

TELFORD AND WREKIN ALL AGE AUTISTIC SPECTRUM CONDITIONS STRATEGY

2012 - 2015

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Context

This strategy focuses on the needs on the population of Telford and Wrekin and has been written in response to the Autism Act 2009 and following the national strategy 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives'. The document has been developed at a time of economic and financial restraint when it will be necessary to achieve outcomes within existing resources and work jointly with partners around service re-design. This may, however, have an impact on timescales.

The national strategy focuses on five core areas of activity:

- Increasing awareness and understanding of autism among frontline professionals
- Developing a clear, consistent pathway to ensure ease of diagnosis in wanted
- Improved access to the services and support which people with autism need to live independently within the community and receive help when it is needed
- Helping people with autism into work
- Enabling local partners to plan and develop appropriate services for people with autism to meet identified needs and priorities

The Telford and Wrekin Strategy has been developed with the aim of addressing these objectives. Children services had developed a Children's Disabilities Strategy 2009-12, which included a Multi-Agency Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Strategy. In order to ensure an all age approach this Strategy has incorporated the needs of children, young people and adults.

1.2 The Telford and Wrekin Goals and Action Plan

Four priority areas have been identified for the **children:**

- Effective engagement and consultation with young people with ASC and their families
- Ensuring provision of co-ordinated, high quality services based on assessed needs and where possible enabling children and young people with ASC to lead ordinary lives, encompassing the five *Every Child Matters* outcomes.
- Stimulating, developing and sustaining partnership working in the provision of services to meet the needs of children and young people with ASC.
- Workforce Development

Five priority areas have been identified for **adults:**

- Training of staff who provide services to people with ASC
- Data collection and identification of people with autism and assessment of needs for relevant services
- Development of a care pathway for Telford and Wrekin.

- Transition planning in relation to people with autism moving from children's to adults services
- Local planning and leadership in relation to the provision of services for people with autism (including transition)

The actions needed to achieve these goals are set out in the action plan at the end of the document in Section 9.

1.3 Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Autistic Spectrum Conditions Steering Group

This Steering group has been established to develop and produce a local autism strategy and to shape the development of the local delivery plan. It meets regularly and has representation from the NHS, Council, third and independent sector, carers and individuals with ASC.

The group will feed into the Shropshire and Staffordshire wide (NHS and Council representation from Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin) Adult Autistic Spectrum Conditions Partnership Board.

1.4 Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Adult Autistic Spectrum Conditions Partnership Board

This Adult Autism Partnership Board has been established, in line with national guidance, to develop and produce the local overarching autism strategy and lead the planning and implementation of the local delivery plan for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the commissioning, planning and provision of autistic spectrum conditions services across the two Counties including low level preventative services.

Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin are part of the Board as some services are commissioned from the same providers, (for example, mental health and learning disabilities services are provided by South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust) and there are relationships between voluntary sector providers. Having a joint Board provides a basis for partnership working, sharing of ideas, consultation and information and an excellent model for joint commissioning.

1.5 Children & Young People ASC Task & Finish group.

The children strategy 2009 – 2012, came to an end this year, was developed by Children & Young People ASD Task & Finish group.

2. INTRODUCTION

This strategy has been developed by Shropshire, Staffordshire, Stoke and Telford Partnership Board. Its purpose is to provide the strategic direction for statutory health and social care organisations in Telford and Wrekin with regards to supporting adults and young people with an Autistic Spectrum Condition.

The document sets out:

- The objectives and outcomes for the autistic spectrum condition services in Telford and Wrekin in line with the National Autism Strategy published in April 2010
- National guidance published in December 2010 and the Essential Outcomes Framework published in April 2011.
- An action plan of how the work programme will be taken forward over the next three years.
- The national and local drivers, prevalence statistics and stakeholders who need to be involved in the development work.
- A framework of how we want to monitor and evidence service quality to ensure that it will support the achievement of national and key local targets and performance indicators.

2a. What is Autism?

Autism or Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) is also sometimes referred to as Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It is recognised that different individuals and groups prefer to use a number of other terms including Asperger syndrome, Autistic Spectrum Difference and Neuro-Diversity. For ease of reference Autism and ASC will be used within this document.

Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) is a lifelong condition that affects how a person communicates with and relates to other people and impacting on social interaction and social relationships. It also affects how a person makes sense of the world around them. The word “spectrum” is used because the characteristics of the condition vary from one person to another and varying degree of impact on the individual.

The three main areas of difficulty experienced by all people with autism are:

- Social communication, particularly using and understanding facial expressions, tone of voice and abstract language;
- Social interaction – recognising or understanding other people’s emotions and feelings and expressing their own
- Social imagination – understanding and predicting other people’s behaviour, making sense of abstract ideas and imagining solutions beyond their own perspective.

Individuals struggle in different ways depending on how the condition affects them. Many people with an ASC may also experience some form of sensory sensitivity or under-sensitivity to sounds, touch, taste, light or colours and often prefer to have a fixed routine.

3. WHY IS A STRATEGY NEEDED

a. National Context

For far too long people with autism have been failed by a system that doesn't treat them as an individual and excludes them because they do not with the way services are structured locally. The Autism Act 2009 aims to put an end to this' Paul Burstow MP and Secretary of State for Care Services October 2009.

During the last few years there has been a strong message from Central Government and people within autism communities that there is a need for local services to meet the needs of adults and young people with ASC. The statutory guidance placed a duty on NHS commissioning bodies, local authorities and NHS Foundation Trusts to meet the needs of individuals with ASC within their respective areas and there will be an expectation or requirement that local commissioners will commission, redesign and will provide such services to comply with guidance. The Autism Act is to improve the provision of services and the strategy is the local implementation and realisation of improvements for young people and adults.

Key events and dates:

Children

- Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21st Century (2001)
- Together from the start: Practical Guidance for Professionals Working with Disabled Children and their Families (2002)
- Every Child Matters – The Next Steps (2004)
- Removing Barriers to Achievement: The Government's Strategy for SEN (2004)
- National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (2004)
- Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families (2007)

Adults

- Services for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder without Learning Disability in Shropshire (2007 Gerry Coulson SSSFT)
- 'Better services for people with an autistic spectrum disorder' (2006)
- Valuing People Now (2009)
- Supporting People with Autism through Adulthood, National Audit Office (June 2009)
- Autism Act (November 2009)
- Department of Health publish Adult ASC Strategy 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' (March 2010)
- National Institute Clinical Excellence (NICE) begin to work to develop a clinical guide for ASC in Adults (July 2010)
- Statutory guidance published for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support the implementation of the Autism Strategy December 2010

- The Standard Contract for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities for 2010/2011 explicitly requires service providers to explain how reasonable adjustments for people with autism are made
- 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' Evaluation progress Essential Outcomes Framework published (April 2011)
- By 2013 there will be a pathway to diagnosis in every local area

A Summary of Key Themes from the national ASC Strategy

The 'must do's'

- Improve access for adults with ASC to the services and support they need to live independently within the community
- By 2013 – a clear, commissioned, multi-agency pathway to diagnosis to improve ease of diagnosis
- Local appointment of a senior professional lead on the development of pathway and to develop a local diagnostic and assessment service
- Standard contract for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities for 2010/2011 explicitly requires explanation of how 'reasonable adjustments' will be made
- Ensure adequate training is available and delivered to key staff within health care, local authority and independent sector settings
- Local partners to develop a local commissioning plan for services for adults and children and young people with ASC
- Consider the establishment of local ASC Partnership Boards
- Family Carers to be involved in planning

The document makes reference to best practice, particularly the need to:

- Increase awareness and understanding of ASC across health and social care
- Develop a clear, consistent pathway of diagnosis of ASC
- Help adults with ASC to gain a sustainable lifestyle which includes maintaining work and suitable accommodation
- Enabling local partners to develop and maintain relevant services for adults with ASC to meet identified needs and priorities
- Greater involvement of users of services, parents, carers and partners of, personal assistants and interpreters
- Commissioning services based on adequate population data

National Indicators and outcomes:

The Department of Health (DH) published a list of 10 outcomes that should be achieved by the strategy. Individuals with ASC should:

- Achieve better health outcomes
- Be included and economically active
- Live in accommodation that meets their needs

- Benefit from the personalisation agenda in health and social care, and can access personal budgets
- No longer managed inappropriately in the criminal justice system
- With their families and carers are satisfied with local services
- Be involved in service planning

Additionally from national guidance:

- Local authorities, NHS and partners know how many children and adults with autism live in the area
- A clear and trusted diagnostic pathway is available locally
- Health and social care staff make reasonable adjustments to services to meet the needs of individuals with ASC

The outcomes are identified within the national adult strategy and guidance. They are equally applicable to children and young people.

The outcomes are set out within the in Monitoring and Review section below.

b. The Local Context

While national drivers have set the scene for how organisations should progress, all local statutory organisations are operating in a fluid local environment, which is beginning to offer opportunities to review our service delivery systems. There is a need to take account of the emergence of learning from elsewhere and challenge earlier assumptions about system-wide efficiency.

Historically, services have developed disparately and unevenly across the local health economy, which has led to inconsistencies in the services that users might expect and physical surroundings which are not fit for purpose. All the factors above provided possibilities to re-look and redesign how services might be delivered in the future. We would wish to see a range of outcomes from re-designed service models:

- A truly user and carer led service
- Locally rooted services with care closer to home
- Services that offer early recognition and intervention, that encourage and facilitate recovery and maintaining independence
- A review of the workforce skill base
- Development of training programmes for staff to enable them to deliver high quality, effective services

Shropshire, Staffordshire, Stoke and Telford statutory organisations are committed to working together to improve services for people with ASC and/ with their carers. The care pathway will be drawn up to include provision of support and prevention for all people with ASC and recognise the greatest are of unmet need which is for individuals with ASC without a learning disability.

Although falling outside of existing care provision, people with ASC often receive services provided for people with learning disabilities and/or mental health

services. Although prepared to meet the demands of individuals with ASC these services struggle to meet the needs of individuals. People may not meet the disability criteria for care services and if they do, the right type of service may not be available to them.

ASC is a Health and Well-Being Board priority for Telford and Wrekin and will be closely monitored by the local partnership.

The local action plan is intended to focus on specific priority areas for children, young people and adults:

- Workforce development/ training of staff who provide services for people with autism across children's and adult services
- Assessment of needs, identification and formal diagnosis of ASC if wanted
- Having an effective ASC pathway in place for children, young people and adults
- Development of co-ordinated high quality services so that individuals of all ages with ASC can lead ordinary lives
- Planning in relation to the provision of services as individuals with ASC move from children to adults (Transition planning)
- Local planning and leadership for the provision of services including data collection; meaningful engagement and consultation with children, young people, adults, families and carers

4. SCOPE

The strategy document includes key priorities for action to address service gaps for those who fit the definitions of Autistic Spectrum Conditions.

It includes specific services commissioned and mainstream services such as leisure, housing and education. The strategy and action plan reflects the four key themes of the national autism document 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives'.

- Training of staff that provides services for people with autism.
- Identification and diagnosis of autism in children and adults
- Planning in relation to the provision of services to people with autism as they move from children to adults
- Local planning and leadership in relation to the provision of services for people with autism.

The main focus of the strategy is on health and social care but also includes key areas which can have a positive impact on the lives and wellbeing of adults with autism. These include:

- Employment (paid, voluntary or work experience)
- Housing (that takes into account of individual needs and longer term requirements)
- Criminal Justice System and Safety
- Planning around Carers

The strategy sets out specific key actions to improve these services and promote choice and inclusion for people with autism.

5. AIMS OF THE STRATEGY

The aims of the Autistic Spectrum Condition Strategy are to:

- Ensure a planned and open approach to commissioning of services for people with all ages of an autistic spectrum condition, making use of information about demand, unmet needs/service gaps, resources and involvement of the third, independent and voluntary sector.
- Ensure that services are centred on service users' needs and where appropriate family carers.
- Develop approaches that engage individuals and family carers in quality assurance, training of staff, recruitment and co-production of service development
- Ensure a transparent relationship with stakeholders in the commissioning and provision of services.
- Provide direction and structure for both Health and Social Care provision within Telford and for other mainstream services such as Housing, Leisure, Education/School and Training.
- Continue to review service requirements identified through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment with due regard to available resources and the need to work within existing decreasing budgets for the main Stakeholder organisations.

6. STAKEHOLDERS

The stakeholders in this strategy are:

- Children and adult with autism living in the borough of Telford and Wrekin
- Carers and family members of children and adults with autism
- Shropshire Community Trust
- NHS Telford and Wrekin
- Telford and Wrekin Council
- South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust
- Local advocacy services
- Shropshire Partners in Care (SPIC representing independent residential and domiciliary providers)
- Family Carers and Carers Support services supported by CVS
- Providers of day time activities and education e.g. local authority, third, independent and voluntary sector services
- Telford College of Arts and Technology (TCAT)
- Supported Employment Providers and Employers
- Job Centre Plus Disability Employment Advisors
- Registered Social Landlords and other housing providers
- Police, Probation and Criminal Justice services
- GPs
- Third, independent and voluntary sector organisations

- Carers Support Services
- Prison services

7. PREVALENCE DATA

It is estimated that 1 in every 100 adults will be on the autistic spectrum. The estimated numbers have been worked out from the population of the UK as given in the 2011 census 58,789,194 of whom 13,354,297 were under 18.

Literature on the provision of services for people on the autistic spectrum repeatedly states that statutory organisations do not collect data on many people they are providing for or how many live in the catchment area.

Estimates of the proportion of people with autistic spectrum conditions who have a learning disability (IQ less than 70) vary considerably and it is not possible to give an accurate figure. It is likely that over 50% of those with ASC have an IQ in the average to high range and a proportion of these will be very able intellectually.

Projected number of those with ASC across the United Kingdom based on the agreed prevalence.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Children (aged 0-19)	43,700	43,900	44,000	44,300	44,800	45,200	45,800
Adults (aged 20+)	125,000	126,300	127,600	129,400	131,100	132,800	134,500
Total population	168,700	170,200	171,600	173,700	175,900	178,00	180,300

Information from Telford & Wrekin Population Estimates & Projections 2009. Delivery & Planning Telford & Wrekin Council ⁶

Telford and Wrekin estimated prevalence of ASC based on current accepted prevalence figures of 1:100.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Children (aged 0-19)	437	439	440	443	448	452	458
Adults (aged 20+)	1250	1263	1276	1294	1311	1328	1345
Total population	1687	1702	1716	1737	1759	1780	1803

Therefore we would be expecting around 1600 people with some form of ASC in Telford & Wrekin.

Further break down is 0-19 years = 393

Office of National Survey (ONS) 5 – 16 year olds = 237

For further prevalence data, see Annex Two.

8. OBJECTIVES FROM THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

Objective One

Make sure people can get a diagnosis if they want one

Children's Services have a defined diagnostic pathway, for children aged 3-18, based on refinement of existing assessment processes, e.g. Common Assessment (CAF, Children's Development Centre (CDC), which ensures that the holistic needs of the child, young person and their families are assessed. This is being reviewed.

Currently there is no defined diagnostic pathway in once an individual reaches 16 or leaves school. A referral for a diagnosis will usually be to mental health or learning disability teams. On occasion individuals will pay for private consultation.

For some individuals with an undiagnosed condition of ASC, the desire to have a formal diagnosis is very important. It can begin to answer many questions and assist them and their family carers in beginning to understand why they behave, react and respond to situations in the way that they do and to develop coping strategies.

Without a formal diagnosis, individuals have less evidence of having a disability which can affect their ability to claim welfare benefits and access appropriate support. .

Objective 2 - The identification of adults with ASC

Staff working across stakeholder groups receive the appropriate level of training to more accurately identify potential signs of ASC in adults and are able adapt their behaviour and communication as appropriate.

Objective 3 - The assessment of the needs of people with ASC for relevant services

Diagnosis or identification of ASC is not enough: the most important outcome is that, where appropriate for the individual, a diagnosis leads to an assessment for care and appropriate post-diagnostic support and/ or signposting to other relevant services or support. Diagnosis of ASC would also be recognised as a catalyst for a carer's assessment.

Objective 4 - Planning in relation to the provision of relevant services to people with ASC as they move from being children to adults

Through school, children and young people with ASC and their families and carers will have access to support which helps them achieve and be included. Effective transition planning will ensure that support remains in place once people with autism reach adulthood as appropriate to the individual.

Effective transition planning will include career preparation up to age 16 and plans for education, employment, independence living skills, training, transport, housing and leisure from 16 to 19 and beyond. Transition plans will be individually tailored to the need and wishes of the individual young person and reviewed and updated each year. If an individual has a Special Educational

Need the Council has a responsibility to provide support up to 24 years old, as set out in new guidance.

Objective 5 - Other planning in relation to the provision of services to people with ASC

This objective ensures appropriate planning of services for people with ASC ranging from locally based community services through to the provision of specialist or dedicated ASC services, and including access to universal services, in line with locally identified needs and priorities

Objective 6 - The training of staff who provide services to people with ASC

This objective is to ensure that training around autism is provided to all public service staff – but particularly for those working in health and social care. This includes general autism awareness and refresher training, and highly specialised training for staff in a range of roles that wish to develop their knowledge of autism and carers. This will also be available for staff to continue their professional development.

Objective 7 - Local arrangements for leadership in relation to the provision of services to people with ASC

Our objective is to ensure there is effective leadership, drive and sufficient time allocated that ensures that the needs of people with ASC in Telford and Wrekin are met.

9. CURRENT SERVICE PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Services for children and young people with ASC are provided through a range of agencies including:

- Health care
- Social Care
- Education
- Community services
- Third, Independent and voluntary sector
- Leisure services
- Housing
- Criminal Justice services including Probation

Children with a disability (including ASC)

The services that children and young people with ASD access vary according to their level of disability and need. In order to meet a child's needs services are delivered across a number of levels or 'tiers':

- **Tier 1** – Universal. These are inclusive mainstream services accessed by children with ASC. This will include information, advice and signposting to appropriate support

- **Tier 2** – Targeted. These are services targeted at those children with ASC known to require additional support.
- **Tier 3** – Complex. These are specific specialist services, usually delivered by multidisciplinary teams to manage more complex and severe needs.
- **Tier 4** – Acute / Regional. These are services for highly complex needs and relate to admissions to specialised units.

Our aim is that as many children and young people with ASC as possible are able to access universal service provision with appropriate and adequate levels of support, as needed.

Services are delivered according to the assessed need of the child. The services required to meet a child's needs may change over time according to the changing level of need.

Health Care services:

Health services are commissioned by NHS Telford and Wrekin and delivered by Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust across both universal and specialist teams to meet the needs of disabled children, including those with ASC. Services include:

- Children's Community Nursing Team and Specialist Nurses, including for Special Schools
- Therapy Services (physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy)
- The Child Development Centre
- Community Paediatricians
- Continence Service
- Community Equipment Service, Wheelchair Service,
- CAMHS and CAMHS-LD,
- Jigsaw Project
- Acute hospital services
- Audiology
- Ophthalmology
- Specialist regional facilities.

Universal services include access to GP's, Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Social Care:

The Autism Co-ordinator, is a Telford and Wrekin PCT, commissioned post co-ordinating services for children and families with ASC working within the Disabled Children's team and linking with all agencies involved in autism services. This post collates all children and young people diagnoses with ASC and provides advice, information and support.

Social Workers are based within the Disabled Children Team (who work closely with the Child Development Centre, Special School Nurses, Record Co-ordinator and inclusion and support practitioners). This team of social workers care manage disabled children (including those with ASC) with the most complex needs attending special schools (The Bridge, Haughton and Southall). The

service has been developed to include disabled children who attend mainstream schools, in order to promote inclusion.

Social Workers lead on safeguarding procedures for disabled children and providing a range of support interventions – including access to short breaks. Some disabled children may also be known to Social Workers in the Assessment and Case Management Teams.

Occupational Therapy assessments and interventions to provide home adaptations and equipment are provided through social care within the adult occupational therapy team.

Education:

Education services for disabled children are delivered through the Local Authority, across both mainstream and special schools combined with additional support services. These services, managed within one Service Delivery Unit, include:

- Educational Psychology
- Special Educational Needs team
- Learning Support Advisory Service
- Behaviour Support Team
- Special Schools Outreach Service
- Sensory Inclusion Service.

An Access Panel is in place to provide dedicated resources to ensure access to schools both in terms of the curriculum and the physical environment.

The Service provision is managed within Family & Cohesion Services (F&CS), with close working relationships with other F&CS, School Improvement, Safeguarding, Adult Services and Health Services.

The intention is to develop a local ASC Specialist school for children and young people with ASC. The plans to develop this model are currently being progressed within an independent provider - Jigsaw

Local Authority:

Leisure and Community Services are accessed by some disabled children. Leisure services have an existing Disability Key Worker Scheme and projects such as Every Day Swim, which specifically target disabled children, have successfully been implemented and provide ongoing opportunities for future development.

Leisure and Community Services are key partners in supporting Short Break provision.

Community, Third, independent and Voluntary Sector services:

A number of groups support disabled children and their families from parent led support groups and 'condition specific' groups to organisations. These include:

- Homestart

- A4U
- Parents Opening Doors (PODs)
- Parent Partnership.

A number of disabled children with palliative care needs also access services provided through Hope House and Acorns hospices, and residential short breaks through Action for Children and Mencap (commissioned through Shropshire Council)

Adults

Individuals with ASC receive a range of services in various settings. There is not a specific service for ASC and this group of individuals access mainstream services, mainly through learning disability or mental health teams.

However, it is difficult to determine an accurate picture of those with ASC accessing services. There have been no statutory or performance indicator requirement to keep this data; organisations use differing recording systems and methods of coding activity. To identify likely numbers of individuals with ASC manual examination in a number of areas would need to take place:

- Caseloads of learning disability teams and workers
- Caseloads of mental health teams and workers
- People within services provided by the two specialist Mental Health and Learning Disability Provider Trusts
- Caseloads of Consultant Psychologists/Psychiatrists
- Attendees of learning disability day opportunities
- Attendees of mental health social inclusion services
- Attendees voluntary sector groups
- Short break and respite services
- Those living in independent sector residential and nursing homes
- Those living in supported tenancy schemes

The range of services are identified below

Health Care services

South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust (SSSFT) provide specialist services for individuals with mental health and learning disabilities. Identified Consultant Psychiatrists provide assessments and diagnosis for ASC. Individuals with ASC are managed within existing community mental health teams and community learning disability teams.

Shropshire Community Trust employ Community Learning Disability Nurses would provide specific interventions to individuals, including those with ASC within the community learning disability teams.

Social Care

Social Care have specific Service Delivery Units (Access and Enablement and Assessment and Case Management) where services are provided through. Individuals with ASC and their carers are currently assessed by the appropriate teams. Where appropriate, joint assessments with NHS staff take place.

A Transition service for 15-25 years is in place to ensure effective transition of those in Children's services and needing ongoing support into adulthood. This includes those with ASC within community settings, special schools and placements.

This model of service delivery is to ensure that there is wider knowledge and skills to work effectively with the range of complex needs that individuals will present with, including ASC. Identified individuals within service areas have a lead role for ASC to build on across all service areas, the work undertaken by the specialist ASC post.

There is a specialist ASC post until March 2013 providing advice, support, signposting, interventions, supporting training and staff development. This post has worked closely with mental health and learning disability services to identify individuals who have alternate diagnoses but have ASC, and facilitated more effective care and support. This role has helped to develop a pre-diagnostic pathway for ASC.

Local Authority

A range of services provide support for those with ASC are part of their provision to the borough as a whole. These include:

- Housing
- Leisure services
- Inclusive Services

Identified individuals within service areas have a lead role for ASC.

Community, Third, independent and Voluntary Sector services

The Carers Contact Centre provide support to carers including those who care for children and adults with ASC. Shropshire and Telford Autism Carers supports (STACS) is a separate

Autonomy is a voluntary sector organisation providing regular support and advocacy to individuals with ASC across Telford and Shropshire. The Telford Aftercare Group (TAG) also provides advice and guidance to other providers in their care and support for those with ASC.

Telford College of Art and Technology (TCAT) provide specialised support into education, training and support.

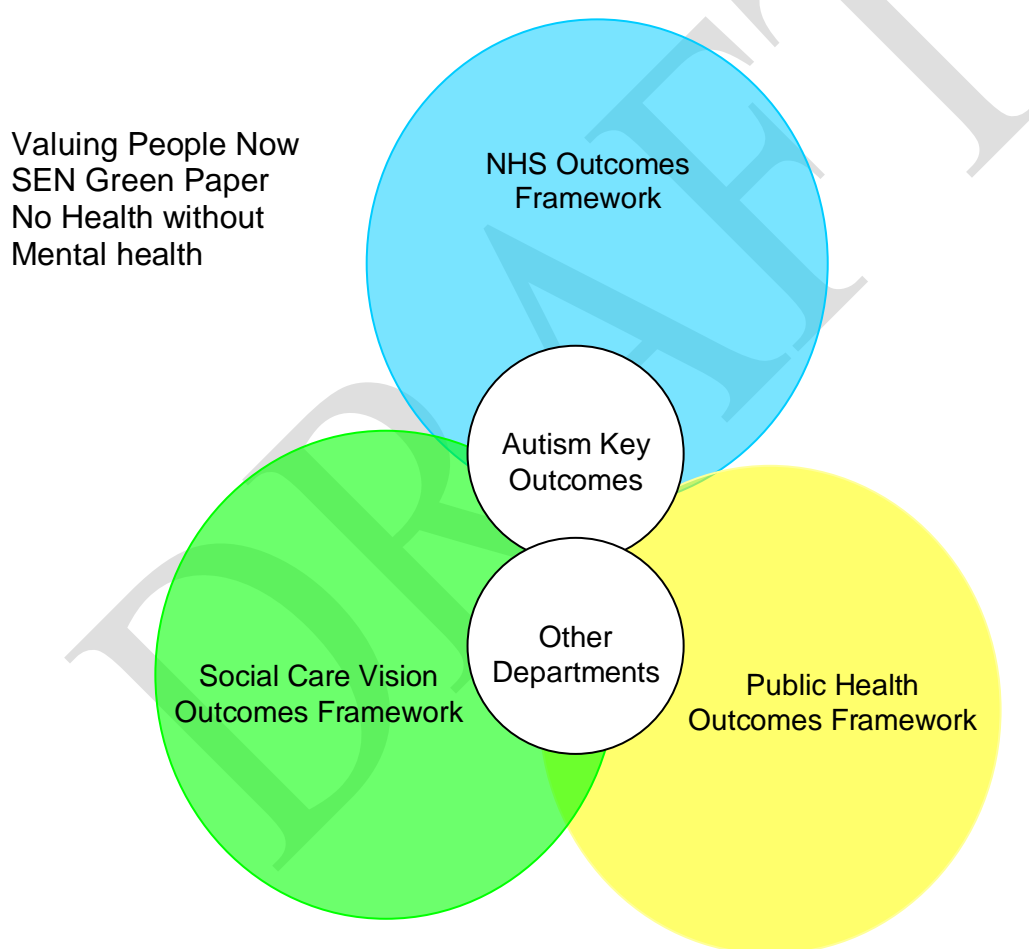
10. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Autism Partnership Board will have overall responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the strategy on an annual basis and seek assurance that the action plan is progressing and updated. The local Steering group will report to local governance groups including the Health and Well-Being Board, Clinical Commissioning Group Board, Children's Board, Social Care and Scrutiny Committees,

In line with the DH document launched in April 2011, 'Evaluating Progress'; there is a commitment to a clear focus on and transparent approach to outcomes.

The diagram below highlights how the outcomes frameworks align with each other and other national policies/initiatives.

From targets to outcomes – aligning the outcomes frameworks:



In the 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' Evaluating Progress released on 1st April 2011 provides guidance on measuring progress towards implementation after one year for the following seven areas:

- Adults with autism achieve better health outcomes
- Adults with autism are included and economically active
- Adults with autism are living in accommodation that meets their needs

- Adults with autism are benefiting from the personalisation agenda in health and social care, and can access personal budgets
- Adults with autism are no longer managed inappropriately in the criminal justice system
- Adults with autism, their families and carers are satisfied with local services
- Adults with autism are involved in service planning

Although there is no similar evaluation of the outcome for children the principles will be applied, where appropriate.

Telford and Wrekin will work towards these long term outcomes to make a real difference to the lives of children and adults with ASC, their families and carers. Three key ambitions will be embraced:

- Local authorities, NHS and partners know how many children and adults with autism live in the area
- A clear and trusted diagnostic pathway is available locally
- Health and social care staff make reasonable adjustments to services to meet the needs of individuals with ASC

Monitoring of progress will be in line with the Self Assessment Framework 'Essential Quality Outcomes for local self assessment'.

11. GAPS IN SERVICE BASED ON SELF ASSESSMENT

Though the Self Assessment required by the SHA and local evaluation, a number of gaps within existing services have been identified. These will be addressed through the strategy action plan.

Children	Adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to a wider range of activities eg social group for 13+, sibling groups, peer support etc • Whole system Workforce issues – skills, training • Data collection – ASC Co-ordinator mapping services, collecting data • Housing • Practical Support • Parenting support • Child minding with appropriate support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to leisure and fun/sport • Workforce issues – skills, training • Data collection – clear process to identify all adults with ASC in all services to support JSNA and future service planning • Housing and accommodation • Practical support • Support to carers (Survey needed to determine baseline) • Users involvements in all aspects of planning. • Inpatient and Respite care • Transition worker (children to

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist team • Nurse prescriber (16-17 year olds) • Mainstream school support • Transition worker (children to adult) • Residential provider list • Base for older young people (16-17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adult) • Specialist workers with teams • Nurse prescriber • Support to employment • Review demand and capacity • Personalisation agenda • Pathway into and out of criminal justice. • Inpatient and community based Short Break provision • Use of assistive technology • Low level preventative services
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12. AUTISTIC SPECTRUM CONDITIONS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The plan is included below and progress will be regularly tracked through monitoring. There is a need to focus on building capacity and capability at local level to enable local partners to develop relevant services for people with autism to meet identified needs and priorities and the local area therefore also needs to develop its own commissioning plan for services for people with ASC.

12a. ACTION PLAN (Children's)

Priority 1 - Understanding the needs and wishes of children and young people with ASC and their families through effective engagement and consultation.

Outcome 1 - Children, young people and families are able to make informed choices and be in control

	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress	RAG Rating
1.1	Develop systems and processes for effective data collection and analysis across the range of multi - agency provision involved in delivering services for children and young people with ASC.	ASC Co-ordinator. Information Officer		Service directory database has been developed. Any new information is added to the database and reviewed regularly. A database of children and young people with a diagnosis of autism or Asperger's but is subjective to information provided. Re-launch of Children with Disability Record	
1.2	Develop a robust process for effective engagement and consultation with children and young people with ASC and their families.	Community Engagement Team and Commissioning Specialist for C&YP		Through engaging with PODS, parents are involved with development plans. Further working is needed to build on engagement with children and young people.	
1.3	Review and maintain within funding restraints the range of short breaks available for children and young people with ASC.	Short Breaks Co-ordinator Commissioning Specialist for C&YP		There is an extensive short breaks programme available to children with ASC through ica2. Ongoing work is needed to ensure any future plans continue to meet the need of children with ASC.	

1.4	Develop in consultation with children and young people with ASC and their parents a range of resources to promote services and support available.	ASC Co-ordinator. Information Officer			
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Priority 2 - Ensuring provision of co-ordinated, high quality services based on assessed needs in the right place at the right time in the right way, and where possible enabling children and young people with ASC to lead ordinary lives, encompassing the five Every Child Matters outcomes .

Outcome 2 - Children and young people's needs will be met in a timely and effective way based on competence and appropriateness.

	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress	RAG Rating
2.1	Improve co-ordination of services for the provision of ASC interventions for children and young people, including the use of CAF/TAC processes.	ASC co-ordinator & ASC operational group.		Early Intervention services provide support to families with an identified need. Family Connect will provide triage and screening for ASC.	
2.2	Develop appropriate parenting programmes specifically targeted at parents of children with ASC.	Commissioning Specialist for C&YP		More investigation is needed to understand the continuation of Early Bird Programme.	

2.3	To develop and agree definition of ASC and eligibility criteria for access to services.	ASC Steering Group		Pathway is being developed. Identifying different terminology across agencies to work towards consistent terminology.	
2.4	Map tools used for screening, diagnosis and interventions across all agencies as a way to standardise process.			The ASC strategic group are mapping screening tools in line with best practice.	
2.5	Identify accommodation needs for young adults with ASC and ensure the views of individuals are taken into account.	Adult Commissioning		Developing transition protocol	
2.6	Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of service provision in delivering positive outcomes for children & young people with ASC.	ASC operational group			
2.7	Develop good practice in relation to personalisation including the use of individualised budgets.	ASC operational group		Need to gain a better understand of the potential of individualised budgets and person centred planning.	
2.8	Review transition protocol to ensure it reflects the needs of young people with ASC.	ASC operational group			

2.9	Work with ASC groups and individuals to gain feedback on transition planning.				
2.10	In consultation with children and young people with ASC and their parents, develop resources to support the transition stage.				

Priority 3 - Stimulating, developing and sustaining partnership working in the provision of services to meet the needs of children and young people with ASC and their families.

Outcome 3 – Children, young people and families will have perception of being supported by a service through seamless pathways

	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress	RAG Rating
3.1	Re-establish a children and young people ASC operational group reporting to the all age ASC strategic group to monitor and inform future service developments.	ASC strategic group			

Priority 4 – Workforce development

Outcome 4 – The individual needs of children and young people with ASC will be met through effective service delivery enhancing their health and wellbeing.

	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress	RAG Rating
4.1	Undertake mapping exercise across organisations to identify training opportunities and training needs of staff group.	ASC operational group		Some mapping work has been completed.	
4.2	To establish a comprehensive multi-agency training programme for practitioners and managers to recognise and understand characteristics of ASC and to provide direct interventions.	ASC operational group			
4.3	Arrange a comprehensive programme of CPD and outreach.	ASC operational group			
4.4	Introduce the Inclusion Development Programme (IDP)	ASC operational group			

12b. ACTION PLAN (Adults)

Priority 1 – Training of staff who provide services to people ASC

	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress	RAG Rating
1.1	Undertake mapping exercise across organisations about training carried out	Training Leads	July 2011 – Feb 2012	Mapping carried out in 2011 and 2012 to identify needs for training. All services (NHS, Council, Probation, Police, Prison etc) identified need for training. Mapping also identified likely expertise to deliver training.	
1.2	Establish Autism Training Sub Group with reps from Social Care and Health to agree work programme	Training Leads	August 2011	Participated within the Sub-group. Local agreement to develop training locally. Three levels of training were to be developed. Awareness training developed and rolling out across LA front line services. Developing on-line training programme	
1.3	Review Department of Health on line materials and local programmes to identify best practice	Autism Training Sub Group	Autumn 2012	Reviewed and supported local training development Also linked to Autism WM training	
1.4	Agree content of Autism awareness training	Autism Training Sub Group	Autumn 2012	Awareness training programme content agreed, developed and being implemented. On-line training being developed Level 2 and Level 3 training to be developed and implemented	
1.5	Develop a training plan for implementing	Autism Training Sub	Autumn 2012	Awareness training being rolled out across the Council.	

		Group		Autonomy providing training to identified front line services.	
1.6	Identify key priority groups for training and make links with independent sector	Autism Training Sub Group	Autumn 2012		
1.7	Review model of training to identify best practice	SSSHFT/CT Autism Leads	Autumn 2012		
1.8	Agree content of specialist training and who should receive it	Autism Training Sub Group	Autumn 2012	Level 3 training to be developed. Identified CMHT and Learning Disability teams staff to receive the training	

Priority 2 – Identification and diagnosis of autism in people, leading to assessment of needs for relevant service

	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress	RAG Rating
2.1	Organise a Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin wide workshop to map out a model care pathway for the area	Telford and Wrekin	December 2012	Workshops held in September, October, November and December 2012 to develop the pathways for children and adults	
2.2	Review existing best practice and other models across the country	Autism Partnership Board		Review of Specialist Practitioner Review evidence for low level preventative services eg Drop In Hub	
2.3	Each LA should appoint a lead professional to develop diagnostic and assessment	Autism Partnership Board	Sept 2011	Lead for SSSFT Juli Crocombe. Clinicians diagnosing include Claus Langmaack and John Langton.	

	services for people with autism in their area. Agree where this responsibility should rest			Geoff Watts to identify resources for diagnostic pathway Consider the link with West Midlands Diagnostic and Support Centre	
2.4	Await NICE guidance and review local model against this	Autism Partnership Board	July 2012	NICE guidelines in place for children and adults	
2.5	Work with NHS and LA partners to ensure sign up to local Care Pathway across organisations	Autism Partnership Board	December 2012	Workshops held from September to December to develop pathway. Membership included SSSFT, SCC, TWC, third and independent sector. Pathway agreed in principle from stakeholders and circulated for wider support.	
2.6	Inform statutory organisations about the pathway – Social Care & Health, Health, 3 rd Sector	Autism Partnership Board	Sept 2012	Organisations invited to workshops to develop pathway	

Priority 3 – Planning in relation to the provision of services to people with autism as they move from children to adults

	Action	Lead	Target Date		RAG Rating
3.1	Review Transition Protocol to ensure it reflects the needs of people on the autistic spectrum	Autism Partnership Board	November 2012		
3.2	Work with Autistic Spectrum	Local	November		

	Disorder Children's groups to ensure feedback mechanisms in place around transition planning	Transition Leads	2012		
3.3	Work and share information with Telford and Wrekin Transition Strategic Planning meetings	Local Transition Lead	November 2012		
3.4	Collect data of young people in transition and provide an annual update	Transition Lead	November 2012		

Priority 4 – Local planning and leadership in relation to the provision of services for people with autism

	Action	Lead	Target Date		RAG Rating
4.1	Identify autism commissioner leads in Staffordshire, Shropshire, Stoke On Trent and Telford and Wrekin.	Autism Partnership Board lead	May 2011	Commissioners identified for each organisation	
4.2	Develop autism strategy and action plan		September 2012	Draft strategy developed in March 2012, consulted on and redrafted. Redrafted consulted on in August. Final draft completed in January 2013	
4.3	Consult family carers, service users and local interest groups in autism planning as part of the strategy work	Autism Partnership Board	July – October 2011	Local steering group held regular meetings throughout 2011 and 2012. Feedback from the Expert Reference group included within the strategy comments.	

				Strategy circulated for comments to family carers and interest groups. Commissioners and LA managers met with STACS to share progress.	
4.4	Collect data on total numbers of people with autism through the Joint Strategic Needs refresh		December 2011		
4.5	Consider establishing a virtual team using existing skills from Mental Health and Learning Disabilities.	Autism Partnership Board	December 2011		
4.6	Continue to raise wider public awareness and profile of ASC across Telford and Wrekin	Autism Partnership Board	March 2012		
4.7	Work with wider partners including Employment and Housing to raise awareness about support and advice and services available	Autism Partnership Board	December 2012		
4.8	All stakeholders make explicit their ability to make reasonable adjustments to support people with autism	Autism Partnership Board	March 2013		
4.9	Develop a local integrated commissioning plan for autism	Commissioners/ Director for Adult Social Care	March 2013		
4.10	Identify and implement				

	assistive technologies that would support those with ASC to live independently				
4.11	Develop low level preventative and domiciliary services to support ASC individuals to live as independently as possible				
4.12	Ensure effective independent advocacy services are in place to support individuals with ASC				

Priority 5 – Employment

	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress	RAG Rating
5.1	Improve links with Inclusive Services to ensure equality of access to employment opportunities are in place				
5.2	Ensure people with ASC are included in the Learning Disability and Mental Health strategies	Commissioners			
5.3	Ensure awareness training is available to Inclusive Services and other providers of training and employment				

5.4	Ensure people with ASC are able to access the Council Apprenticeship Scheme				
5.5	Ensure people with ASC are able to receive support from the Employment Development opportunities and programmes to gain training, voluntary or paid employment				
5.6	Raise awareness with Employment Stakeholders about the advantages of employing people with ASC support available				

Priority 6 - Housing

	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress	RAG Rating
6.1	Strengthen links with the Housing services – Cohesion services, Planning and Registered Social Landlords.				
6.2	Identify the accommodation needs of people with ASC and ensure the views of individuals				

	with ASC and their families and carers are taken into account.				
6.3	Improve partnership working with Housing stakeholders and housing advice/options service providers e.g. housing associations.				
6.4	Ensure awareness training is provided to Housing departments and providers.				
6.5	Ensure Housing advice needs are more readily available and even if voluntary sector organisations are not directly involved in providing housing support services they need to be aware of who to signpost people to.				

Priority 7 – Criminal Justice System and Safety

	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress	RAG Rating
7.1	<p>Make links Cohesion Services to address Hate Crimes. This may also include members from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Mercia Police • Crown Prosecution 				

	<p>Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim Support • Trading Standards 				
7.2	Consider investing in Autism Alert Cards for people with Autism within Telford and Wrekin				
7.3	Make links with the Criminal Justice Leads from SSSFT to ensure appropriate identification of ASC individuals and support is in place				
7.4	Improve communication with West Mercia Police in relation potential arrest of ASC individuals to ensure an effective pathway away from custody can be implemented				
7.5	Improve communication with Prison commissioners and Specialised Commissioning services to ensure appropriate identification of local individuals with ASC is in place	Commissioning			

Priority 8– Planning around Carers

	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress	RAG Rating
8.1	Make links with the Carers Partnership Board				
8.2	Make stronger links with the following carers associations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers Contact Centre • STACS 	Commissioning	On-going	STACS involved within the Partnership Board, Expert Reference Group, local Steering Group and Pathway development workshops. Commissioners have regular contact to update on progress on the strategy	
8.3	Ensure close working with Carers Officer to ensure ASC carers needs are highlighted				
8.4					

Annex One

What is available in Telford specifically for able people with autism?

1. **Senior Practitioner for People with Asperger's Syndrome** – advice, support, signposting, strategies: Contact Sara Heath 01952 381420 or email: sara.heath@telford.gov.uk
2. **Autism Co-ordinator** – Co-ordinating services for families and individuals with autism, providing information and signposting to services, training and groups across Telford and Wrekin and nationally: Contact Michelle Troth 01952 567356 or email: michelle.troth@telford.gov.uk
3. **Telford Asperger's Group (TAG)** – is an invitation only social and discussion group for adults with AS or seeking a diagnosis of AS meets from 2-4pm in Wellington on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Contact Sara Heath on 01952 381420 or email: sara.heath@telford.gov.uk
4. **National Autistic Society Social Group** is an open group for adults with a diagnosis of AS. It meets twice a month from 7-9 on a Thursday evening in Telford. Contact Beth Jones 07974067833 or email beth.jones@nas.org.uk
5. **Asperger's Support Group (ASG)** is an invitation only discussion group for adults with a diagnosis of AS. It meets once a month at in Shrewsbury at the Roy Fletcher Centre, Shrewsbury, contact Alison Laing or Paul Moloney, on 01952 381420 or email alison.laing@sssst.nhs.uk
6. **Autonomy** – is an open self help and social group which meet from 7:30pm on the first Monday of the month in Telford. Contact Eric Heath via the Autonomy main number 01743 821363 or email autonomyshropshire@yahoo.co.uk.
7. **Autonomy Chess Club** – is an open social club run for people with AS by people with AS who wish to play or learn to play chess. It meets on a Wednesday from 7:00-9pm in Wellington. Contact: Matt Joyce via the Autonomy main number 01743 821363 or email autonomyshropshire@yahoo.co.uk.
8. **Aspergers Mentoring Service** – one to one mentoring by an individual with ASC for others with ASC requiring support

Awareness Training

9. **Training in Awareness of Asperger's Syndrome** – is also available from Shropshire Joint Training. Contact: Joint Training Co-ordinator on 01743 254733 or visit:
10. <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/schtraining.nsf/open/DBDF577A74AAE0EF8025710E00387A7E>
11. **Learning about Asperger's Syndrome** – Workforce Training and Development, Telford & Wrekin Council. Contact Michelle Hutchison: 01952 384918 email michelle.hutchison@telford.gov.uk – Michelle is no longer in this role
12. **Open College Network 10 week accredited course in Understanding ASCs.** Contact Paula Costin on 01952 642237 email: paula.costin@tcat.ac.uk
13. **TCAT community courses, An Introduction to Autism** (6 weeks, day times) – contact Cathy Addison, Community Outreach Worker, Community Education on 07887661847 or email: cathy.Addison@tcat.ac.uk

Carers' support:

14. **Support Telford Autism ADHD (STAA) Group for parents and carers of children with ASD (autism), ADHD and associated difficulties** meets on the second Thursday of each month at Houghton School in Madeley (term times only). Contact Julie Collins (PPS Officer): 01952 457439 or email julie@pps-shropshireandtelford.org.uk or Lesley Perks (PPS Officer): 01952 617758 or email lesley@pps-shropshireandtelford.org.uk
15. **STACS group for Parents and Carers of People with Asperger's Syndrome** meets in Wellington on the first Wednesday of every other month. Contact: Louise Griffiths 01952 262064, email: louise.griffiths@carerscontact.org.uk or Barry Brown 01952 254594
16. **Parents Opening Doors (PODS)** - Parents Opening Doors is a voluntary forum for parents and carers who have a child with a disability or additional need of any kind. PODs parents committee has a great wealth of experience of children with autism. Contact Jayne Stevens 07775342092 or email: info@pods.org

17. **Carers Contact Centre**, The Poplars, Lightmoor, Telford: Mental Health Carers' Support Officer offers support for carers of people with Asperger's syndrome. Contact Louise Griffiths 01952 262064 email: louise.griffiths@carerscontact.org.uk

Other

18. **Telford and Wrekin Library Service** -The Library Service is proud to hold the STACS collection of over sixty books on autism and Asperger's syndrome. Contact: Marilyn Higson 01952 382997
19. **The Information Hub** - The Information Hub is a drop in service based at the Stepping Stones Centre, Malinslee, available to all families of disabled children across Telford and Wrekin. This is a free service and helps families to access information regarding all aspects of disabilities for children and young people. The Information Hub holds information on autism and related service for families to access. Families can access autism resources within the hub and make appointments with the Autism Co-ordinator or Information Officer to discuss any information. Contact The Information Hub on 01952 567402 or email: ican2information@telford.gov.uk
20. **CHEC Healthshop**, Madeley, Telford - CHEC houses the only 'Health Shop' in Telford. The Health Shop provides professional, friendly and impartial advice, sign-posting & information on health and social issues. The Health shop has resources on autism that can be loaned out to individuals. Contact Terriane on 01952 583 779 or email: terriane@btconnect.com

Annex 2

National Population Growth and ASC Prevalence

Based on current accepted prevalence figures

Country	2008	2013	2018	2023	2028	2033
United Kingdom	61.4	63.5	65.6	67.8	69.8	71.6
England	51.5	53.3	55.3	57.2	59.1	60.7
Wales	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3
Scotland	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5
Northern Ireland	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding

Estimated and projected population of the United Kingdom and constituent countries, 2008-2033 (Office of National Statistics)

(In millions)

	2008	2013	2018	2023	2028	2033
United Kingdom	614,000	635,000	656,000	678,000	698,000	716,000

Projected number of those with ASC across the United Kingdom based on the agreed prevalence.

	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Children (aged 0-19)	43,700	43,900	44,000	44,300	44,800	45,200	45,800
Adults (aged 20+)	125,000	126,300	127,600	129,400	131,100	132,800	134,500
Total population	168,700	170,200	171,600	173,700	175,900	178,000	180,300

Information from Telford & Wrekin Population Estimates & Projections 2009. Delivery & Planning Telford & Wrekin Council
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Telford and Wrekin estimated prevalence of ASC based on current accepted prevalence figures of 1:100.

	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Children (aged 0-19)	437	439	440	443	448	452	458
Adults (aged 20+)	1250	1263	1276	1294	1311	1328	1345
Total population	1687	1702	1716	1737	1759	1780	1803