

## Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board

20 November 2013

### Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF) 2013

#### Recommendations

For the content of the Autism SAF 2013 to be discussed at the Health & Wellbeing Board.

#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 During August 2013, the Department of Health requested that each local authority complete a second self-assessment to mark progress on the implementation of the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy. It was recommended that the content of the SAF be discussed at the local Health and Well Being board prior to end of January 2014. This local self-evaluation will be used as evidence for local planning and health needs assessment strategy development as well as supporting local implementation work.
- 1.2 This exercise builds on the first self-assessment exercise which looked at what progress had been made since February 2012. This was based around the self-assessment framework which the Department of Health launched in April 2011 to support localities with the delivery of the Adult Autism Strategy and the statutory guidance for health and social care which was issued in December 2010. The individual returns received and related reports from February 2012 can be found at [www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/projects/autsaf2011](http://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/projects/autsaf2011).
- 1.3 The purpose of this year's self-assessment was to:
  - assist local authorities and their partners in assessing progress in implementing the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy;

- see how much progress has been made since the baseline survey, as at February 2012;
- provide evidence of examples of good progress made that can be shared and of remaining challenges.

## **2.0 Process**

2.1 Written notification was received from Norman Lamb on 2 August, an online template was made available and hosted by the IHAL (Improving Health & Lives) Observatory. The deadline for the final submission was **30 September 2013**.

2.2 The self-assessment template consisted of 37 questions divided into 9 sub sections:

- Local authority area
- Planning
- Training
- Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner
- Care & Support
- Housing & Accommodation
- Employment
- Criminal Justice System
- Self Advocate stories – (optional) up to five stories.

2.3 For some questions there was a RAG rating system (Red, Amber, Green) including a scoring criteria. This enabled respondents to highlight areas where progress was limited as well as an opportunity to report actions which have enabled progress. Good practice examples & self advocate stories were also encouraged where actions had made a positive impact on individuals' lives.

## **3.0 Warwickshire's response.**

3.1 Responsibility for consolidation of data and completion of the Autism SAF sat with each local authority, with the 3 Warwickshire CCGs and Arden Cluster Commissioning Support Unit invited to contribute.

3.2 For those questions where RAG ratings were required, no Red ratings were identified and the majority of ratings were either Amber or Green.

3.3 Some examples of green ratings include:

- Engaging people with autism and their carers in planning
- Autism awareness training made available to all staff working in health & social care settings.
- Advocacy services – advocates receiving specific training to work with people with autism. People with autism having access to advocacy services.
- Transition processes to adult services having an employment focus.

3.4 Some areas which highlighted where further actions or improvement is needed include:

- Improving data collection methods for capturing information on numbers of adults with autism in Warwickshire. Possibility of developing an autism register following diagnosis.
- Establishing closer links & engaging more effectively with the Criminal Justice System (CJS) in regard to autism awareness and supporting people with autism through the CJS.

3.5 Areas of work where marked progress is being made include:

- Development of diagnostic pathway for adults with autism – working jointly with Coventry City Council & CCGs. Including exploring E-learning opportunities for GPs and development of an online Autism portal.
- All Age Autism Strategy (2014-2017) – in second phase consultation stage, scheduled for sign off by cabinet in March 2014, followed by the development of an Autism Partnership Board.
- Autism Needs Assessment - recently completed and to be included in Warwickshire's JSNA.
- Autism Trainer programme – working with 15 adults with autism and family carers to become co-facilitators of autism awareness training to frontline health and social care staff. 6 month pilot running from Sept 2013- March 2014.

- Practitioner training (Working with people with autism – Skills for Multi-disciplinary Practitioners) working jointly with Coventry City Council.
- Safe Places Scheme – phased rollout across Warwickshire. Over 60 Safe Places already established in Warwick/Leamington, Stratford and Rugby with the next 3 month pilot in Nuneaton and Bedworth launched on 4 Nov and North Warwickshire scheduled for March 2014.

3.6 The implementation of the All Age Autism strategy from March 2014, will address the majority of the amber ratings through future commissioning intentions which would improve overall ratings in preparation for next year’s self-assessment process.

3.7 Prior to submission on 30 September 2013, the contents of the SAF was presented to a group of people with autism and family carers who ratified the ratings.

#### 4.0 Background Papers

1. Warwickshire’s completed Self Assessment 2013 (PDF) document.
2. Update on development of Warwickshire’s All Age Autism Strategy.

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