

## HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

<b>Subject Heading:</b>	Draft Havering Autism Strategy 2017 – 2022
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### The subject matter of this report deals with the following themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- Theme 1: Primary prevention to promote and protect the health of the community and reduce health inequalities
- X Theme 2: Working together to identify those at risk and intervene early to improve outcomes and reduce demand on more expensive services later on
- Theme 3: Provide the right health and social care/advice in the right place at the right time
- Theme 4: Quality of services and user experience

### SUMMARY

The Havering Autism strategy aims to provide co-ordination for the excellent work that is already in place in Havering, and maximise the opportunities for joint working between member organisations of the Adult Autism Partnership Board.

It is based on priorities outlined in national policy and statutory guidance and local needs. By working together, we hope that the implementation of this strategy will help make Havering a better place for everyone and enable those affected by autism to live healthier, safer and more fulfilling lives.

The Havering Autism Strategy 2017-2022, has been written through a consultative process. Views were sought as to what was important for people with autism, and their carers, to ensure we were addressing their priorities.

This is the first Autism Strategy and will set out how London Borough of Havering and its partners intend to develop services and approaches from 2017-2022. This

will enable us to meet the aspirations within the Autism Act (2009) and the requirements of subsequent guidance.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

This report asks the Health and Wellbeing Board to formally ratify the Strategy and for it to be taken forward. Also to consider the front cover design of the strategy this has been designed by Havering Autism Steering Group members.

The new All Age Autism Strategy will run for 4 years with a formal launch planned for February 2018. It is a high level strategy and is underpinned by a comprehensive action plan.

The action plan will be owned by the Havering Autism Partnership Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider whether they wish to receive progress updates from the Board.

## REPORT DETAIL

The first ever national autism strategy, 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives', published in 2010 following landmark legislation in the form of the Autism Act 2009, sought to address the inequalities in access to services and opportunities faced by people with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASCs) and the resulting poor social and health outcomes.

The national strategy set out a number of requirements for Councils and NHS bodies to work with partners to improve services and support for people on the Autism Spectrum. One of these requirements is to develop and publish a local strategy.

National strategy update

In April 2014 the Department of Health published Think Autism, Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives, the strategy for adults with autism in England: an update.

The update is a result of the review of the existing national strategy in line with the Autism Act 2009, a stock-take of the work done so far nationally through the self-assessment exercise the Department of Health asked local authorities to complete at the end of 2013 and changes across public services that need to be taken into account in the national strategy.

Think Autism build on rather than replaces the requirements and guidance of Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives. There are three key areas highlighted for particular drive and focus to deliver change:

- Building communities that are more aware of and accessible to the needs of people with autism.
- Promoting innovative local ideas, services and projects which can help people in their communities. This included a time-limited Autism Innovation Fund which made one-off grant funding available for specific projects.
- A focus on gathering comprehensive data on local numbers and needs to inform planning and joining up advice and information on available services.

Our Autism Strategy focuses mainly on adults on the autistic spectrum but also acknowledges those young people moving through transition ages into adulthood. It has been prepared as a response to, but goes beyond, the requirements set out in the Autism Act 2009 and the national autism strategy which only applies to adults.

The Partnership Board decided that the inequalities in access to all services and opportunities faced by people with autistic spectrum conditions, and the resulting poor social and health outcomes required a holistic strategy that covers all aspects of life. Our local strategy aims to ensure people with autism are supported to realise their full potential in all stages of their lives.

The strategy concentrates on five key areas:

1. Increasing awareness and understanding of ASC
2. Developing a clear and consistent pathway for diagnosis
3. Making it easier for people with ASC to get the services and support they need
4. Helping adults with ASC into work
5. Working with local partners to help them develop suitable services

### Shaping the strategy

The Havering Autism Strategy has been developed by using a co-production approach with on-going dialogue with key stakeholders forming the basis of the Strategy. A parent / carer and a number of individuals with autism sit on and are involved actively in every session that takes place; nothing is progressed without approval and consultation with the experts by experience. There is also a virtual reference group which is used for comments and feedback so we are reaching as many people as we can.

Engagement sessions, electronic feedback and focus groups were used to input into the development of the strategy and to the Autism Self-Assessment Framework 2016 which forms the evidence base for the Havering Autism Strategy.

We have divided managing the work set out in the strategy into 4 sub-groups; these are led by identified partners. All groups feed into the Autism Partnership Board which keeps a strategic overview of the ongoing work, achievements and challenges.

As referenced above, following the 2014 National Autism Strategy update, Havering utilised the Autism Innovation Funding to establish an Autism Hub. This was situated in Romford Town Centre using an empty shop space in The Liberty Shopping Centre. The success of the Autism Hub has been amazing and has enabled a true user-led approach to the needs of this target group whereby evolving organically to the emerging need and requirements of residents in Havering experiencing and/or living with Autism.

Havering's Joint Commissioning Unit are intending to re-commission the Autism Hub and build upon the service to enable the delivery of the strategy.

We have recently refreshed our Terms of Reference for the Autism Partnership Board to align with the governance of the current and future work.

## **IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Draft Havering Autism Strategy 2017 – 2022
- Proposed front cover design for Havering's Autism Strategy 2017 - 2022