

Bury Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of the Report	Bury Adult Autism Strategy 2017-18 and Action Plan
Date	28 March 2018
Contact Officer	Jacqui Waite, Strategic Development and Planning Officer, Communities and Wellbeing
HWB Lead in this area	Julie Gonda

1. Executive Summary

Is this report for?	Information <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Why is this report being brought to the Board?	Agreement of the draft strategy and action plan		
Please detail which, if any, of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities the report relates to. (See attached Strategy) www.theburydirectory.co.uk/healthandwellbeingboard	Priority 3 – living well with a long term condition or as a carer		
Please detail which, if any, of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment priorities the report relates to. (See attached JSNA) http://jsna.theburydirectory.co.uk/kb5/bury/jsna/home.page	This report covers a number of the themes within the JSNA such as health and wellbeing, living and working in Bury, and communities and environment.		
Key Actions for the Health and Wellbeing Board to address – what action is needed from the Board and its members? Please state recommendations for action.	Agree the strategy and action plan.		
What requirement is there for internal or external communication around this area?	Publication on Bury Directory. Share information across the GMAC networks and service user/carer groups.		
Assurance and tracking process – Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council/meeting of the CCG Board/other stakeholders....please provide details.	<p>The strategy and action plan have been developed by the Bury Autism Partnership Board in conjunction with the Autism Get Together Group. The Autism Partnership Board is a multi-agency Board including representatives from across Bury including the CCG.</p> <p>It has been considered and agreed by CWB wider management board.</p>		

2. Introduction / Background

The Bury Adult Autism Strategy 2013-16 was written in response to the National Autism Strategy “*Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*” in 2010. The strategy has 5

key areas prioritised by Government and includes statutory requirements for local authorities in providing and developing services for people with autism.

The objectives of the original strategy were:

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.

The national strategy was updated with "Think Autism" (2014), which built on the Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives strategy, reinforcing the themes and adding a further three new key elements:

1. Enabling people with autism to really be included as part of the community.
2. To promote innovative local ideas, services or projects particularly for lower level support.
3. To focus on how advice and information services can be joined up better for people.

The purpose of this updated Bury Adult Autism Strategy is to provide a basis for partnership working on the provision of services, support and signposting for adults with autism in Bury. It is intended to implement the requirements of the national strategy at a local level and include the transformation agenda around Special Educational Needs and Disability in Bury. There are currently plans in place to produce a Greater Manchester Autism Strategy although details have not yet been released on the content or publication date of this strategy.

The updated Bury adult autism strategy has been produced in conjunction with the Autism Get Together Group and The Autism Services Development Group who will work on and oversee the action plan.

This updated strategy will ensure the initial groundwork undertaken so far will be built upon and extended to ensure adults with autism in Bury are able to live, study, work and enjoy Bury in the same way as everyone else.

How the original objectives of the strategy are being met:

1. Increasing awareness and understanding of autism

Increasing awareness and understanding of autism across all sectors is an ongoing piece of work. Below are some highlights of actions already achieved or undertaken to date:

Training

E-learning has been available for all staff in the Council since 2014. This is mandatory for all front line staff in Communities and Wellbeing. It has been monitored by Organisational Development. There has been an uptake rate of 70% to date (393 out of 563 staff). Initially a series of drop in sessions were held at Bury Adult Learning Centre to enable staff who did not have access to the internet/computers were able to complete the training. This was cascaded via managers who were asked to allow their staff to attend the training. However, this had a very low take up and so alternative options will be considered once the new package is launched.

An updated e-learning package for staff has been developed and is currently being rolled out. This training is mandatory for all Bury Council employees and available free of charge for use by all partners across Bury. This will be publicised and offered out through the Autism Development Board initially. As this is a multi-agency group, members will be able to take it up within their own organisations and offer it out to their partner organisations. To date this training has been taken up by One Recovery, Bury College, Job Centre Plus, CCG including GPs.

Specialist autism training sessions were delivered as a rolling programme (approx. 2-3 sessions per year). These were specifically for social workers or people who would be likely to undertake assessments with people with autism. These were delivered by the GMAC project via the National Autistic Society. These sessions offered specialist training around undertaking assessments with people with autism.

The training took place between 2013 and 2015 and 51 members of staff have undertaken the training. Most of the attendees were social workers plus attendees from occupational therapy, social care officers and healthy lifestyle service. However, due to a number of the attendees having left the authority there is now a need to revisit the training package.

A new specialist autism training package was delivered to a group of 17 qualified social workers on 28th February 2018. The feedback from the attendees was extremely positive. Local Authorities have a statutory duty under both the Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives Statutory Guidance and the Care Act to provide specialist autism social workers, if required, by a person with autism. Therefore this training will ensure that customers are receiving the best experience possible and the Council is fulfilling its statutory duties.

The training will now move to a "train the trainer" model to ensure that specialist social workers will always be in place. The specialist social workers who undertook the specialist training will carry out 'train the trainer' training which will enable them to deliver specialist autism training to others in the future. This training will take place around April 2018.

There is no specific number of specialists required but it is anticipated that there will be at least one or two specialists in each locality or specialist team. The training offers support for the trained specialists and refresher courses are available as needed via the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium.

2. Developing a clear and consistent pathway for diagnosis of autism.

The National Autism Strategy Guidance highlights the need to ensure that adults have access to a local diagnostic service. Prior to the Bury Adult Autism Strategy 2013-17, any adult resident in Bury who required to undergo the autism diagnostic process was referred to Sheffield-based service. However, Bury now has a specialist diagnostic service for adults commissioned by Bury CCG and delivered by a private provider called LANC.

The tender process was undertaken by Bury CCG with involvement from the Autism Development Group and service users. The service is accessed via professional referral such as GP, social worker or other service offering intervention and has a follow up therapy and signposting service. Professionals from LANC sit on the Autism Development Board.

A locally based service offers a chance for people needing a diagnosis of autism that would otherwise not have been able to access this service due to transport and accommodation issues.

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

Autism Development Group

In the past, autism has not been a stand-alone priority. Autism was encompassed within the Learning Disability and Mental Health Services' priorities as appropriate to individuals. This has begun to change due to the publication of the autism strategy and action plans, awareness raising activities (both locally and nationally) and the development of a multi-agency autism development Group to work on the actions and priorities for Bury.

This priority will be further developed within the updated strategy and action plan alongside the Greater Manchester Autism Strategy and priorities, once they have been published.

Buddy's for Autism Charity

A dedicated charity was set up in Bury in 2014. They offer a range of support services for people with autism (and a variety of hidden disabilities) and their carers, family, friends etc. They offer a wide range of options and work with a range of partners across Bury. Bury Council are looking at ways to work more

closely with the charity across different themes and in particular on the autism friendly theme.

4. Helping adults with autism into work

Employment event

An employer's event took place in 2015 to encourage employers to consider people with autism when recruiting. This was a breakfast event and well attended by businesses across Bury.

Employment and readiness for employment is a key message within Think Autism and consistently raised by adults with autism. Bury Council's Resources and Regulation Department are working with employers to ensure they understand the benefits of employing people with autism and what reasonable adjustments are required to support this work. Also, there are new opportunities emerging in Bury for people to undertake work readiness and life skills courses. Likewise, similar initiatives are being undertaken and developed within Buddy's and DWP via the new community teams.

Greater Manchester Autism Consortium Contract

The contract for the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium (GMAC) has been redeveloped to ensure that the GMAC work is focussed on the main priorities for Greater Manchester. This means that the 10 authorities can work more closely together to prioritise issues that are wider than one local authority. This includes areas such as the criminal justice system, reasonable adjustment work, employment and information and advice.

Closer working with CCG

Closer links and partnership working with the CCG has been established and is being developed to include all work strands.

Development Group/User Carer Group

Members of the original Autism Partnership Board believed that it would be more beneficial for all members if the group be split into two to make the meetings more effective. This enabled the development of a strategic group for and a user/carer group that could feed ideas and information into the strategic group for decision and/or action. This was agreed by all members of the board. Consequently now there are two Autism partnership groups, one strategic – Autism Development Board and one operational (user/carer) –Autism Get Togethers which are now well established and working more effectively.

How the new priorities will be met:

1. Enabling people with autism to really be included as part of the community.

2. To promote innovative local ideas, services or projects particularly for lower level support.

Both these priorities will be key areas of work for the new strategy and action plan. Work already started includes:

Autism Friendly Bury

Work is currently being undertaken on a framework and programme of work to ensure public places in Bury including council buildings, shops, businesses and GP surgeries become Autism Friendly. In Bury the programme of work will be widened to include age friendly and dementia friendly with a view to a "Making Bury Friendly Plan" for all conditions.

A public consultation event took place on 30th January 2018, at Prestwich Longfield Suite. The purpose of the consultation and engagement event was to outline Bury Council's vision for a 'Friendly Bury' and gather views on how Bury could become a better place to live for everyone. The event included looking at housing, transport, services, neighbourhoods and what small changes can be made which would benefit the community.

The event was well attended by around 80 people from across a variety of partner's i.e. voluntary sector, health, local authorities, community members and other professionals working in and around Bury. The outcomes from the discussions are currently being reviewed and will be used to influence and develop the Making Bury Friendly Plans.

Autism Get Together

The formal user/carer group was not felt of value to the members of the group and attendance was low or none on occasion. Therefore the focus has been changed to a more informal "Autism Get Together" to encourage better engagement. Although this group is still involved with engagement and consultation, it is also used as a support and information sharing group for adults with autism in Bury.

Since the group changed attendance has increased and new members now attend the group, the feedback has been positive. To date there has been two meetings held with the third due in February 2018. Group attendance continues to see an increase at each meeting which is encouraging. Due to the nature of autism, attending groups can be very difficult for people. The aim is for the positive feedback to be shared and further encourage a continued steady growth in the number of members.

Autism groups in Bury

Several social groups have been set up in Bury these include a drama group for women, parent and child group, adult social group, yoga sessions and Buddy's charity organisation. Although not all of these groups can be attributed to the work of the Autism Development Group, there has been increased emphasis at both a national and local level about autism placing it higher on agendas than ever before.

To focus on how advice and information services can be joined up better for people

The Bury Directory has dedicated autism pages with a wealth of information and advice and links for people with autism, their carers and families. This is an action for both the autism development group and autism get together group to review and update in the next year. This will be done as part of the current refresh of the Bury Directory.

The GMAC also has a website of information and contacts and a helpline for families across the 10 authority areas as part of the GM contract.

This information is used to signpost people via connect and direct, social work teams, on diagnosis via Healthy Minds and LANC, partners from the autism development board and partners across Greater Manchester.

3. key issues for the Board to Consider

To actively support and promote the ongoing work around autism friendly communities.

In light of pending changes through GM devolution bringing Bury Council and CCG together, the board may wish to consider how autism services may be jointly commissioned in the future.

4. Recommendations for action

Seek approval of the Adult Autism Strategy and Action plan

5. Financial and legal implications (if any)

If necessary please seek advice from the Acting Council Monitoring Officer Janet Witkowski, (J.Witkowski@bury.gov.uk) or Section 151 Officer Steve Kenyon (S.Kenyon@bury.gov.uk).

There is statutory guidance attached to the national autism strategy, however we are addressing these within the strategy and action plan.

No additional financial implications.

6. Equality/Diversity Implications. Please attach the completed Equality and Analysis Form if required.



EA - Bury Adult
Autism Strat Nov 17.strategy final



2017-2020 draft



2017-2020 draft
version action plan final ver

CONTACT DETAILS:

Contact Officer: Jacqui Waite

Telephone number: 7443

E-mail address: j.waite@bury.gov.uk

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