



Public Health  
England

# **Autism self-assessment exercise 2013**

Thurrock

## About Public Health England

Public Health England's mission is to protect and improve the nation's health and to address inequalities through working with national and local government, the NHS, industry and the voluntary and community sector. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

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## Local authority area

1. How many Clinical Commissioning Groups do you need to work with to implement the Adult Autism Strategy in your local authority area?

1

### Comment

Coterminous with the Local Authority boundary

2. Are you working with other local authorities to implement part or all of the priorities of the strategy?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, how are you doing this?

No, but we are exploring opportunities with other Local Authorities

## Planning

3. Do you have a named joint commissioner/senior manager of responsible for services for adults with autism?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, what are their responsibilities and who do they report to? Please provide their name and contact details.

Kelly Jenkins, Commissioning Officer, [kjenkins@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:kjenkins@thurrock.gov.uk)  
Report to Catherine Wilson, Service Manager Commissioning and Service Development, [cwilson@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:cwilson@thurrock.gov.uk) and Fran Leddra, Service Manager Fieldwork

Responsible for the consultation of the draft Autism strategy and its subsequent implementation. Development of services for Autism, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health.

4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

### Comment

Autism is included but there is limited information available.

5. Have you started to collect data on people with a diagnosis of autism?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Comment

We hold information on people with Autism who have presented to social services

6. Do you collect data on the number of people with a diagnosis of autism meeting eligibility criteria for social care (irrespective of whether they receive any)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, what is

the total number of people?

the number who are also identified as having a learning disability?

the number who are identified as also having mental health problems?

Comment

We do not have specific data but based on 1% of the population as per the national average, we would expect to find approx 900 people to have a diagnosis of autism only a small proportion of these would be eligible for social care.

7. Does your commissioning plan reflect local data and needs of people with autism?

- Yes
- No

If yes, how is this demonstrated?

In progress. The development of the Commissioning plan is one of the actions identified within the Autism Strategy which is currently being implemented.

### 8. What data collection sources do you use?

- Red
- Red/Amber
- Amber
- Amber/Green
- Green

#### Comment

JSNA, Social Care data system, Provider services, local voluntary organisations, service user and care groups.

### 9. Is your local Clinical Commissioning Group or Clinical Commissioning Groups (including the Support Service) engaged in the planning and implementation of the strategy in your local area?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

#### Comment

The Clinical Commissioning Group are joining the Implementation Group.

### 10. How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their carers in planning?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

#### Please give an example to demonstrate your score.

Workshops were held by Thurrock Coalition which were well attended by service users and carers prior to Thurrock's Autism Strategy being written. The information gathered at the workshops was used in the development of the strategy.

### 11. Have reasonable adjustments been made to everyday services to improve access and support for people with autism?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

#### Please give an example.

Thurrock social care staff have undertaken autism training

12. Do you have a Transition process in place from Children's social services to Adult social services?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please give brief details of whether this is automatic or requires a parental request, the mechanism and any restrictions on who it applies to.

Thurrock's Transition Strategy has been written and includes Autism. Whilst referrals are automatic that does not mean that the person will receive a service when they come into Adult Social Care

13. Does your planning consider the particular needs of older people with Autism?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Comment

Although it covers all ages, more work could be done around older people

## Training

14. Have you got a multi-agency autism training plan?

- Yes  
 No

15. Is autism awareness training being/been made available to all staff working in health and social care?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Comment: Specify whether Self-Advocates with autism are included in the design of training and/or whether they have a role as trainers. If the latter specify whether face-to-face or on video/other recorded media.

Our Autism training is two tier. We have awareness training and then the Spell Framework delivered by the National Autistic Society. These have been accessed by Social workers and other frontline staff. Supplementary training called '@Safer Living Tour' has also been undertaken by staff which was delivered by a person with Autism.

We have a new Advocacy provider who actively promote volunteers, we will be supporting them to develop this area.

16. Is specific training being/been provided to staff that carry out statutory assessments on how to make adjustments in their approach and communication?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

**Comments**

All the training has been opened out to all staff to participate.

17. Have Clinical Commissioning Group(s) been involved in the development of workforce planning and are general practitioners and primary care practitioners engaged included in the training agenda?

- Yes
- No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

This will be addressed in the implementation in the strategy

18. Have local Criminal Justice services engaged in the training agenda?

- Yes
- No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

This will be addressed in the implementation in the strategy

## Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red
- Amber
- Green

Please provide further comment.

We do not have an established local diagnostic pathway as such specifically for Autism. However we do have an Aspergers services

To provide access to a diagnostic assessment and intervention service for young people (18-30 years)

To provide access to an assessment for those over 30 years of age to assist in establishing a differential diagnosis.

To ensure that young people who do have AS have access to:-  
group work particularly to address social functioning

Family therapy

Vocational support and employment opportunities

Individual work to address for e.g. anxiety, low mood

The Service is based in the Basildon Community Resource Centre but where possible individuals are offered appointments in other settings in their local areas as well as home visits also. As the Service develops further community bases may be utilised so as to provide services across the Trust area.

The Service is a two tier service, providing assessment; and where a diagnosis of Aspergers Syndrome, is made, access to a range of support including occupational therapy, family therapy and individual psychology services.

People over the age of 30 will be offered an assessment only, as the service develops this may be reconsidered.

20. If you have got an established local diagnostic pathway, when was the pathway put in place?

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)



Comment

21. How long is the average wait for referral to diagnostic services?

Please report the total number of weeks

Comment

22. How many people have completed the pathway in the last year?

Comment

23. Has the local Clinical Commissioning Group(s)/support services taken the lead in developing the pathway?

- Yes  
 No

Comment

24. How would you describe the local diagnostic pathway, ie Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis or a specialist autism specific service?

- a. *Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis*  
 b. *Specialist autism specific service*

Please comment further

25. In your local diagnostic path does a diagnosis of autism automatically trigger an offer of a Community Care Assessment?

- Yes  
 No

Please comment, i.e. if not who receives notification from diagnosticians when someone has received a diagnosis?

26. What post-diagnostic support (in a wider personalisation perspective, not just assuming statutory services), is available to people diagnosed?

## Care and support

27. Of those adults who were assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and are in receipt of a personal care budget, how many people have a diagnosis of Autism both with a co-occurring learning disability and without?

a. Number of adults assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and in receipt of a personal budget

b. Number of those reported in 27a. who have a diagnosis of Autism but not learning disability

c. Number of those reported in 27a. who have both a diagnosis of Autism AND Learning Disability

### Comment

A total of 1432 adults have been assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and in receipt of a personal budget. Everyone in the above number have been allocated a personal budget within the process - this does not mean that this resulted in the individual being given a individual service fund or direct payment and some services are still Council commissioned. Whilst we have reported that 12 people have a diagnosis of Autism and a Learning Disability under the parameters of question 27, this is not reflective of the number of people with Autism that Thurrock Council work with.

28. Do you have a single identifiable contact point where people with autism whether or not in receipt of statutory services can get information signposting autism-friendly entry points for a wide range of local services?

Yes

No

If yes, please give details

This will be an issue for the Strategy to consider

29. Do you have a recognised pathway for people with autism but without a learning disability to access a community care assessment and other support?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please give details

This is through our community Solutions Team

30. Do you have a programme in place to ensure that all advocates working with people with autism have training in their specific requirements?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Comment

All advocates who work with adults and children with learning disabilities and autism will have received training from The National Autistic Society and Brookdale (specialist Autistic Assessment Hospital). The training includes an understanding of the Adult Autism Strategy and of autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) as life-long conditions that affect how a person communicates with and relates to other people, and affects the way they view the world around them. Our advocates who work with young people with a learning disability, autism and/or mental health problems are experienced in youth work and know how to develop a rapport with young people. They come from a range of cultural backgrounds.

31. Do adults with autism who could not otherwise meaningfully participate in needs assessments, care and support planning, appeals, reviews, or safeguarding processes have access to an advocate?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Comment

Thurrock contract with Pohwer to provide advocacy services to Thurrock people to ensure that they have their voice heard. Pohwer engage fully ensuring that they are known and are fully accessible

32. Can people with autism access support if they are non Fair Access Criteria eligible or not eligible for statutory services?

- Yes  
 No

Provide an example of the type of support that is available in your area.

No but advice and signposting will be given by the Community Solutions Team

33. How would you assess the level of information about local support in your area being accessible to people with autism?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Comment

This needs to be addressed through the strategy.

## Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Comment

We have a Housing Strategy that does focus on the needs of vulnerable people however, more detailed work is required to ensure Autism is fully included.

## Employment

35. How have you promoted in your area the employment of people on the Autistic Spectrum?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

### Comment

Our ULO Thurrock Centre for Independent Living (TCIL) whom we contract with to provide support with work skills and employment training to Learning Disabled people and people with Autism, called World of Work. They have made partnerships with the Disability Employment Advisors at the Job Centre and have received referrals. TCIL have also made links with the local large shopping centre and attended the job fair with a stall to promote the work and for people with a learning disability and autism to meet potential employers and discuss the possibility of paid work. TCIL also work in collaboration with other organisations and local schools regarding transition work.

### 36. Do transition processes to adult services have an employment focus?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

### Comment

This is a key element of the Transition Strategy and implementation process.

## Criminal Justice System (CJS)

### 37. Are the CJS engaging with you as a key partner in your planning for adults with autism?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

### Comment

Not at present but we will engage with the CJS as part of the implementation of the strategy

## This marks the end of principal data collection.

### Can you confirm that the two requirements for the process to be complete have been met?

a. Have you inspected the pdf output to ensure that the answers recorded on the system match what you intended to enter?

Yes

b. Has the response for your Local Authority area been agreed by the Autism Partnership Board or equivalent group, and the ratings validated by people who have autism, as requested in the ministerial letter of 5th August 2013?

Yes

The data set used for report-writing purposes will be taken from the system on 30th September 2013.

The data fill will remain open after that for two reasons: to allow entry of the dates on which Health and Well Being Boards discuss the submission and to allow modifications arising from this discussion to be made to RAG rated or yes/no questions.

**Please note** modifications to comment text or additional stories entered after this point will not be used in the final report.

What was the date of the meeting of the Health and Well Being Board that this was discussed?

Please enter in the following format: 01/01/2014 for the 1st January 2014.

Day

Month

Year