

Report to Health Scrutiny Committee

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Author:</p> | <p>Cllr Rishi Shori, Executive Member Adult Care Health and Housing</p> |
| <p>Date:</p> | <p>22 October 2013</p> |
| <p>Title:</p> | <p>Bury Adult Autism Strategy 2013-2016 - Update on Action Plan</p> |
| <p>Summary:</p> | <p>This report is to give an update on the progress of the Bury Adult Autism Strategy 2013-2016.</p> <p>The strategy is owned jointly by the local authority and NHS Bury.</p> <p>The strategy was been written in response to the National Autism Strategy "<i>Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives</i>" in 2010. This strategy has 5 key areas prioritised by Government and comes with statutory requirements for local authorities in providing and developing services for people with autism.</p> |
| <p>Equality and Diversity Implications:</p> | <p>The community (both current and future customers) will benefit from an increased awareness of autism. Through training and awareness raising, staff in ACS and health along with other partners will have a greater understanding of autism and how to communicate in an appropriate manner with people with autism.</p> <p>It was raised in the consultation that there is a lack of understanding and recognition of autism within BME communities. With increased awareness raising initiatives, people should have a greater understanding.</p> <p>The strategy looks to enable people with autism to live more independently and safely within their community and offer more opportunities for work and social activity.</p> <p>The strategy aims to create opportunities for creating robust partnerships with existing groups and services to help develop support networks for carers of people with autism.</p> <p>The strategy aims to enable people to become "part of their community" through awareness raising to dispell misunderstanding amongst the general public.</p> |

Background

The strategy was been written in response to the National Autism Strategy "*Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*" in 2010. This strategy has 5 key areas prioritised by Government and comes with statutory requirements for local authorities in providing and developing services for people with autism.

The objectives of the strategy are:

1. Increasing awareness and understanding of autism.
2. Developing a clear and consistent pathway for diagnosis of autism.
3. Improving access for adults with autism to the services and support they need to live independently within the community.
4. Helping adults with autism into work
5. Enabling local partners to develop relevant services for adults with autism to meet identified needs and priorities. This will be done through joint working and increasing the use of area-based services.

Consultation

The Strategy was developed following an extensive 12 week consultation with a wide range of stakeholders across Bury including customers, carers, providers, health professionals, youth service, voluntary agencies, community groups and education. The consultation commenced on 5 March 2012 and ended on 26 May 2012. This involved a large event and a series of "drop in sessions" as well as a questionnaire. The results of this consultation shaped the Bury Adult Autism Strategy.

The strategy action plan will be delivered and monitored by the Bury Autism Services Development Group and progress will be reported to the Mental Health Steering Group, Learning Disability Partnership Board, SMT and CCG.

1.0 AIMS OF THE STRATEGY AND ACTIONS TO DATE:

The Bury Adult Autism Strategy focuses on five core areas of activity as outlined in the National Strategy:

1. Increasing awareness and understanding of autism among frontline professionals.

Actions taken to date:

- Basic online awareness training for all Adult Care Services employees is now mandatory. This is monitored via employee reviews and the training department. A series of drop in sessions will take place to ensure those employees who do not have access to a computer can complete this training.
- A more intensive training course for employees who undertake assessments will be piloted in November 2013. This is based on a Greater Manchester wide training model. It will be delivered by a specialist social worker from Bury ACS, a representative from the National Autistic Society and a carer of a person with autism. The first session will have representatives from all the teams who

undertake assessments within ACS such as social work teams, mental health and LD teams, financial assessment team etc. The aim is to develop a network of Autism Champions to roll out the training and also be a point of contact for information, advice and guidance for anyone wishing to have more information. Work is underway to ensure this training has a robust programme for roll out to all assessment staff.

Future actions:

- A more detailed training package will be commissioned if necessary for specialist workers. This will depend on the evaluation of the training currently in place.
- The basic training package will be opened up to all Council staff and partners. Work is being undertaken to action this within the CCG and early discussions have already taken place with First Buses, Probation, The Police and Bury Council Departments.

2. Developing a clear, consistent pathway for diagnosis in every area, which is followed by the offer of a personalised needs assessment.

Actions to date:

- In the past, Bury have not had a local diagnostic pathway for Adults, people who needed an assessment had to go to Sheffield to undertake this. However, whilst a full services is put into place, Bury now have an interim local autism diagnosis assessment service which serves the North East Sector of Greater Manchester but is based in Bury.
- A service specification for the new diagnostic pathway has now been produced. It consists of a more comprehensive multi-disciplinary service which will focus on assessment, diagnosis and referral on to the appropriate services in an integrated manner. Part of the specification is to provide training and we have an established mental health education group that meets approximately every 6 weeks. We hope to source alternative training vehicles as well, such as e-learning. GPs are trained to provide holistic mental health assessments and provide management for common conditions such as depression. When felt appropriate they can refer to a range of mental health services provided by Pennine Care Foundation Trust, including counselling, other talking therapies, psychology and psychiatry. These services are happy to see patients with co-morbidities such as ASD and depression.
- The new diagnostic pathway which will include training and post diagnostic support should be in place by March 2014.

3. Improving access to the services and support which adults with autism need to live independently within the community.

Actions to date:

- During the consultation for the strategy, a number of respondents stated that it was hard to access any kind of support due to a lack of understanding of autism amongst services and the community. Therefore, a series of autism awareness raising events are in the planning stages and will take place across Bury in order to raise awareness across Bury. This will be done within Libraries

and the Colleges and will involve a manned information desk and an information sessions hosted by a member from the National Autistic Society.

- The training element of the action plan will be imperative in relation to ensuring that universal services are open and welcoming to adults with autism.

Future actions:

- A sub group of the Autism Services Development Group has been set up to continue to develop methods of awareness raising and work with stakeholders and partners to raise awareness of autism and how to make reasonable adjustments so people with autism can access services.
- The sub group will also look at how to dispel negative perceptions of services by carers of people with autism and the general public.
- Work will continue to feed the needs of people with autism into the Vulnerable Adults Housing Strategy agenda.

4. Helping adults with autism into work.

Actions to date:

- The Autism Services Development Group and partners are planning a large employer's event. This will be a breakfast event and last only a few hours and will be an awareness raising session and offer information on the benefits of employing people with autism and how to make reasonable adjustments. This has been successful in neighbouring authorities and we will use this model in Bury.

Future actions:

- The Autism Services Development Group will continue to engage with employers, employment support agencies, Job Centre + and other stakeholders to try to help people with autism gain employment and employment opportunities.

5. Enabling local partners to plan and develop appropriate services for adults with autism to meet identified needs and priorities

Actions to date:

- It is difficult to plan and commission services for people with autism without any robust data on the numbers of people and what services they need. However, a new data management system will be in place from the end of 2013 and it will be mandatory for both health and Adult Care to record the numbers of people with both high functioning autism and classic autism. This will enable us to effectively plan for future services.
- A Market Positioning Statement and a Commissioning/development Intentions statement is being produced by Adult Care Services. This will be looked at on an annual basis.
- The Autism Services Development Group will endeavour to engage with all our partners across Bury to raise awareness of autism and help them understand why this is relevant and the implications to their organisation and dispel any negative perceptions they may have.

Next steps

The Autism Services Development Group will continue to monitor the Strategy and Action Plan and raise any issues with appropriate bodies.

Supporting Documents

Bury Adult Autism Strategy 2013-16
Action Plan (Appendix 4)
Appendices (1, 2, 3A, 3B)
Equality Analysis



FINAL STRATEGY
APPROVED BY CABIN



APPENDIX 2 - action
plan 2013-14.docx



APPENDIX 1A.docx



APPENDIX 1B.docx



EA - Bury Adult
Autism Strategy - Apr