would be more accessible to all.
- Living as independently as possible is goal that many adults with autism want - they want the same as us
- Little awareness of what is available. Risk of social isolation.
- Specialist health services re hospital appointments, hospital liaison work, support to restrain when temperature required or GA eg dental work and blood pressure monitoring
- Each area is equally important as they flow into each other. Without one area of support others may not be possible. For other Adults without Autism all of the above are available without question, why should it be different? Personal budgets, and pooled budgets with Health, Social care , Education could resolve some of this.
- By supporting families people can see moving on as a positive choice and families can maintain ongoing support. By enabling people to make friends and develop social networks they can better support themselves
- Increasing knowledge of support networks will improve life opportunities, and enhance independent living skills, thereby reducing dependency.
- Personal budgets are also important but these depend on the circumstances.
- Had the option for diagnosis and assessment been on the list I would say that this would be a priority.
- Not enough emphasise on importance of friendship and leisure. Housing a problem need to be preparing them to leave home before it a necessity and many don't know what is available or have a right to.
- More holistic pathway needed

### **What suggestions do you have on how services in Bury could be improved?**

- *Have specialist provision for pupils with autism*
- *Workshops, employers coming to visit students, more disability run or lead business.*
- *Educate, advertise and have lots more information available for autistic people.*
- *To develop a badge system to services/shops/groups etc that tell you there is an appreciation of your (or your client/relatives) needs, and key people who you can approach who will understand and help*
- *Less mapping, consultation, more service development/ encourage creative working from services. There is a lot of experience and 'can do' attitude*
- *More services which allow people to move on from home offering appropriate support-supported living but not in group settings*
- *Checklist- benefits, health, social outlets. Further training and awareness. A-Z of services. Champion for autism.*
- *Greater co-working/joint-working between teams.*
- *Better communication between services. Information's passing from children's to adult services, so that people don't think they have to start from scratch.*
- *listen to users and their carers about what they actually want and why*
- *more person centeredness and joining up of services*

## 10. INFORMATION AND ADVICE

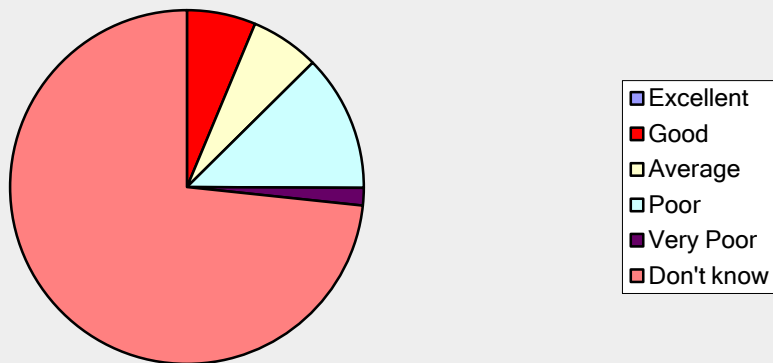


### What suggestions do you have on how information and advice for people with autism in Bury could be improved?

- *Promote services*
- *Speaking face to face is what people need and help on managing things and someone keeping track with them.*
- *there needs to be more information out there*
- *Monthly newsletter/monthly update on relevant information. Support groups, allocated workers.*
- *Should be more readily available in a variety of places from the informal eg supermarkets to GPs*
- *A clearer pathway to direct people to appropriate services*
- *Easy to follow flow chart of how. Where to access support, and easy to access services/ Individual budgets in place quickly and effectively. Contact available with other parents, young people etc. Drop in sessions? Texts, website?*
- *More support brokerage needed for all people in Bury not just for people with aspergers.*
- *Should be designed towards more user-friendly literature.*
- *Make it more accessible*
- *Appropriate links and input from experienced professionals would be extremely valuable.*
- *more widely available, utilise school reviews to pass on leaflets and information as well as parents evenings*

## 11. HOUSING

From your experience, how would you rate the support offered around housing opportunities, support or housing services for people with autism in Bury?



- *More communication with parents/cares about transition from home to their own place and time is needed much so on all parties involved...nothing can be done over night, and getting the child/adult prepared for such change in their life.*
- *I have worked with BILD who have provided fantastic support to many of the members of Jigsaw.*
- *no bespoke housing or housing support*
- *Poor quality housing with a lack of variety of housing options where people feel safe and their needs are met.*

### What suggestions do you have on how to improve housing support, opportunities and/or services in Bury for people with autism?

- *More shared housing*
- *Promote any housing support offered.*
- *Living accommodation so adults can have a home and staff around for support or direct links. An apartment block say of 8 adults with 2 staff around to give advice or help.*
- *Support for those with higher functioning autism*
- *Supported housing schemes in Community. Choice of which people live with. Look at house share opportunities, via a Portal maybe?*
- *Improved specialist support to access housing with support.*
- *A-Z of services, resources and agencies.*
- *A dedicated member of staff/team or drop in clinic to assist people with autism.*
- *Smaller homes. Access to supported lodgings with specially trained providers eg contact with Child Action North west*
- *Ask people and their carers what they would like and what they are prepared to settle for. do it sooner rather than later when it's a reaction or a desperate need*
- *Access to supported living options restricted to certain groups (if appropriate). Better checks and support for people who have issues with housing providers. Increased awareness of needs and funding that my help with adaptations. Improved access to specialist assessments to enable different funding options to be applied for. Increase the variety and models of housing available.*

#### Key areas for consideration:

- More options needed for housing
- Lack of specialist support
- Lack of awareness of autism
- Lack of reasonable adjustments made