

Coventry and Warwickshire Autism Strategy Delivery Plan for 2021/22

Introduction

This Coventry and Warwickshire Autism Strategy Delivery Plan describes the actions that partners have committed to deliver in the first year of the Coventry and Warwickshire Autism Strategy (2021-2022). Partner organisations have identified the resource to deliver this year 1 plan through a combination of local funds and accessing national funding streams made available through the new National Autism Strategy and NHS Long Term Plan.

Reducing waiting times for a diagnostic assessment and improving the offer of pre and post diagnostic support as well as improving the health, care and education offer for autistic people are the main focus of this year 1 delivery plan, reflecting the areas that were identified as the top priority during co-production of the Strategy.

A joint Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection was carried out in Warwickshire between 12 July and 16 July 2021. The inspection identified a number of areas for improvement in the way children and young people with a disability and special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported. Some of the 5 key areas of weakness identified are the long waiting times for ASD assessments, lack of appropriate support for children and young people awaiting assessment and following diagnosis of ASD, lack of uptake of staff training for mainstream primary and secondary school around SEND as well as the quality of the online local offer. The Strategy Delivery Plan for 2021/22 will prioritise addressing of these areas.

Progress against this delivery plan will be monitored through the Coventry and Warwickshire Autism Strategic Steering Group, which includes people with lived experience alongside commissioners and providers of services and support. The Strategic Steering Group will report progress into the Learning Disability and Autism Board, which includes senior executives and directors from the partner organisations to this strategy.

Much of the delivery plan is being delivered across Coventry and Warwickshire, but in some areas of the plan it is appropriate to have a place based approach, to reflect local infrastructure and priorities, for example in the development of specialist education provision. Where there are differences by place, this is specified in the delivery plan as applying to either Coventry or Warwickshire.

This Coventry and Warwickshire Delivery Plan reflects where there is alignment with the National Autism Strategy Implementation Plan priorities for 2021 and 2022, however it is recognised that there is more work to do to reflect the breadth of the national strategy implementation plan and our wider ambitions in the local strategy. Therefore in early 2022, the delivery plan for year 2 will be coproduced with a greater focus on strengthening engagement with wider services and support including employment, housing, communities, criminal justice and transport to reflect both the local and national strategy objectives. Through strengthened partnership governance arrangements, there will be the opportunity for partners to work together to identify how the delivery plan for year 2 will be funded and resourced.

Commitment in Year 1 (2021/22)	Action Owner	Date of completion	Measure of Success	Corresponding National Strategy Priority in 2021/22
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Priority 1 - Support autistic people and people with social, communication and emotional health needs to help themselves pre and post diagnosis

1.1 Spark community action to tackle isolation and loneliness, help people to self-organise and develop their own solutions. Identify existing and potential autism champions in the community and facilitate their support of others.

To be developed in years 2-5

1.2 Promote the importance of early identification of needs related to autism to system partners: Schools, health visitors, nurseries, GPs, mental health professionals, families and community centres; and provide information and advice about how to offer relevant support and adjustments for people with social, communication, sensory and emotional health needs.

Commitment in Year 1	Action Owner	Date of Completion	Measure of Success	Corresponding National Strategy Priority 2021/22
Develop an online information portal for professionals, and scope the potential for an offer of virtual advice and support	Integrated Commissioning/ CWPT	March 2022	Information and advice is easily available that supports professionals to access the most relevant advice and support	We will improve public understanding of autism and inclusion across the public sector Significantly expanding an early identification programme developed in Bradford
Develop online based resources including e-modules and video clips to improve professional's understanding of autism from the perspective of experts with lived experience	Integrated Commissioning / WCC Learning and Development / CWPT	Children and Young People Module – April 2021 Adult Module - November 2021		
Develop a communications pack advising professionals on support available to families across Coventry and Warwickshire	Integrated Commissioning / CWPT / Commissioned Providers	December 2021		
Develop proposals to improve early identification of autism by health visitors, in communities and during health screening for school entrants	WCC	December 2021		

Commitment in Year 1 (2021/22)	Action Owner	Date of completion	Measure of Success	Corresponding National Strategy Priority in 2021/22
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1.3 Make useful information and tools readily available to people and families with needs related to autism, including self-management techniques relating to bullying, anxiety, sleep, social interaction, and sensory needs.				
Develop an online information and advice portal for people and families that is accessible and easy to read and co-produced with experts by experience	Integrated Commissioning / CWPT	March 2022	A range of information resources is available that supports people, families and professionals to access the most relevant advice and support	
Scope the potential for an offer of 121 virtual advice and support	Integrated Commissioning / CWPT	January 2022		
Improve the quality of autism related information provided within the SEND local offer	CWCCG, WCC, CCC	March 2022		
Improve communications to families via commissioned services about support available to them	Integrated commissioning	January 2022		
1.4 Improve the primary care support offer through working with new social prescribing and health and wellbeing roles in Primary Care Networks to develop autism awareness and networks of support, including identifying opportunities to support young adults transitioning from children's services.				
To be developed in delivery plan for years 2-5				

Commitment in Year 1 (2021/22)	Action Owner	Date of completion	Measure of Success	Corresponding National Strategy Priority in 2021/22
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1.5 Increase the support available to people with characteristics linked to autism through the early help and enablement offer. This will maintain people in their own homes, in education and/or employment, in relationships with the people who are important to them and through transitions by connecting people with their communities and supporting them to try new social interactions and achieve their aspirations.				
Re-procure community autism outreach services to provide pre assessment and post diagnostic support for children, young people and adults responding to recommendations from the pilot evaluation and feedback from autistic people and families	Integrated Commissioning	October 2022	Individuals waiting for a neurodevelopmental assessment, those diagnosed with autism and their parents/carers report being aware of where to access information, advice and support that is appropriate to their needs and coordinated, and report positive experiences of support received	
Pilot apps and web-based solutions to support young people and evaluate impact	Integrated Commissioning	Applications in place, evaluation March 2022		
Map need and capacity gaps to increase the variety and accessibility of advice and skilled support for those pre and post assessment.	Integrated Commissioning	November 2021		
Map demand and capacity of Speech and Language Therapy Services to support assessment and interventions	CCC / WCC and CCG	March 2022		

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1.6 Deliver a mixed model of family and carer support for families and carers of autistic people to include conferences, peer support, autism specific parent training and parent coaches to harness the capacity of families.				
Enhance the local offer of autism awareness sessions for parents of autistic individuals	Integrated Commissioning	August 2021	An increased number of parents of autistic individuals are able to access support in the form of autism awareness sessions and make links with peers	
1.7 Identify financial incentives that require people to seek an autism diagnosis and where possible adjust eligibility criteria to focus on need, not diagnosis.				
To be developed during years 2-5				
1.8 Work with housing leads to raise awareness of autism, implement the Autism and Homelessness Toolkit¹, review prioritisation criteria for housing to reduce reliance on the need for an autism diagnosis to access housing and ensure autistic people have access to accommodation that meets their needs.				
Development of a learning disability and autism strategic housing action plan and project delivery group to address key issues and challenges experienced by the autistic population in access to and experience of housing	Integrated Commissioning Team / Warwickshire district and borough housing leads / Coventry City Council housing lead	January 2022	A jointly developed evidence based housing needs assessment for the autistic population;	Working towards the new Affordable Homes Programme's target of 10% of homes being supported housing by 2026
Development of Disabled Facilities Grant protocol for Learning Disabilities and Autism		January 2022	Improved awareness of the DFG funding and how it can support people with autism to adapt their home environments to meet their needs	Raising awareness of the DFG for autistic people, including through exploring key issues and how best to overcome barriers with Foundations (the National Body for Home Improvement Agencies) and key charitable organisations for autistic people

¹ https://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/Autism_Homelessness_Toolkit.pdf

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				Considering autistic people's needs as part of the review of the Building Regulations, undertaking research on inclusive design

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Priority 2: Reduce inequalities for autistic people and make Coventry and Warwickshire autism friendly places to live

2.1 Review service specifications for commissioned services and collect evidence that services and environments are being adjusted for people with autism and/or a learning disability and that personalised support is offered based on need not diagnosis.

Include the requirement to make reasonable adjustments and support people with neurodevelopmental conditions in specifications for MH and CAMHS services	MH and CAMHS commissioners	July 2022	People with autism and their families report improved experience of MH services and this is monitored as part of service delivery.	
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2.2 Through the SEND and Inclusion agenda, promote and champion strong leadership and drive continuous improvement in inclusive practice for autistic children and young people across mainstream and special education settings. Particular focus needs to be given to how autistic young people with autism experience bullying and social isolation.

Evaluate the extended non-attendance in schools pilot and make recommendations to roll out advice to schools	Integrated Commissioning	October 2021	Children and young people with autism are supported to maintain education in mainstream settings by skilled staff that are able to identify and respond to their needs Schools report reduced instances of non attendance linked to autism	Providing funding (£600,000) for autism training and professional development in schools and colleges
Implement the Regional Autism in Schools project	Integrated Commissioning with education leads	September 2021 – August 2022		Engaging with potential providers of training as part of our commitment to recruit and train Designated Mental Health leads in schools
Develop neurodevelopmental liaison input into Mental Health in schools programmes	Integrated Commissioning/ WCC	March 2022		Carrying out a new anti-bullying programme in schools, to improve the wellbeing of children and young people in schools, including those who are autistic
Engage with the national anti-bullying programme in schools	WCC education / CCC education	Timeframes to compliment the national roll out		Ensuring considerations around autism and transitions into adulthood are included in
Offer Autism Education Trust or equivalent autism training for schools	WCC education / CCC education	Throughout 2021/22		

Commitment in Year 1 (2021/22)	Action Owner	Date of completion	Measure of Success	Corresponding National Strategy Priority in 2021/22
				<p>our programme of school and college workforce training</p> <p>Investing £4 million in 2021 to 2022 to roll out the Transforming Care for Children and Young People accelerator programme with the aim of reducing exclusions and preventing avoidable admissions into inpatient care</p>
<p>2.3 Ensure the mental health workforce have the required training, skills and confidence to recognise co-occurring Autism and choose and tailor interventions appropriately. Review risk assessments and develop pathways to more effectively identify and support autistic young people and adults. Consider use of screening tools for autism within mental health assessments for adults and children and ensure that IAPT services, eating disorder services, self-harm pathways and services for people with gender identity concerns include an accessible offer for autistic people.</p>				
<p>Develop neurodevelopmental liaison roles in mental health services to provide specialist advice and support to improve the identification and support of autistic people</p>	CWPT	November 2021	People with autism and their families report being supported by skilled and experienced MH professionals;	We will improve health and care professionals' understanding of autism by continuing to trial and develop the Oliver McGowan
<p>Roll out 8 modules of autism training to mental health services and evaluate impact</p>	CWPT	Throughout 2021 and 2022	MH professionals are able to identify and assess autistic people thus contributing to the assessment process,	Mandatory training on learning disability and autism for all health and adult social care staff
<p>Roll out Oliver McGowan training to all mental health staff and participate in the national evaluation of mandatory training programmes</p>	CWPT	Throughout 2021 and 2022	and are able to support autistic people's needs without the need to signpost them to specialist services	In addition to the Long Term Plan requirement for every ICS to have a named lead, providing £1.25 million in 2021 to 2022 of funding to recruit Champions in autism and learning disability in every Integrated Care System
<p>Recruit Learning Disability and Autism champions, people with lived experience, to work in CWPT</p>	CWPT	January 2022		

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<p>2.4 Expand the work on reducing health inequalities for people with learning disabilities to include autistic people, including piloting annual health checks in primary care and ensuring there is an appropriate offer of support delivered following these checks within community and acute health services. (linked to national pilot through Long Term Plan)</p>				
<p>Annual health checks for autistic people will be piloted in line with the national pilot project</p> <p>Expand the STOMP / STAMP medication reduction programme to include autistic people</p> <p>Implement the 'digital flag' pilot in the patient record for initially 20 people with autism to ensure that health and social staff know a patient has a learning disability or autism.</p>	<p>CWCCG / Primary Care</p> <p>CWPT</p> <p>CWCCG</p>	<p>In line with national timeframes</p>	<p>An increased number of autistic people are aware of and can access annual health checks</p> <p>In increased number of autistic people are provided with alternative forms of support to overmedication</p> <p>An increased number of autistic patients can be identified through a digital flag against their health record to enable reasonable adjustments and appropriate support in health and care services</p>	<p>We will reduce the health inequalities autistic people face</p> <p>Carrying out the LeDeR programme for autistic people without a learning disability for the first time</p> <p>Progressing the NHS Long Term Plan's commitments, which include: Trialling the autism health check, developed by Newcastle University in the North East.</p> <p>Piloting hearing, sight and dental checks for children in special residential schools</p> <p>Introducing Continuing the expansion of the STOMP-STAMP programmes to stop the over-medication of autistic people</p> <p>Working with 12 Early Adopter Sites to trial improved recording of reasonable adjustments (RA) and a 'digital flag' in patient records</p>

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2.5 Promote the benefits of employing autistic people through engaging employing organisations, people with autism and workplace mentors. Support employers and workplaces to become more autism friendly.				
<p>Ensure that local programmes to deliver and improve uptake of supported internships, traineeships and apprenticeships consider the needs of autistic people</p>	<p>WCC, CCC</p>	<p>March 2022</p>	<p>Autistic adults are able to access internships, apprenticeships and permanent work opportunities, are supported to undertake job interviews and maintain employment.</p>	<p>Continue our work to ensure our Jobcentre network is welcoming and supportive to autistic customers, developing and testing new approaches through our Health Model Offices</p>
<p>Promote the rights and employment support available to autistic people, and employers, including the Disability Confident scheme, Looking for Work if Disabled, Access to Work if Disabled.</p>	<p>WCC, CCC</p>	<p>July 2022</p>	<p>DWP support employers to become disability friendly.</p>	<p>Ensuring that through the Disability Confident Scheme, we promote the skills and abilities of autistic people, and signpost employers to resources on supporting autistic people</p>

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2.6 Strategy partners commit to learning from good practice around inclusion and lead by example by becoming autism friendly organisations and employers.				
<p>Collect data on the number of autistic people employed by Local Authorities, the CCG and Provider Trusts to understand current employment rate of autistic people and how this could be improved</p> <p>Promote and support employment of autistic people and those with disabilities, working to progress from Disability Confident level 2 to level 3</p>	<p>WCC, CCC, CWCCG, CWPT</p> <p>WCC (CCC to be confirmed)</p>	<p>June 2022</p> <p>Throughout 2021/2022</p>	<p>Strategy partners can demonstrate increased understanding of adjustments required to support and enable more autistic people to be employed</p>	<p>Collecting data on the number of autistic staff members working across the Civil Service, to gain a better understanding of the employment rate and actions we may need to take to recruit more autistic people</p>
2.7 Develop and disseminate autism awareness training that focuses on practical ways to be autism friendly across community organisations, businesses, services and environments, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education providers (schools, colleges and universities) • Health service providers (primary care, acute) • Social care support and housing providers, drugs and alcohol providers • Police, criminal justice and probation services • Community organisations, arts and leisure, businesses and public transport 				
<p>Develop and deliver Autism awareness online training for staff working with autistic children and young people</p> <p>Develop and deliver an adult autism training module for staff</p> <p>Explore opportunities to engage with the national public understanding and acceptance initiative</p> <p>Engage with the criminal justice, police and probation services to develop plans for training and development of the workforce</p>	<p>Integrated Commissioning</p> <p>Integrated Commissioning</p> <p>All partners</p> <p>Integrated Commissioning</p>	<p>August 2021</p> <p>November 2021</p> <p>From July 2022</p> <p>April 2022</p>	<p>Increasing numbers of professionals are able to access a range of autism awareness training options.</p> <p>Autistic individuals and their families report improved experience of being supported by skilled staff.</p>	<p>We will improve public understanding of autism and inclusion across the public sector</p> <p>We will make transport and communities more autism-inclusive</p> <p>We will improve health and care professionals' understanding of autism</p> <p>We will improve understanding of autism across the criminal and youth justice systems</p>

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2.8 Work with community and third sector organisations to maximise the potential for inclusive access to cultural, sports and leisure opportunities.				
To be developed in years 2-5				Encouraging more autism-friendly programmes in the cultural and heritage sectors Engaging more autistic people in sport and physical activity

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Priority 3: Develop a range of organisations locally with the skills to support autistic people

3.1 Work with charities and other third sector organisations to map the support available for autistic people in local areas and strengthen the enablement offer by ensuring this community support is autism friendly.

To be developed in years 2-5

3.2 Develop local specialist education provision to meet the needs of autistic young people with high support needs. This includes both school age and increasing local options for post 16 provision for autistic young people.

<p>Open the Warwickshire Academy School for 9 to 19 year olds with Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs, including those with Autism</p> <p>Confirm whether any new specialist provision in Coventry</p>	<p>WCC</p>	<p>January 2022</p>	<p>An increased number of school age autistic children and young people benefit from a place in a local specialist school that is meeting their SEMH needs.</p>	<p>Open 37 new special schools including 24 with specific provision for autistic children and young people</p>
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3.3 Develop the market for community and accommodation- based support for autistic people (including short breaks, respite, supported living and residential services) ensuring a personalised approach which promotes independence, autonomy and self-care				
Develop a market position statement and development plan for autistic people and people with a learning disability	Integrated Commissioning	December 2021	Autistic people have greater choice of how and where they want to be supported and have their needs met by alternative to traditional care models	Investing £3 million in respite and short breaks after COVID-19 with the aim of reducing admissions of autistic children and young people with and without a learning disability to tier 4 mental health settings
Offer training for supported living providers in learning disabilities, autism and trauma informed practice	Learning and Development Partnership	December 2021		
Commission autism specific specialist short breaks	Integrated Commissioning	March 2022		
Work with the National Development Team for Inclusion to commission Small Supports to provide intensive and person centred support to autistic adults with complex needs	Integrated Commissioning	January 2022		
Develop contractual arrangements for commissioning providers of specialist interventions for autistic people	Integrated Commissioning	April 2022		
Work with the residential care market to enhance the local offer of residential services for autistic people	Integrated Commissioning	Throughout 2021/22		

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3.4 With housing leads and providers, develop suitable housing and accommodation to enable people with autism to live independently, supported by skilled staff where needed. This will include developing a joint approach to commissioning autism friendly physical environments, using tools such as NICE endorsed checklist, to respond to sensory needs of autistic people.

Develop a Coventry and Warwickshire Learning Disabilities and Autism Housing and Accommodation needs assessment and action plan for 5-10 years	Integrated Commissioning Team / Warwickshire district and borough housing leads / Coventry City Council housing lead	December 2021	Increased access to suitable housing and accommodation and more positive experience of housing experienced by autistic people	
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3.5 Connect organisations and people who provide support through regular conferences and training opportunities and develop pathways of support that are easy for people to navigate.

Commission a conference to bring together autistic people and services	Integrated Commissioning	March 2022	Improved networking between people with lived experience and organisations supporting them – people are aware of where to go for support, information and advice	
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3.6 Develop a systemwide workforce development plan for autism, including identification of training needs within education, primary care, acute hospitals, mental health services, community services, and for unpaid carers and families and development of new roles.				
<p>Develop a system wide Workforce Development Plan and ensure that autism is a priority within partners' training and development plans</p> <p>Support commissioners to participate in the Commissioning for Wellbeing qualification, including the learning disability and autism specific programme</p>	<p>System HR Board</p> <p>WCC, CCC, CCG</p>	<p>March 2022</p> <p>Throughout 2021/22</p>	<p>An improved choice and offer of professionals of autism awareness training;</p> <p>Autistic people report improved satisfaction with skillset of staff supporting them</p>	<p>Reviewing cross-Civil Service learning to ensure neurodiversity is an integral part of courses for managers</p> <p>Commissioning a Capability Statement for social workers working with autistic children and families</p> <p>Roll out the learning disability and autism commissioner qualification to a further 120 NHS and local authority commissioners</p>
3.7 Work with Universities and Colleges to include learning objectives relating to supporting autistic people in training programmes and professional qualifications for all health, social care and education staff groups.				
<p>To be developed in years 2-5</p>				

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Priority 4: Develop the all age autism specialist support offer				
4.1 Redesign the neurodevelopmental diagnostic pathway to address length of wait for diagnosis and ensure the pathway is co-produced with people and families on the waiting list in order to deliver the support they require to meet social, communication, sensory and emotional needs while awaiting a diagnosis. Build capacity and capability across existing services that work with children and adults, to support and undertake diagnosis.				
Co-produce a neurodevelopmental model of care	Integrated Commissioning	Completed July 2021	Reduced waiting times for an autism diagnostic assessment	We will improve early identification and reduce autism diagnosis waiting times by:
Secure additional resource for waiting list management and triage	CWCCG/CWPT	October 2021	The health and social care system have a clear understanding of the demand for assessments and are committed to invest in diagnostic capacity to meet need. Diagnostic services are meeting the demand for support and are coproduced to ensure delivery of outcome focused provision	Investing £7 million to test and implement the most effective ways to reduce diagnosis waiting times for children and young people, and address the impact of COVID-19
Review prioritisation criteria to ensure those most in need are prioritised for support	Integrated commissioning / CWPT	October 2021		Continuing an NHSE/I-funded evaluation on the identification of best practice diagnostic pathways for children
Develop a business case for the long term solution to addressing diagnostic capacity issues	Integrated Commissioning /CWPT	October 2021		Providing £3.5 million of funding to speed up identification for autistic children and young people who are waiting for their autism diagnosis assessments and are at risk of crisis or being admitted to inpatient mental health settings
Increase diagnostic assessment capacity to reduce waiting times for an assessment	CWCCG/CWPT	November 2021		Investing £2.5 million of funding to improve the quality of adult diagnostic and post-diagnostic pathways, and help to address the impact of the
Develop a framework of trusted providers to support families to exercise choice in provision.	Integrated Commissioning	December 2021		
Implement a screening tool for CYP Crisis and Home Treatment Teams to identify individuals who are experiencing mental health crisis and require an autism diagnostic assessment.	CWPT	January 2022		
Plan and commission a pilot to test differentiated model of assessment via a simple and complex pathway	Integrated commissioning / CWPT / WCC/ CCC	January 2022		
Co-produce a new service specification for the all age neurodevelopmental service and vary into contracts		January 2022		

Commitment in Year 1 (2021/22)	Action Owner	Date of completion	Measure of Success	Corresponding National Strategy Priority in 2021/22
				Covid-19 pandemic on waiting lists
4.2 Clarify where responsibility sits within social care and health services for care coordination for autistic people with no learning disability so that people do not fall between services. This will include clarifying responsibilities for transition from childrens' to adults' services.				
Develop a proposal for a community health and care service for autistic adults who are eligible for support	CWPT, WCC social care and CCC social care	March 2022	There is a clear offer for autistic adults within health and social care	
4.3 Develop a "Keyworker" role which will remain a contact point for autistic people and families to help them to navigate the system and access extra support when they need it, including at times of transition between children's and adults services.				
Deliver and evaluate keyworker service for children and young people (age 14-25) with autism or learning disability in hospital or at risk of admission	Integrated Commissioning / CWMIND	Keyworker service is currently operational. Evaluation March 2022.	Fewer autistic people are admitted to inpatient services, and length of stay in inpatient settings is reduced	Investing £15 million in keyworker pilots and early adopter sites to support children with the most complex needs in inpatient mental health settings, as well as those at risk of being admitted to these settings

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4.4 Develop an offer of specialist assessment and treatment in the community for autistic people with more complex needs. This will include a holistic assessment of needs and functioning and the development of an individual autism profile which will inform care and support plans. The service will deliver appropriate therapeutic interventions as well as provide a source of specialist advice for parents and care workers when changes to care and support plans are required.

Extend existing children’s intensive support service to autistic young adults up to age 25.	CWPT	September 2021	Fewer autistic people are admitted to inpatient services	We will improve crisis prevention and avoidable admissions into inpatient mental health settings
Review offer of intensive support to ensure an all age offer for people with learning disabilities and/or autism	CWPT	March 2022	Length of Stay in inpatient settings is reduced.	Investing £25 million into building the capacity and capability of seven-day specialist multidisciplinary and crisis services supporting autistic people and people with a learning disability

4.5 Provide specialist and ongoing outreach support to autistic people who are in the criminal justice system or at risk of developing criminal behaviours to avoid them entering the criminal justice system or becoming victims of exploitation.

Deliver a forensic community service for autistic adults.	CWPT	January 2022	Fewer autistic people enter criminal justice system.	We will improve access to services for autistic people in touch with the criminal justice and young justice systems
			Fewer autistic people are identified as victims of crime or exploitation.	

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4.6 Ensure that the needs of autistic people are appropriately met within the development of New Care Models for mental health, eating disorders and CAMHS				
Development of a clinical model which clarifies how neurodevelopmental services will work with mental health, CAMHS and eating disorder services to ensure autistic people with mental health needs are identified and supported	CWPT	December 2021	There is a clear model for how services will work together to support autistic people to inform commissioning and delivery of services.	Ensuring all NHSE/I-commissioned services are able to continue to identify, assess and meet the needs of autistic people using these services
4.7 Clarify the pathway and offer of support for autistic people at risk of mental health crisis in order to prevent admission to hospital.				
<p>Commission specialist Positive Behaviour Support packages for young people in hospital or at risk of admission</p> <p>Commission community emergency outreach service for autistic young people and adults age 16+ who are at imminent risk of an avoidable hospital admission</p>	<p>Integrated Commissioning</p> <p>Integrated Commissioning</p>	<p>September 2021</p> <p>September 2021</p>	<p>Fewer young people with complex needs are admitted to inpatient services,</p> <p>Length of Stay in inpatient settings is reduced.</p>	<p>We will improve crisis prevention and avoidable admissions into inpatient mental health settings</p> <p>Investing £1.35 million into life planning, including piloting Senior Intervenor roles to support autistic people and people with a learning disability (or both) with discharge planning</p>
4.8 Coordinate transitions from inpatient and other settings and ensure that inpatient settings are sensory friendly and meet the needs of people with autism				
<p>Make changes to the physical environment in 3 adult mental health wards across 2 CWPT hospital sites and measure impact.</p> <p>Provide sensory training to members of the inpatient MDT in order to support a low arousal approach to support and care on the wards.</p>	<p>CWPT</p> <p>CWPT</p>	<p>March 2022</p> <p>March 2022</p>	<p>Inpatient environments and staff are more inclusive and accessible for autistic people</p>	<p>Providing £21 million funding to local authorities as part of the £62 million Community Discharge Grant for the second year, to accelerate discharges</p>

Commitment in Year 1 (2021/22)	Action Owner	Date of completion	Measure of Success	Corresponding National Strategy Priority in 2021/22
<p>Utilise the Community Discharge Grant to accelerate discharges from hospital for autistic people</p> <p>Expand the clinical commissioning capacity to support discharges and prevent admissions</p>	<p>CWCCG, WCC and CCC</p> <p>CWCCG</p>	<p>Throughout 2021/2022</p> <p>September 2021</p>	<p>Length of Stay in inpatient settings is reduced.</p>	<p>Investing £1.5 million of funding into the development and trialling of autism training for staff working in adult inpatient mental health settings</p> <p>Investing £4 million to enable providers of inpatient care for autistic children and young people as well as adults to make adaptations to their physical environments</p>

Commitment in Year 1 (2021/22)	Action Owner	Date of completion	Measure of Success	Corresponding National Strategy Priority in 2021/22
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Priority 5: Co-produce, work together and learn about autism

<p>5.1 Develop a system to enable a greater understanding of the numbers people in Coventry and Warwickshire who have an autism diagnosis, and where these people are in health and care services and their needs, to ensure future commissioning plans are informed by local demand and needs.</p>				
<p>Develop an action plan to improve data collection and reporting on where autistic people access health, care and education services</p> <p>Utilise the Skills for Care Population Calculator to inform commissioning plans for diagnostic and other services</p>	<p>WCC, CCC, CWCCG</p> <p>Integrated Commissioning</p>	<p>March 2022</p> <p>Throughout 2021/22</p>	<p>Partners have a shared understanding of where autistic people access services and support to inform commissioning and delivery of services.</p>	<p>Develop a cross-government action plan to improve data collection and reporting, involving people with lived experience, delivery partners and charities</p> <p>Improving the quality of data on autism waiting times data, and setting out a plan to specifically improve the collection of data on children and young people</p> <p>Publishing guidance and a population calculator developed by Skills for Care and NDTi for health, care and education commissioners, to support the development of diagnostic (as well as other) services</p>

Commitment in Year 1 (2021/22)	Action Owner	Date of completion	Measure of Success	Corresponding National Strategy Priority in 2021/22
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5.2 Continue to ensure that commissioning plans and the design and delivery of services are co-produced by people with lived experience of autism, including both specialist and mainstream services.				
<p>Commission a co-production service to support delivery of the Autism and LD strategies and delivery plans</p> <p>Refresh governance arrangements to drive delivery of the strategy and ensure appropriate representation from experts by experience and the parent carer forums on strategic boards and forums</p> <p>Develop a memorandum of understanding between WCC, CCC, CWCCG and Warwickshire Parent Carers Voice forum and Coventry's One Voice forum as key strategic partners in coproduction</p>	<p>Integrated Commissioning</p> <p>CWCCG, CCC, WCC</p> <p>CWCCG, WCC, CCC</p>	<p>November 2021</p> <p>December 2021</p> <p>December 2021</p>	<p>Clear governance in place for the delivery of Autism Strategy 2021-26</p> <p>People with lived experience are represented in strategic boards and within the design, development and delivery of plans and services</p>	<p>Refresh our governance structure for delivering on the autism strategy</p> <p>Improve positive transitions into adulthood: Provide £8.6M additional funding to strengthen the participation of parents and young people in the design of SEND policies and services</p>

5.3 Identify links to the strategies in the following areas and ensure their outcomes will support people with autism:

- Parenting
- SEND and Inclusion, including further education
- Mental health/CAMHS
- Employment
- Housing

This represents ongoing activity throughout the strategy

5.4 Work with commissioners and providers across the West Midlands and nationally to share best practice and learning about support and services for people with autism.

This represents ongoing activity throughout the strategy, with commissioners, people with lived experience and providers collaborating with regional and national forums and programmes of work.

Commitment in Year 1 (2021/22)	Action Owner	Date of completion	Measure of Success	Corresponding National Strategy Priority in 2021/22
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5.5 Collect and share learning across the system and enlist autism specialist organisations and universities to help us grow our evidence base of what good looks like for people with autism in line with national developments.				
Participate in development of regional proposals for research activities through ADASS Make links with Warwick University to support the neurodevelopmental transformation programme	Integrated Commissioning Regional Clinical Lead for Transforming Care for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities	March 2022 September 2021	Improved opportunities to access evidence based research to inform commissioning activity	Develop a research action plan, setting out actions we will take to improve autism research and embed a culture of autism research by 2026
5.6 Work together as a system to understand the true cost of supporting autistic people locally, and identify opportunities to pool budgets and invest in early intervention and prevention services to reduce spend on supporting autistic people in high cost specialist services.				
To be developed in years 2-5				
5.7 Evaluate the impact of Covid-19 on the lives of people with autism and commission services in the way that responds effectively to people's needs during and following the COVID-19 pandemic.				
Consider findings from the National Autistic Society report 'Left stranded: our new report into the impact of coronavirus' and embed into delivery plan for year 2 and beyond	Integrated Commissioning	April 2022	Increased number of autistic individuals report reduced health inequalities in access to and quality of support provided	Continuing to recognise the needs of autistic children and young people as part of actions we take to support children with SEND, as we move out of COVID-19 restrictions