



Autism Self Evaluation

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?

3

Comment

There are currently three CCGs covering Warwickshire - Coventry and Rugby CCG, South Warwickshire CCG & Warwickshire North CCG.

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?

Working collaboratively with Coventry City Council to develop a diagnostic pathway for adults. This work also includes joint learning and development opportunities eg: Practitioner training focussing on theory and application to support people with autism and training for GPs and General Practice staff. Other areas of partnership working have included creative consultation sessions within 11 specialist schools and colleges across Warwickshire and Coventry to obtain views from children and young adults on future services and support. Further projects are being scoped in regard to working sub-regionally with Coventry & Solihull exploring flexible higher learning opportunities utilising local schools and colleges to avoid costly out of county college placements and supporting young adults to maintain and sustain local community connections.

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.

Becky Hale (All Age Disabilities - Service Manager) (beckyhale@warwickshire.gov.uk - tel: 01926 742003) reporting to Head of Strategic Commissioning. Holds overall joint strategic commissioning responsibility for all age disability services including physical disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health services. Operational service manager for disability including adults with autism and young people in transition is currently Doris Sheridan (interim).

4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Warwickshire's autism needs assessment and outcomes of the three month public consultation process have been completed as a key requirement of our local strategy development and these will be incorporated into our local JSNA when it is reviewed and updated next year (2014) by the Health and Wellbeing board.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

As an outcome of the needs assessment exercise, we have recently reviewed and improved our internal data collection processes and have now included a classification for autism on our client management system (Carefirst). This will enable us to collect accurate data on adults with autism who have accessed social care services. Currently, data is not recorded annually but collected as and when a person with a diagnosis of autism has a social care assessment undertaken. There is currently adhoc data sharing with health and this will be improved through the diagnostic pathway project whereby health practitioners will be required to collect and share local data on adults with a diagnosis as part of the pathway model.

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?

350

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

237

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

4

Comment

As a result of conducting a local needs assessment for people with autism in Warwickshire and as part of the internal data collection processes review, a new classification for Autism has been included onto our client management system (Carefirst) which will enable us to collect more up to date accurate data on people with autism in Warwickshire.

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

- Yes
 No

If yes, how is this demonstrated?

Warwickshire's All Age Autism Strategy is currently being developed and will incorporate a local needs assessment which sits alongside the public consultation undertaken concurrently. The strategy brings together data across partners to improve our understanding of the needs of people with ASD in Warwickshire and will supplement the qualitative insight offered by the consultation. It addresses the demographic picture of Warwickshire including prevalence, needs and both the supply and utilisation of relevant services in the county.

8. What data collection sources do you use?

- Red
 Red/Amber
 Amber
 Amber/Green
 Green

Comment

As part of the needs assessment exercise which will form part of the All Age Autism Strategy, we have reviewed & improved our internal data collection systems and now include a classification for autism on our Client Management System (CareFirst). It has proved more difficult to collect data from health practitioners as GPs do not currently collect data and there is no local register available, although this will be addressed through the development and implementation of local diagnostic pathway. Our current data sources include both local and national research, statistics and data sources: Adults - National Autistic Society, Office of National Statistics, Department of Health's (PANSI) Projecting Adult Needs and Services Information system, adult social care CareFirst (Client management system) and for children - School Census, Assessment, Statementing and Reviewing Service (ASRS), Integrated Disability Service (IDS) - deliver local internal services and support to children and young people with disabilities.

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

Warwickshire's All Age Autism Strategy is still under development. The needs assessment and public consultation to inform the strategy were completed by end of July 2013. Our local CCGs are fully aware of the development of the strategy and have been regularly consulted during the planning stages. First draft of the strategy will be ready by the end of September, whereby a further short consultation process is planned during Oct & Nov with an aim to confirm strategic objectives and commissioning intentions with all key stakeholders including engagement with CCGs. Once the strategy has been signed off by WCC cabinet in Feb 2014, a local Autism Partnership Board will be formed to implement & monitor the progress of the strategy and will include representation from CCG groups or CCG business support unit. The local Clinical Commissioning groups have been involved in agreeing and endorsing & monitoring the progress of the diagnostic pathway model and implementation through the clinical reference 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.

Warwickshire recently conducted a three month consultation process to inform Warwickshire's All Age Autism strategy using a range of engagement methods to engage with a cross section of people on the autistic spectrum. These methods included: Creative consultation sessions - We recognised that for some people with autism, especially children and young people, completing questionnaires or taking part in groups would be a barrier to participation in the consultation process, so we explored a less language based approach. We commissioned an artist, after a rigorous application and selection process, to deliver 11 workshops in the County's non mainstream schools and colleges. Again, working under the overarching theme of 'What's important to me' and focussing on the questionnaire headings, using a mannequin and a variety of arts materials, the artist worked with participants to create a visual story or image that was photographed and then used as a tool to explore experiences and aspirations.

147 children and young people participated over the 11 sites, with a gender split of 114 male and 33 female. Following on from this process, a best practice article has been recently published in the Social Care Guardian and Arts Professional publications and a public exhibition is currently being held at a Warwickshire Art Gallery to display a selection of the images.

Twitter account created: a specific Twitter account was set up to spread the word about the consultation process and allow people to interact with us and give their views. This was particularly important as we are aware of the high usage of social media amongst young people. At the time of this submission we have sent 42 tweets and have 120 followers. This was a useful medium as people tweeted and shared the consultation links, thus helping us reach more people.

Autism Partnership Board - once the strategy has been developed, a multi-agency strategic group including people with autism and family/parent carers will be responsible for monitoring and tracking progress of the implementation of the strategy.

Questionnaires: To ensure we had as wide as reach as possible we developed two separate questionnaires (Children and young people under 16 years and a generic version which anyone could respond to. Both versions were co-produced by people with autism and family carers under the overarching theme of 'What's important to me' and were available on line and in paper format. The website which hosted both on line surveys was designed by an adult with Aspergers syndrome. 343 surveys were completed - 268 generic surveys & 75 under 16 surveys. Focus groups - Ensuring that family/parent carers were able to input into the consultation process was an important aspect, four parent /carer groups were attended across the County . This also provided an opportunity for 1:1 dialogue on the key themes for the consultation. Another positive outcome from the consultation was that 120 people have expressed an interest in getting involved in implementing, monitoring and reviewing the strategy.

Other areas where people with autism and family/parent carers have been involved include:

- Recruitment and selection panel for autism specialist social worker for Adult Autism Team.

- Tender Evaluation Panel for commissioning creative artist - 4 young adults with autism from the Wacky Forum were involved in participating in a tender evaluation panel. This comprised of each shortlisted artist conducting a 30 minute workshop with the panel members and the panel then using a scoring matrix to rate each of the artists. Their contribution to the tender process equated to 38% of the overall score.

- Positive about Autism 'Train the Trainer' programme - Fifteen adults with Autism and family/parent carers of people with autism from Warwickshire have completed training to provide them with the skills to become co-facilitators delivering training to a wide range of front line health and social care staff. As someone who has autism or supports someone with autism they have a unique perspective and are seen as 'Experts by Experience'.

Following the training in June 2013, participants will be involved in co-delivering a rolling programme of Autism Awareness training sessions with an experienced trainer during September 2013 to March 2014, sharing their lived experiences of autism.

The National Autistic Society are providing the support function to the participants who will, over time further develop this work by supporting participants to lead training sessions and look at developing a future social enterprise model. This would mean that collectively as a group they will have the opportunity to become an independent training body.

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.

Warwickshire have recently updated and reviewed customer access to the community care assessment process. Social care workers within the autism team work co-productively with customers to include specific details within a customer's support plan. Each customer's support plan will provide clear information and details in regard to any areas where reasonable adjustments are required and then the team will work with providers to implement any reasonable adjustments and support them to have a level of understanding of the customer's needs and support, including any suggested coping strategies and mechanisms. The team also engage with customers using mobile phones (text messages) and emails providing a range of communication methods.

Warwickshire's contracting and procurement processes ensure that within each service specification there are clear expectations of the service as well as guidance outlining the required level of skills and knowledge to work with a particular client group. This is closely monitored through our contract monitoring processes and peer review programme (which involves people who use services and family carers who conduct quality assessment audits for all social care services) and through our customer review processes.

EXAMPLE from social worker (Adult Autism & Asperger Team):

I was allocated to AH to conduct a social care needs assessment as a follow up of the referral made to the Adult Autism and Asperger Team. AH is in his early 20's, has a diagnosis of Autism and epilepsy, he lives with his mother and sister in a council ground floor flat. AH at the point of referral was sleeping on the lounge sofa, unemployed and not in education. He was depressed, anxious and not managing to engage with the Job Centre appointments as he found the environment uncomfortable to be in due to his sensory needs. I was able to establish a good relationship with AH and we met at times that were convenient to him and his mother who was his main carer. During the assessment AH informed me that he wanted to get a job, live independently and have friends with similar interests in the local community as he felt socially isolated.

AH relied on his mother for support to manage his finances and to attend any medical or job appointments which was putting a strain on her as she was now working full time. It was apparent that AH needed support to apply for housing and to look for a job starting with voluntary work placements as he had disclosed that he was not keen to get back to education. AH had limited living skills and would benefit from learning to cook easy meals as he was relying on his mother to provide snacks for him before she went to work. AH was also not able to manage his finances. A referral was made to the Supporting Independence service for support with cooking and budgeting and he was able to gain support weekly by having two sessions for 12 weeks.

AH was asked for his thoughts after the 12 weeks support had ended and he said "It was good, I learnt to cook a lot of new things. I had help with budgeting too as this is not one of my strong points".

AH was referred to WEST (Warwickshire Employment Support Team) for support with looking for a job and he was able to start attend a job club every Wednesday. This enabled him to receive support to look for specific roles like cleaning and ware house work which he had previous experience in.

He was able to practise for interviews and receive support from his peers who were in the same situation of looking for employment. AH said "West have got me three interviews this week, that's loads more than Remploy. They support me to interviews as well, as sometimes I get stuck when I'm talking".

In order to ensure that AH had ongoing support that would help him achieve his goal of living independently in the community a referral was made to KEY RING. The service offers a network of support to customers living in the area to meet up for social opportunities and also have an allocated key worker who supports the individual to manage their daily life. AH needed support with registering on the Council Housing list and support to manage his daily routine with regards to appointments and maintaining the skills he was supported to learn initially by the Supporting Independence service which included cooking and budgeting.

AH spoke about his experience with KEY RING and said "It's better than what I thought it would be. I thought it would only last for a couple of weeks. I can speak to people better, though I still get nervous. I have been going to the Hub (Bromford's Hub at Leamington Town Hall where Key Ring Members meet every Friday) and met my new best friend D. I speak to most people there and we sometimes play football in the park.

I have just enrolled on a beginners computer course with my key worker's support. I am happy as he will also support me with my medical appointments. I am happy with the way life's going at the moment."

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.

Childrens social work teams will identify young people who will require ongoing support into adulthood. Two six monthly multi-agency meetings are held to discuss each case and then agree on timescales for transition and identify who will take responsibility for working with the young person. Restrictions which apply which relate to FACS eligibility criteria which determines an individual's level of need. In Warwickshire our current practice states that we have a duty to provide services to individuals who have been assessed as having critical or substantial needs. People who do not meet this level of need are signposted by social care teams to universal services and support within their local communities.

Warwickshire has been reviewing its transitions process and have developed a short term improvement action plan which will be implemented and a planned consultation is being scoped to obtain people's views on the planned improvements.

Further work is needed to understand and co-ordinate a process so that we are fully aware of the numbers & support needs of younger adults with autism (often these people have not had a diagnosis) and who attend mainstream schools and out of county placements, leaving care team & careers service.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The local needs assessment has been developed to inform an all age autism strategy (which includes older people), data and information has been collected and addresses the demographic picture of Warwickshire including prevalence, needs and both the supply and utilisation of relevant services in the county. The autism classification on our internal Client management system will assist us to capture data on customers with autism including older people. Autism Awareness training is made available to a wide range of staff including those who work with in older people's services as well as the Positive About Autism 'Train the Trainer' programme which involves people with autism co-delivering autism awareness training sessions to staff from all social care client groups (including staff who deliver services and support to older people). As the strategy is being implemented, the action plan will further identify areas where more work is required eg: reasonable adjustments, in particular to meet the needs of older people with autism.

The social work teams also work with older carers looking at future plans for the cared for person, identifying support and services and the carers wishes which may become relevant in the future for the individual. Providing peace of mind and security for the carer and other family members.

The council is looking at a customer's presenting needs to identify an individual's primary needs and then determine through the assessment process the appropriate services and support. This will be pertinent for older people whereby the council will have a clear policy and guidance for teams.

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.

During the period, (1st April 2012-31st March 2013), Warwickshire have delivered 39 Autism Awareness sessions, 359 people attended the training from a range of children and adults social care & health teams, service providers & library service. Positive About Autism 'Train the Trainer' programme - Fifteen adults with Autism and family/parent carers of people with autism from Warwickshire have completed training to provide them with the skills to become co-facilitators delivering training to a wide range of front line health and social care staff. As someone who has autism or supports someone with autism they have a unique perspective and are seen as 'Experts by Experience'. Following the training in June 2013, participants will be involved in co-delivering a rolling programme of Autism Awareness training sessions with an experienced trainer during September 2013 to March 2014, sharing their lived experiences of autism. The National Autistic Society are providing the support function to the participants who will, over time further develop this work by supporting participants to lead training sessions and look at developing a future social enterprise model. This would mean that collectively as a group they will have the opportunity to become an independent training body. To date: 104 places have been booked on the 8 planned sessions - (Sept 2013-March 2014) attendees range from children and adults health and social care staff, voluntary sector organisations, local providers & Criminal Justice System.

Warwickshire are also exploring e-learning opportunities as part of the intention to develop a suite of training tools.

Practitioner training - Working with People with Autism: Skills for Multidisciplinary Practitioners in Coventry & Warwickshire has been developed jointly with Coventry City Council and sessions have been delivered over 8 sessions (July-Nov 2013). To date: Warwickshire have been allocated 40 places - 15 places booked so far.

Once the All Age Autism Strategy has been implemented in early 2014, one of the key strategic objectives includes - 'Increasing Awareness and Understanding' - this will incorporate a set of future commissioning intentions including the development of a local autism training plan.

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

From April 1st 2012 - 31st March 2013, Autism Awareness sessions were attended by: 359 health and social care staff, service providers and library staff - over 39 sessions.

As mentioned in the reponse to Q15 - Warwickshire is working in partnership with Coventry City Council to offer Practitioner training to all adult social care practitioners. This training is available to all staff who carry out statutory assessments and the programme includes:

*Learning outcomes of programme: Enabling practitioners to be confident in co-producing an assessment with a person with Autism.
Understand the impact of the Autism Act 2009 and how it relates to their role*

Be aware of the work and priorities of the Local Implementation Board for Autism in Coventry and equivalent for Warwickshire

Recognise that a person has Autism and understand the characteristics of Autism

Explain how the FACs criteria can be applied to the person with Autism

Practice the skills to enable the successful co-production of the person centred assessment

Start to develop a learning resource of tools, techniques and strategies to use in their role

Reflect on their learning and identify how this will impact on their practice

Sessions being held: 8 sessions (July-Nov 2013)

Warwickshire have been allocated 40 places - 15 places booked so far.

Further learning & development sessions will be developed as part of the local strategy implementation whereby a detailed training plan will identify future key areas for learning and development.

Warwickshire have recently applied for further funding through the Winter Pressures programme to look at providing the Learning Disability Occupational Therapists with training enabling them to complete sensory assessments of customers with autistic spectrum disorders.

The goal of this training would be to support people to live more independently & increase participation. This would enable the identification of needs which are not social care and when appropriate liaise with health and other agencies to meet needs. This will provide a rationale for interventions and provide potentially cost effective solutions for individuals.

The training would also provide increased knowledge and skills for OTs and the wider social care team, recognising that the numbers of this customer group are increasing as more people are being diagnosed. By increasing knowledge and skills within the adult team we will be able to support transition from children's to adult services making this a positive experience for young people.

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.

Warwickshire & Coventry are jointly working with the local CCGs to support the training of G.Ps and General Practice staff to understand Autism with information on their information portal and support in undertaking the screening and applying the pathway. This work will be prioritised as part of the development & implementation of the local diagnostic pathway over the next 12 months.

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

Yes

No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

Information on multi-agency autism learning and development programmes are promoted and publised widely and our mailing lists include criminal justice services however to date, there has been low take-up to these programmes. We recognise that further work is needed to engage more effectively with the CJS and our autism training plan highlights this as an area where the 'Train the Trainer' programme could prove really beneficial to those staff who work within CJS.

To date: there are 3 staff from CJS who are attending the planned sessions with further targetted promotion and publicity being undertaken to increase take up.

Nigel Archer - CJS Development Coordinator.

All of the police forces who have taken the training and S&W Probation have placed links to the download advice documents which he has created on their intranet sites for use by staff.

All the training delivered is contextualised to the specific roles who receive it based on my prior experience in the CJS and is not just awareness but provides advice and guidance pertinent to their role.

Warwickshire Police have a number of trainers trained by Nigel Archer in a training package which they have been or are still delivering to operational staff.

During May 2013, staff from Warwickshire Probation Trust and Warwickshire Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) Staff received training.

Staffordshire & West Midlands Probation Trust -arranged 3 Autism Awareness seminars (July 2011-October 2012) for staff across SWM PT approximately 137 colleagues attended.

A number of these seminars have also been arranged on a more local level and in total over 200 members of our staff have received this training.

On 10th October 2013, Nigel will be delivering training to all operational Probation Officers in the Warwickshire Probation Trust. A small number have already had a shortened input in a workshop as part of a larger conference. They only number around 120 staff and not all of these are operational, so there wil be approximately 70 -100 staff attending this training.

Information received from Warwickshire Police:

Officer Safety Training (Version 15.2) which included information on autism was delivered was training in 2011/12, 830 officers received this training.

Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Please provide further comment.

Warwickshire are working in partnership with Coventry City Council to develop and implement a local diagnostic pathway for adults with autism. The proposed model is inclusive of G.P engagement and includes a triage process and access to a support pathway and community care assessment. We are currently waiting for the CCG to include this as part of their commissioning intentions and contract of the local health provider for the diagnostic function itself. This model is reflective of good practice and is in the process of being evaluated by Sheffield Hallam University who have already shown support of the model and the sustainable approach to a local pathway. It is envisaged that the pathway model will be piloted for a six month period starting from Autumn 2013, with a number of adults with autism and will also provide an opportunity to familiarise & skill the workforce. Following the pilot, a full evaluation process will be undertaken to review and gain feedback from service users/carers, review impact, capacity and ensuring it is fit for purpose, before the model is embedded into everyday work practices.

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

As mentioned in response to Question 19 - a test model pathway will be piloted for six months commencing Autumn 2013.

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

Please report the total number of weeks

Comment

Warwickshire do not currently have a formal diagnostic pathway, as mentioned in response to Q19, a model is being developed and piloted.

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

Comment

As the model pathway has only recently been developed and not yet tested, I am unable to respond to this question until the post pilot evaluation process has been undertaken.

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

- Yes
 No

Comment

The Arden Cluster CCG business support unit have been jointly involved with Warwickshire & Coventry local authority Autism Leads in developing the pathway model which was recently approved by the local clinical reference group as well as the proposed six month pilot period to test the model. The local health provider has also been heavily involved in designing the model and undertaking capacity modelling.

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

The response for this question relates to the proposed new pathway model detailed in question 19. We have developed a specialist diagnostic pathway however the principle following diagnosis will be to direct individuals back into mainstream services for ongoing support eg: LD, MH. Autism specialist will continue to provide advice and guidance to mainstream teams but will not hold caseloads.

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?

The proposed new model pathway includes an offer of a community care assessment.

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

Post diagnostic support currently includes access to all mainstream services and reasonable adjustments are made when necessary to ensure that the services are personalised to the individual.

For social care support, if an individual meets Warwickshire's FACS (Fair Access to Care Services criteria) they will be offered a Personal Budget. The individual can choose how to spend their personal budget to meet their needs. One way this budget can be taken is via a Direct Payment. This allows the individual to have more choice and control on arranging their own care and support to meet their needs. Warwickshire's Directory is an online provision providing details of all services and support available across Warwickshire whereby people can exercise choice and control in sourcing their own care and support.

The council through managed budgets can also support an individual to arrange services and support.

Supporting People (housing related support) is offered to individuals to support them to maintain their own tenancies, budgeting and bill management and environmental issues.

WEST (Warwickshire Employment Support Team) provide support to access voluntary or paid employment.

Supporting Independence Service - (SIS) provide short term (up to 12 weeks) service to individuals focussing on promoting and sustaining independence.

Community Hubs provide a range of information and advice on local services and support including community facilities.

Advocacy services are available for individuals who require an independent person to act on their behalf or support the person with decision making.

IDS (Integrated Disability Service) offer parents Autism Awareness sessions post diagnosis, to offer support and advice on how to support a child with autism and live with autism.

Warwickshire are also currently researching service models which would support vulnerable adults who do not meet the FACS eligibility to access time limited intervention support services. This model would include adults with autism.

Warwickshire's All Age Autism Strategy will provide further detail on commissioning intentions for future services and support including post diagnostic support.

[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

5647

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

63

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

135

Comment

No further comments.

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

Initially individuals with autism can make contact with the council's Customer Service Centre, the person will be initially screened and then signposted to either the Access (duty) team or the South Learning Disability team. Depending on the enquiry, individuals are either signposted by social work teams to voluntary and community sectors organisations who offer a range of information and advice or a community care assessment is arranged.

It is envisaged that the Community Hubs will be asked to provide this service as part of the All Age Autism Strategy. There are currently six community hubs located across Warwickshire, providing information and advice to adults with LD and their families/carers on a range of local services and support. Due to the broadness of the Autism spectrum, the community hubs are already supporting people with LD who also have autism. Future plans for developing this service will include a local contact point for people with autism and their families and provide signposting to local services and support.

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

Warwickshire have a dedicated adult Autism & Asperger team which includes one social worker and two social care workers for adults who support people to complete assessments and support plans to meet their needs. There is a recognised pathway for people with autism to follow in order to obtain a community care assessment and other support. The pathway includes a screening process to determine level of priority which then defines which social work team can best address the presenting need of the individual. The social care team will work co-productively with the individual to enable them to source the right services and support to meet their needs.

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

The council offers autism awareness training which is available to a wide range of agencies and organisations including advocacy services. The council contracts with an advocacy organisation who offer support to people with autism who as part of their contract requirements with the council ensure that all their staff have completed Autism awareness training.

The council's contracting and procurement processes outline in the service specification the training requirements and levels of skills required to provide this particular service. This is then monitored as part of the council's contract monitoring processes and checked through peer review quality audits.

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

Warwickshire refer people with autism to advocacy services if following initial assessment the individual requires the support to engage in the assessment and support planning process, appeals, reviews or safeguarding processes. All advocacy organisations are invited to attend Autism Awareness training and Positive About Autism 'Train the Trainer' sessions.

The advocacy organisation who currently have a contract with the council do ensure that all their staff undertaken autism awareness training (49 in total). Staff training requirements are also detailed in the service specifications and are monitored through the council's contract monitoring processes.

As part of the council's contractual arrangements with advocacy providers we stipulate if specific training is required. Where appropriate we involve an IMCA and support best interest decisions where adults with autisms lack capacity and where appropriate, family members may act as advocates.

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.

Currently we do not offer social care services to people with autism who do not meet our FACS eligibility criteria. These individuals are signposted to voluntary and community sector organisations who are able to provide support services, information and advice. This is currently being reviewed as part of the Transitions review project with a focus on early intervention and preventative services to reduce the numbers and costs of long term care.

The council are required through the Care and Support Bill 2013, to signpost those people who are not eligible for services and support to external voluntary and community sector organisations and then review the outcome for the individual.

As outlined in response to Q26, Warwickshire are currently researching service models which would support vulnerable adults who do not meet the FACS eligibility to access time limited intervention support services. This model would include adults with autism.

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

Warwickshire Service Directory:

The rating for this question is based on the fact that the service directory is web based and is reliant on the individual to have access to a computer. Although there is provision within the local community eg: community hubs and libraries whereby an individual can access the internet. Warwickshire Directory provides on line detailed information on range of universal services and support available across Warwickshire.

The directory includes a range of services from home care and residential care provider, day opportunities, local support networks, supported living providers. The general public can also access information on local events or activities within their locality. There is the facility for customers to inform the directory team if they cannot find what they are searching for. The team will investigate within the directory whether this service is available and if needed would highlight any service gaps to relevant commissioners or market facilitation team.

Also information is widely available in other formats eg paper through a range of voluntary and community sector organisations across Warwickshire.

Customer & carer engagement within services, community networks and customer reviews identify areas where information needs to be made more accessible. These views are fed into the customer engagement team who disseminate to relevant teams and then ensure that changes are made and fed back to the customer.

Community Hubs also hold a wide range of information on services and support and can signpost people to community services. As well as having access to the on line service directory.

The six community hubs across Warwickshire already provide information and advice to people with LD who also have autism. But future plans for this service will also include people with ASD and their families.

As part of the recent consultation on the All Age Autism strategy, people with autism and their families told us that the council needs to be more transparent about information sharing and making information about services and support more readily available in a range of formats. This will be addressed as part of the strategy implementation.

Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Warwickshire are currently developing an Accommodation Strategy which will include commissioning intentions for housing and accommodation options for customers including specialist housing for people with disabilities and autism.

There is currently a 9 site tender process being undertaken with sites identified across the county with opportunities for developments of specialist housing including autism.

Further work is being scoped in regard to collecting local housing needs data for people with autism as part of a wider needs analysis to understand the current and future housing needs of our local population.

We are also currently in discussions with Solihull regarding potential joint housing development opportunities for people with high support needs including people with autism.

Employment

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

Autism Awareness training is made available to a wide range of agencies and organisations including local employers. To date take up is low and we recognise this is an area which we need to focus on within the All Age Autism strategy. The strategy will highlight the need for more promotion and awareness with local employers to recognise the benefits of employing people with autism.

Social care workers have provided support to specific customers to work with employers and the Job centre to provide strategies for individuals to gain and maintain employment.

WEST (Warwickshire Employment Support Team) also work with local employers to raise awareness of people on the autistic spectrum in particular around making reasonable adjustments and promoting the benefits of employing people with autism. WEST promote employment of people with autism using a variety of methods including: social networking sites, Twitter and Facebook, Job Fairs, working with careers service, working in schools and at transition events including colleges and through supported internships. There are close working relationships between social work teams and WEST including local service providers and work programme providers like local job centres, CDA & JHP.

WEST have supported 31 people with autism over the past 12 months: 16 are in employment into a variety of job roles including: administrative, gardening, warehouse operatives, kitchen porter, domestic and college student support roles.

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

- Red
 Amber
 Green

Comment

The Self Directed Support process includes access to work and learning opportunities which are explored within the assessment and support planning processes with the individual.

Employment is a key priority indicator identified by the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework which each local authority has to demonstrate progress and outcomes for individuals on an annual basis called the Local Account.

WEST offer work based training which includes, work place conduct, preparation for work skills, interview techniques. This training is accredited by: Edexcel and sessions are arranged across the county at various locations. WEST have also made links with a local provider and the Job Centre to identify possible routes to employment and preparation for work skills.

WEST have been working in partnership with Hereward College in Coventry to support young people with autism into work placements and paid employment.

It is acknowledged that further work is required to look at working with younger adults working through transition in order to offer work placements/internships and opportunities for developing social enterprises.

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

Autism Awareness 'Train the Trainer' programme is available to all local organisations and agencies including CJS. Attendees for these sessions running from March-Sept 2014, include staff who work within CJS - to date 3 people from the CJS have booked onto the training. Further targetted promotion and publicity is planned to increase take up on the training.

Warwickshire's All Age Autism Strategy will include a section on Awareness and Understanding & Keeping Safe. A local training plan will be developed which will include different levels of learning and development for ASD, a range of organisations and agencies, including CJS will be targetted to attend.

Autism Partnership Board - a multi-agency group will be developed to implement and monitor progress of the Warwickshire's Autism strategy. Group membership will involve senior staff from CJS. Smaller working groups will be developed to focus on key priorities within the strategy including Keeping Safe - membership of these subgroups will include officers/staff from across the CJS.

West Midland Autism Alert Card - approximately 145 cards have been issued to Warwickshire citizens. Information regarding application instructions have been included on WCC website and in our local Learning Disability Partnership Board Newsletter. Further promotion and publication is planned as part of implementing the strategy.

Safe Places Scheme - Warwickshire is working in partnership with Warwickshire Police to implement the scheme across Warwickshire. Safe Places are local places where local people can go for help and support if they feel unsafe within their local communities. PCSOs work with people with LD to review each of the Safe Places which include libraries, supermarkets, cinemas, leisure centres, local shops and cafes etc. The scheme is being rolled out across Warwickshire with 3 month pilots in each district and borough. To date there are over 60 Safe Places in Leamington, Warwick, Stratford and Rugby. With pilots planned for Nuneaton and Bedworth in November and North Warwickshire from Jan 2014. The scheme will be fully operational across Warwickshire by June 2014.

Awareness raising programme is being planned for Autumn 2013, within all Warwickshire schools to raise awareness of the scheme to all children.

Optional Self-advocate stories**Self-advocate stories.**

Up to 5 stories may be added. These need to be less than 2000 characters. In the first box, indicate the Question Number(s) of the points they illustrate (may be more than one). In the comment box provide the story.

Self-advocate story one

Question number

37

Comment

Safe Places Champion (adult with autism)

A Safe Place is where you can go, to report a hate crime and ask for help it can be a place like a shop, supermarket or a caf You know when they are a Safe Place as they have a sticker in their window.

When you go into a Safe Place you show them your hate crime card, which has your contact details on, and also includes any health or communications needs.

I became a Safe Place Champion for Safe Places because I want to speak up for people with learning disabilities. I also live in the area where the safe places scheme is being piloted so I know the area well.

I want to help change people's views and attitudes about people with learning disabilities.

Everybody should feel safe when out and about. I feel that I have made a difference already as I raise awareness about learning disabilities. Being involved helps to make my community safer, I feel that my views about hate crime are listened too, as I have experience of being in these types of situations.

My role involves me working with the PCSO, also known as a Police Community Support Officer. We look at finding places to become safe places. We visit these places and we tell them all about the safe places scheme and ask them if they would like to come on board.

After 3 months we then go out again to review to check how the safe place is getting on and to make sure they have all the information and help they need.

As part of my role as a Safe Places Champion I also carry out Mystery Shopping Visits to the registered Safe Places to check that they are supporting people in the right way. This involved me using acting and going into the Safe Place and telling staff that I need help or support because of being harassed or verbally abused. Following the visits the Safe Place is given feedback and we will then work together to make sure that vulnerable people get the right help and support.

Being a Safe Place Champion has given me more confidence and more self - esteem as I have the chance to speak to Staff at the Safe Places and also work alongside the Police Community Support Officer to carry out reviews and monitor the Safe Places.

I think the Safe Place is a wonderful scheme because it is going to reduce crime for people with learning disabilities. Everybody should feel safe when out and about.

Self-advocate story two

Question number

10

Comment

Young person with autism

Interviewing Artists for Warwickshire County Council's Creative Consultation on the All Age Autism Strategy

My job role was to interview the artists and see how they coped with people that have autism (and might have just got diagnosed) and give them the support they need. The artist who was picked by the young person's panel would be working with children and young people in schools and colleges to ask them what they thought about the council's autism strategy. The interviewees showed good techniques and initiative because they gave each of us tasks to complete and we could ask for help if needed. After each interviewee completed their workshop with us, we all went into a different room and filled out a questionnaire and spoke about what we liked and didn't like.

I liked that there is going to be a new person that would work directly with children and young people with autism and that I could benefit from some of the questions that they asked. When I was asked to do the interviews I was nervous because I had never done this before but throughout the day my nerves went. The bit I felt uncomfortable with was when the questions came at the start, asking about what autism means because I had no idea of what it meant until recently. I felt doing this by myself would have put more pressure on me doing the tasks and answering the questions but having it in a group I didn't feel as much pressure because everyone was taking part.

I really enjoyed it and I would like to do it again but I didn't like putting pressure on interviewees and talking about them. I think it was good that the Council asked our support person to find people with autism to see if they could work with the interviewees before they got the job.

Self-advocate story three

Question number

35

Comment

Ups and downs of being in Employment with Asperger's Syndrome. (Adult with Asperger's Syndrome)

I have been in employment for almost 11 years, I started in a food preparation factory for 18 months. Then moved to a Supermarket for almost 10 and some of my employers (Line managers) have made it very stressful for me. The work they give me has been very easy so much so I don't need to think much about how to do them. My tasks while there include fetching in shopping trolleys, loading shelves, cleaning up any mess that has happened by the cash machine Trolley area.

From August 2008 - November 2010 I had a supervisor that I feel took an immediate disliking to me. She tried to make my job as difficult as possible for me. By early summer 2010 I decided that I couldn't cope anymore so I spoke up about how she was treating me to my key worker in the support to work program work step. I felt like no matter what I did just wasn't going to be good enough for her. She got very personal with me about my life and interests in front of my colleagues in the staff room.

When my parents found out they suggested kept a log of every incident that happened when she was on shift so I did. November 2010 was the final straw and I decided that the best thing would be to go off with stress. I went in with my Dad a week later to discuss with the grocery manager and he moved me over to provisions. I felt relief on the first few months but when I got to April and was still just filling milk and collecting trolleys I felt like this was going to be it forever.

From November 2012 I have been working for an advocacy project which is all about giving people with learning disabilities help to speak up for themselves. I have done something different every week and I have learned a lot from doing that kind of work I am treated as an equal whilst there by my colleagues.

When I was told that I had been successful with the post I was just so relieved that I was going to be working in a different environment. It meant I was able to reduce the time I was at the supermarket. Almost a year has passed and I am still feeling really happy in my advocacy job and I still get on brilliantly with the staff there and have done a lot of great things.

The team I work with support me really well, they understand about autism and although sometimes they forget they are good at asking me what it is I need.

Self-advocate story four

Question number

Comment

Parent Carer of child with autism - Co-facilitator for Autism Train the Trainer programme.

My main aim in being part of the co-facilitator group is to help raise awareness of Autism on an ongoing basis. I want to get the message out there of what it is like to live with Autism. There are so many misconceptions; everyone is unique.

The initial training in June gave everyone the chance to agree the learning needs of trainees and what was expected of us as trainers. It gave me the chance to stand up in front of an audience (a taste of things to come) and talk about how my family are affected by Autism.

The follow-up meetings have been sporadic as it has been difficult to get the whole group together however; NAS has been supportive and accommodated everyone's needs, offering one to one meetings if agreed dates were inconvenient. During the meetings I had the chance to 'tell my story', whilst gaining valuable feedback from everyone. All stories were powerful and will prove valuable in the training sessions. Everyone benefited; learning from each other's experiences by discussing problems which have arisen through lack of awareness by various professionals. Although none of us were experts in Autistic Spectrum Disorders/Autism, we were experts in living with the condition.

Training people within Social Care will increase their knowledge and understanding of Autism and those with the condition will stand a better chance of accessing the services they need.

As a trainer I hope to give first hand news of the problems which can be encountered in the 'real world.' I want to raise awareness of Aspergers Syndrome and especially PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance) as it is a relatively new condition with more people now being diagnosed. The training will hopefully give them the information they need to help them to understand and communicate effectively with those persons whilst dispelling any misconceptions.

The support given to us as a group from Warwickshire County Council and the National Autistic Society will help us as 'experts with experience' to become an independent body eventually reaching a wider audience e.g. Doctors, Dentists, Fire Service to name a few. Raising awareness can only help our children/young adults in the future, especially with gaining employment. I hope training will become mandatory in all workplaces.

Self-advocate story five

Question number

Comment

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:

1. to allow entry of the dates on which Health and Well Being Boards discuss the submission and
2. 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