

Summary of the Bury Adult Autism Strategy

2013 - 2016



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We want to make our strategies easy to read and understand. This summary has been written to provide a short overview of the Bury Adult Autism Strategy 2013-2016.

The vision of the National Autism Strategy: Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: The Strategy for Adults with Autism in England (2010) states that:

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"

Bury Adults Autism Strategy sets out the vision for adults with autism who live in Bury. This includes those with Aspergers Syndrome and those who have a dual diagnosis which includes an Autistic Spectrum Disorder. It describes what the Government policies mean for the people of Bury, it analyses the needs of people with autism in Bury and finally, uses this information to outline the strategic direction for services across Bury.

How did we produce this strategy?

This strategy has been developed by Bury Adult Care Services in conjunction with NHS Bury and the Autism Services Development Group (a multi-agency group with includes carer representation). We have actively worked with people with autism and their carers throughout the development of this strategy. Working in partnership ensures that peoples insight, experience and knowledge influence the future direction of services and support for people with autism in Bury.

How do we know what our priorities are?

During our consultation, people with autism in Bury, their carers and professionals who work with people with autism told us what they believe should be the focus of the strategy. These areas were:

- Staff training/awareness raising
- Access to social care assessment
- Access to appropriate housing
- Access to employment
- Having a social life
- Easier access to assessment for diagnosis
- Easier access to health services
- Appropriate and timely information
- Easier access to support services



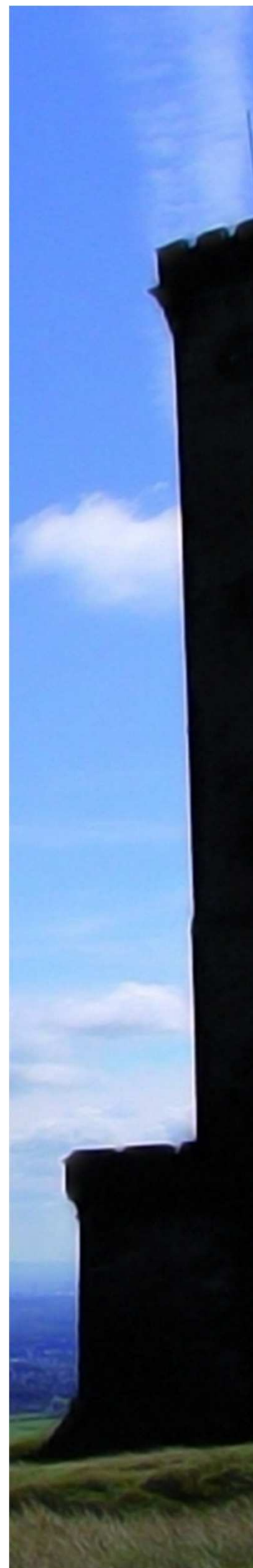
Our Priorities

Following the consultation, we have some clear priorities and also some further information and consultation needs to take place around several areas of work. There are also some areas that need to be developed in the short term. These can be placed under the five headings in the National Autism Strategy as follows:

Increasing awareness and understanding of autism among frontline professionals.

How will we achieve this?

- Basic Autism awareness training for all adult social care staff will be mandatory and offered to all other departments within the Council. This awareness training will also be offered to all front line health care staff.
- Mid-level autism awareness training will also be developed for those who undertake social care assessments. We are working with the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium in the development of autism training.
- Specific and in-depth autism training packages will be developed to deliver detailed training to staff who need a detailed and specialist knowledge and understanding of autism and/or work closely with adults with autism and/or their carers. This will also be offered to frontline clinicians.
- Our aim is to improve equality and diversity training to include autism awareness, provide awareness training as part of the induction process for all new Health and Social care staff and determine additional training required for staff and providers of services, in line with the needs of their job.
- Adults with autism, their families and carers, and autism representative groups will be involved in the design of training packages.
- To work with partners to raise awareness on making “reasonable adjustments”. We will seek to raise awareness of “reasonable adjustment” criteria and how best to approach it with primary care services, secondary care services and community staff along with partners such as job centre plus.



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

How will we achieve this?

We have an identified lead for diagnosis within Bury who we will support to drive this work forward. Bury Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is committed to identifying a new local pathway for the assessment and diagnosis of adults with autism and their carers. This will include developing the service to include post diagnostic support, sibling screening and re-assessments.

We will also consider how to ensure a community care assessment is triggered on diagnosis of autism.

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

How will we achieve this?

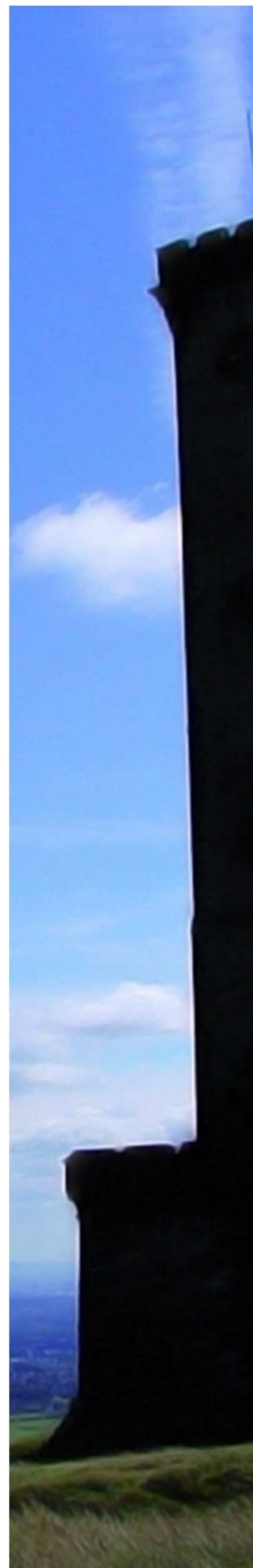
- We will work with partners to support the development of more opportunities for social activity and also on how to provide more timely and accessible information for people with autism and their carers/family.

- We will work with partners to provide better signposting to universal services as well as looking at how we can further develop current services, including services for people with autism who are not eligible for Adult Care Services.

- We will consult with people with autism and their families to understand how the current housing choices and housing support meets their needs and how this may need to be adapted in the future. This will be then fed into the wider strategic housing for vulnerable people initiative.

- We will look at ways to celebrate the achievements and positive aspects of autism with the people of Bury and other partners and stakeholders in order to dispel negative perceptions they have of autism. We will also work with people with autism and carers to dispel any negative perceptions they may hold of services in Bury

- We will work with partners to ensure they understand how to make reasonable adjustments for people with autism and why this is important.



Helping adults with autism into work.

How will we achieve this?

- We will work with partners to raise their awareness of autism and help them understand the benefits of employing people with autism. This would include the importance of making reasonable adjustments in the workplace.
- We will work with partners to enable them to provide greater opportunities for the employment of people with autism and on providing more information to people with autism and employers on employment support available.

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

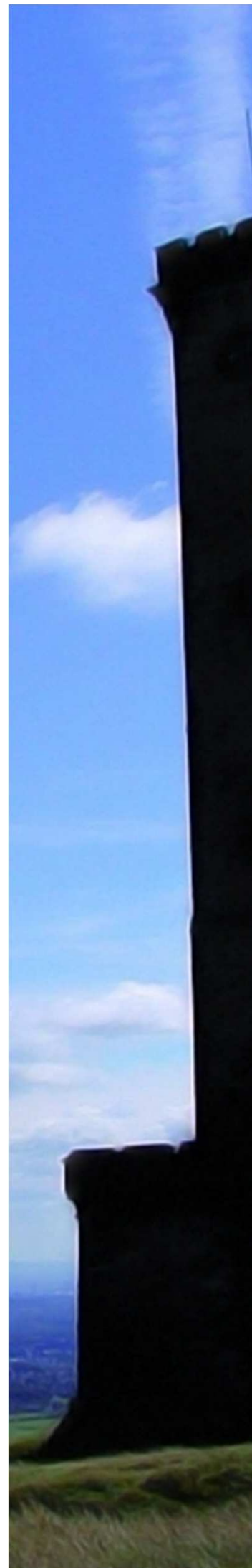
How will we achieve this?

- We will work to better understand what is currently available for people with autism and any identify any gaps that need addressing for the future.
- We will work with partners to develop current services and ensuring they are fit for purpose.
- A priority will be to develop robust data collection systems in order to better plan and prioritise services for people with autism in the future.

Perceptions

Customer and Carer Perceptions of Services

The results of the consultation showed that on the whole adults with autism and carers of adults with autism have a negative perception of services in Bury. People noted that they envisaged it would be difficult to get information, appropriate housing or employment support even if they had never tried to access these services. Work will be undertaken with our customers, carers and other stakeholders to offer more information and advice on services and what is available in order to dispel the negative perceptions they currently hold.



General Public Perceptions

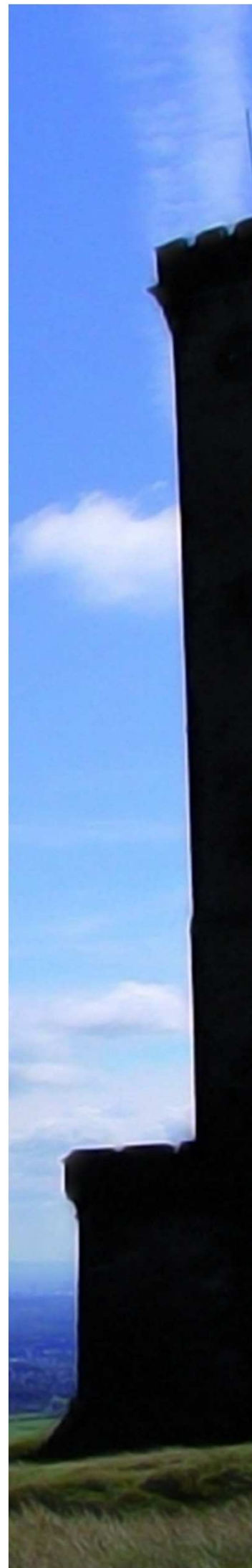
Autism is a disorder which is generally misunderstood by the public, therefore people may have negative perceptions of what autism is and how it affects the people who have autism. We will seek to publicise good news stories of people with autism and promote their talents to employers and others in Bury to try to dispel the myths around autism. We can do this by publishing case studies, general awareness raising and including people with autism and their carers in consultations and in the developing and delivering of training.

Brief Aims

In short, the aims of this strategy are to:

- Ensure that people have a better understanding of autism. This includes everyone from frontline staff, Job Centre Plus, receptionists, GPs and social workers.
- Develop a local diagnosis pathway for adults with autism including post diagnostic support, sibling screening and reassessments
- Develop new opportunities for social activity by working with partners
- Ensure information is timely, accessible and relevant
- Develop better access to universal services
- Dispel negative perceptions of services and of autism
- Develop more opportunities for employment, education and volunteering
- Develop robust data collection systems

The Bury Autism Development Group will monitor and track progress within the work streams and the action plan. The progress will also be reported to Adult Care Services Senior Management Team, Health Scrutiny Committee, The Mental Health Steering Group, Learning Disability Partnership Board and Clinical Commissioning Group as required.



Contact us

For further information about the Bury Autism Strategy 2013 – 2016:

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