



# Autism Self Evaluation

## Local authority area

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

1

### Comment

Yes

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

- Yes  
 No

If yes, how are you doing this?

*Throughout this SAF, the term ASC will be used.*

*Locally, there is a Joint Autism Partnership Board. Due to internal organisational changes within the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Telford and Wrekin Adult Social Care (including Transition and Children's services), meetings had become less frequent. It was recently agreed that these meetings would be re-instated and would support the refresh and update of the local, all age Autism strategy. This task will be completed by December 2013 and will include engagement with the Aiming Higher Children's Partnership Board.*

*Telford and Wrekin CCG and Telford and Wrekin Council work closely with Shropshire Council and Shropshire CCG via meetings, emails and telephone calls. We are also working jointly with, for example our specialist service provider, South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust (SSSFT) and the Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust (SCHT). The SSSFT have provided a significant amount of data to support the completion of the SAF and to inform the refresh of the ASC strategy.*

*In addition, the Staffordshire Autism Partnership Board is attended by Commissioning colleagues from Telford and Wrekin, Shropshire and Stoke-on Trent. This enables us to achieve a level of consistency in approach and sharing of good practice. The Commissioner for Telford and Wrekin also attends the West Midlands Regional Network meetings on a bi-monthly basis.*

## Planning

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

- Yes  
 No

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

*Kit Roberts, Group Specialist Commissioner, reporting to Christine Harrison, Service Delivery Manager, Commissioning. Kit Roberts is the local authority designated lead for ASC and is also the lead for learning disability and advocacy. Kit.roberts@telford.gov.uk, 01952 388890. Christine Harrison is the Lead Commissioner with responsibility for adult social care contracting, quality monitoring and commissioning of services for all vulnerable client groups, including autism.; Christine.harrison@telford.gov.uk 01952 381205. Helen Swindlehurst is the Lead Commissioner for the CCG and has provided input and support in completing the SAF. Helen.swindlehurst@shropshireccg.nhs.uk - 01952 580300.*

#### 4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

##### Comment

*The JSNA and Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB) top ten priorities are aligned. One of the ten priorities is specifically related to ASC/Autism. The JSNA informs a range of other strategies and there will be overlap, thereby widening the integration of this issue into other areas of work. As a result of this prioritisation, further work is taking place to address key issues, for example data collection. The completed SAF and refreshed ASC Strategy/Action Plan will be presented to the H&WB in January 2014.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

##### Comment

*For adults, Telford and Wrekin Council are expecting to begin collecting this information from September 2013. Data recorded will be classified as a 'Health Condition'. The information gathered will be used to inform future planning and commissioning and this will be fully operational by April 2014, in compliance with statutory requirements.*

*In relation to young people with ASC moving through Transition, work does take place to record information. From the next (academic) year (September 2014), the Disabled Children's register will be extend from 19 up to 25 years, reflecting our commitment to increased personalisation of services and the introduction of the new Health/Education/Social Care, care plans.*

*The SSSFT is introducing a new data collection system called RIO - care cluster allocation which reflects the work of Mental Health teams. 'Care Cluster Allocation 0' (CCA) relates to a clear diagnosis of ASC with no evidence of co-morbidity. Where co-morbidity is in evidence then CCA is applied to reflect the co-morbid diagnosis. DSM / diagnostic categories are set to change and further work will therefore be required in support of the application of the CCA tool.*

*Across Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin the SSSFT indication is that the caseload is 1,059 individuals with 345 people having a diagnosis of ASC. 48 are suspected cases of ASC. 100 cases have been diagnosed via children's services (CAMHS). 197 cases have been diagnosed by the SSSFT.*

*Through the refreshed ASC Strategy and Action Plan, more work will occur to improve data recording, with consistent categorisation across all organisations including the CCG/ CSU and the SSSFT. This will enable us to develop a more robust and collaborative approach across all services, and will necessitate further work linked to the REED codes.*

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

- Yes  
 No

If yes, what is

the total number of people?

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

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

##### Comment

*No. As explained above, further work is required to improve the quality and robustness of data collection.*

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

- Yes  
 No

### If yes, how is this demonstrated?

*Yes. The local Commissioning Plan and Strategy reflect national data interpreted locally and does reflect the needs of local people with autism. Further work is required to ascertain the accuracy of the predicted local prevalence.*

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

- Red  
 Red/Amber  
 Amber  
 Amber/Green  
 Green

### Comment

*Shared data collection is already in place between Health and Telford and Wrekin Council which reflects an effective partnership approach.*

*There is a clear need to improve the quality and robustness of data collection to ensure a consistent and systematic approach to recording numbers. Information is gathered together in different ways and staff are aware and informed of those with ASC. The RIO system which is now becoming established within the SSSFT is in the process of creating an 'integration engine' and will have the potential to 'speak' with Care First, which is Telford and Wrekin Council client record system.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

### Comment

*Telford and Wrekin Council work closely with the CCG to progress the development of services which meet the needs of people with ASC and their family carers. Through undertaking the process to complete this SAF, considerable evidence of work within the SSSFT is emerging. ASC is also one of the top ten priorities of the H&WBB. A non-executive member of the CCG sits on the H&WB and has a designated lead for ASC. He is actively engaging with us in progressing this agenda. There is also a GP who is a named lead to support progress. The GPs also attend local meetings and provides relevant information and input to the strategy work.*

*Further work is on-going with the Commissioning Support Unit linked to data collection which includes the supply of data required for the development of the ASC Strategy.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

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

*Over the last two years we have held several strategic planning meetings that have included families of people with autism. At the moment, a review of services for people with behaviour which can challenge, which includes people with autism is taking place. The outcomes of the review will inform future planning. People with autism will be involved in this consultation.*

*The Staffordshire Partnership Board also has a number of Carers who attend the meetings. The Carers make very valuable contributions to discussions as well as asking some very probing questions. These conversations assist us in thinking about joint working. Carers wish to see a 'seamless service' for individuals, with all staff in public sector organisations having a clear understanding of how to relate to people with autism. As an example, at the last meeting a small flyer (reflecting National Autistic Society advice) was circulated. We recognised it should be adopted across all the areas (Shropshire, T&W, Staffordshire and S-on-T), to Police, Fire and Ambulance services, so as to provide support to staff and achieve a more consistent approach across the area.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Please give an example.

*Telford and Wrekin Council and the CCG are clear that in supporting people with all disabilities, including those with ASC, reasonable adjustments should be made. This fact is understood by all staff in the Council 'in-house services', care and support teams and confirmed via contracts with external providers and services. This requirement is included in the NHS National Standard Contract. There are individuals with ASC accessing all such services and reasonable adjustments are made. Increasingly, we recognise the importance of also listening to family carers to give us insights and awareness of how we can better make adjustments to support individuals. As an example, an individual recently used a respite service for the first time. The individual was disturbed by the curtains being closed. Better communication with the family carer prior to the visit could have avoided the situation becoming difficult for the individual. T&W C are developing an ASC awareness e-learning package. A voluntary organisation, Listen not Label is working with two other organisations (A4U and Autonomy) to deliver a seamless, preventative and supportive service for people on the autism spectrum (diagnosed or not) and their carers which includes Person Centred Planning and on-going support, signposting, referral and tracking.' The sessions are weekly: Thursday life skills and activity group (10.00am - 12pm) and Friday ADI (Asperger's Drop in) 10.30 - 2.30pm. This low level, preventative support only began a short time ago and is well regarded. It is our intention to seek engagement with individuals using these services to support co-production of future commissioning intentions. When individuals require assessment, they can be referred to Transition, or if they are under 18, CMHT or adults, depending on their presenting issues. In response to this SAF, initial, exploratory discussions are taking place to consider establishing a 'consistent' information hub , operating pan-Shropshire.*

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

- Yes  
 No

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

*Yes. Transition sits within Adult Social Care. Detailed work takes place to support all vulnerable groups of young people, including those with ASC, through a transition process. When there is a complex case (which may not always be linked to ASC) and the professional involved in the case identifies the need for a more in-depth discussion, this is then referred to the Transition Panel Board. Referral reflects individual needs and is not dependent on a parental request. Detailed discussions take place at the Transition Panel Board meeting which occurs on a fortnightly basis. Many of the young people who are discussed are classified as having ASC, often in association with other needs (LD or MH). There have been a series of Rapid Process Improvement Workshops that have taken place to improve the transition experience of young people into adult mental health services to achieve 'optimal transition'. The needs of people with ASC are included in the transition process. The organisations involved in the workshops are SSSFT, SCHAT, CAMHS and representatives from both Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire CCGs.'*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

Yes. In so far as the ASC strategy is all age, this includes people with ASC who are older. Telford and Wrekin recognise that 'older' is not always simply related to chronological age. Some of the people using services and who are getting older have LD and ASC. Thus, any changes that take place require considerable time in planning and preparation.

Family carers are very keen to ensure sufficient time is given to allow their family members to adjust to changes in routines, including transition.

In individual cases of people who may be better classified as 'middle aged' there has been close collaboration and partnership working with the (PCT) CCG/SSSFT to support individuals who are described as having behaviour which can challenge which in some cases is linked to ASC. In these situations, detailed discussions took place and remain ongoing with family carers.

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

Yes

No

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

Red

Amber

Green

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

In summary, the Care Workforce Development Partnership (CWFD) has a partnership approach to training across the sectors. Across Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin a range of training is delivered by FE colleges, the voluntary sector and other partners in care. Take up of training has been lower amongst some groups. Through the Strategy and Action Plan work will take place to increase engagement, particularly in relation to diagnosis/ care pathways.

Locally, we are seeking to develop a multi agency basis to training. In this way we will develop a cohesive approach and explore opportunities to establish protocols around sharing resources and information, thereby establishing greater consistency amongst organisations whilst driving up standards.

Shropshire Partners in Care will deliver a 2 day event in October 2013 on autism for managers from different Provider organisations. An e-learning package to cover autism awareness is being developed by Telford and Wrekin Council. The Local Authority delivered two 'Introduction to Autism' courses during 2012-13 and 14 people attended. A more advanced course was also held which was attended by 35 people.

. As a result of completing this SAF discussions are now taking place to raise this subject as an agenda item with the Care Workforce Development Partnership, which is chaired by the Chief Officer of Shropshire Partners in Care. Discussions, if progressed will include developing a co-production approach to future workforce development and training. Some GPs attended training, post introduction of the Autism legislation.

Within the SSSFT, some staff members attended training provided Autonomy (voluntary organisation) which supports Aspergers. One member of staff attended a three day course on autism in 2013. Two consultants completed the DISCO training in London an intensive course by the Royal College of Psychiatrists aimed at advancing Psychiatric skills in the diagnosis and treatment of ASC.

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

Red

Amber

Green

**Comments**

The SSSFT have confirmed that within post graduate training (MRCPsych) students are expected to have a basic knowledge of the ASC. Older consultants will have done a 6 month attachment in a learning disability placement and gained insights into those with learning disability and also on the ASD spectrum. Through the refreshed strategy and Action Plan, further discussion will take place to determine requirements for further in house training, linked to annual professional development.

As outlined above, Local Authority staff attended courses related to autism and a significant number of the staff involved are professional social workers, including qualified practitioners.

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

- Yes  
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

*The CCG has commissioned the CSU to lead on Work Force Development. The local provider workforce plans have been signed off by the CCG executives and one of the GPs has been involved in workforce summits. CG clinicians also lead on Primary Care training plans locally.*

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

- Yes  
 No

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

*The West Mercia Police provide Autism awareness training for all front line staff (officers, call takers, custody, front counter staff.) In addition, the Tactical Equality and Diversity Advisor has created an aide memoire for officers which includes the following information. (N.B. this extract simply outlines the text)*

*What might you find when dealing with a person with ASC?*

*They may: have difficulty understanding you; repeat things you say; not give eye contact or stare; be very honest and therefore appear rude; appear very anxious or agitated; lack understanding of the consequences of the situation they are in; find it difficult to talk and explain themselves; display obsessions and repetitive behaviour; seem confused about what is happening; not respond, rock, be in great distress, withdraw due to sensory overload or meltdown; \* not understand why their behaviour or actions are wrong and admit to anything if it removes them from the situation.*

*What can you do to improve the situation?*

*Say the person's name to get their attention; Keep language simple and allow time for a response; Try to establish their favourite subject or special interest to help build up trust and calm them down; Provide a clear structure of what is happening and when it will happen; Avoid sensory overload by keeping away from noisy and crowded areas; Avoid touching them - sensory overload may lead to an aggressive reaction; Contact someone they know and ensure the right support is available; Don't insist they look at you when you are talking; Try writing things down or drawing to aid their understanding of the situation; Make sure they repeat information you have given in their own words to check understanding; Try not to present too much change - moving from room to room, large number of people.*

## Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

### 19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

Please provide further comment.

*Work has taken place across Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin in partnership with the SSSFT to formally establish a local diagnostic pathway which is used consistently by all professionals. Locally, we have sought to make some adjustments to the Coventry pathway, adapting it to better suit our local needs. Professionals from different organisations have contributed to the discussions. However, further work is required to finalise the approval of the draft diagnostic pathway by all partner organisations. Currently, referral can be made to the three Clinical Consultants (SSSFT) who undertake assessments leading to possible diagnosis of autism.*

*Locally, we have established a community based service (respite and emergency placement) for people with LD who have behaviour which can challenge and in some cases, the individual concerned is LD/ASC. A Pathway of care was developed following extensive consultation with a range of organisations, providers, individuals with behaviour which can challenge (including ASC) and family carers.*

*The SSSFT is commissioned to provide a community outreach support service for the same group of people. Combined, these two services are enabling T&W to retain most people in County and avoid out of area placements as much as possible.*

*In finalising this piece of work, steps will also be taken to ensure the diagnostic Pathway reflects all aspects of the NICE guidelines. Within the SSSFT, a virtual team operates to provide diagnosis and consultation in support of intervention / treatment to be offered. Further work may occur to incorporate the needs of ADHD into the developing care pathway.*

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

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

Comment

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

Please report the total number of weeks

Comment

*Linked to diagnosis, the CMHT's can clearly evidence effective work with people who sit within the ASC. For example, CMHT's work to a clear diagnosis pathway that includes a full developmental history and which helps to inform the therapeutic intervention to be offered. This approach improves the potential for effective outcome to be achieved and IAPT services tailor their services to meet individual difficulties. Early Intervention teams also screen and work well in support of Aspergers, although low in number, and associated / first episode of Psychosis.*

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

Comment

*Since April 2013, 17 people have been seen by consultants. There is currently no requirement through QOF (Quality and Outcomes Framework) for Primary Care to hold registers specifically for people with ASC although some do locally. Practices do have registers of people with a Learning Disability and some people with Autism are included in these and there is a medical record coding which will be completed following diagnosis..*

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

- Yes

No

**Comment**

Yes, the (PCT) CCG Lead Commissioner for Mental Health and Learning Disability has held a series of meetings with representatives from relevant stakeholder organisations and staff from both authorities, plus representatives from Shropshire and Staffordshire to discuss in detail the diagnostic Pathway and modifications to the Coventry pathway. This has not yet been finally approved, but this work is in hand.

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

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

**Please comment further**

Locally, there is an Integrated approach with mainstream and statutory services with a specialist awareness of ASC. For staff working in the SSSFT, this area of work is included in job plans.

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

- Yes  
 No

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

Individuals who access Telford and Wrekin services via the Access point who presented as ASC could be referred to the Care and Support Team for a Community Care Assessment, and if necessary, for further assessment linked to diagnosis, via the SSSFT. If someone is diagnosed/ classified as a person with ASC, via the Community Care Assessment, decisions would be made about eligibility to services, linked to the Fair Access to Care criteria. If someone is diagnosed as a person with ASC and they did not meet the criteria to receive services, they could attend the low level, preventative services, referred to in previous responses.

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

Some information is outlined above, linked to a collaborative partnership between Listen not Label, A4U and Autonomy. In addition, services are provided by the Shropshire and Telford Asperger Carers Support (STACS) which is a voluntary group of parents, carers and partners of people with Aspergers Syndrome / High Functioning Autism. STACS aim to provide support, information and a higher level of knowledge and understanding to parents, carers and partners of adults(16+) with Asperger's Syndrome (AS)/ High Functioning Autism (HFA) who live in Shropshire, Telford and surrounding areas. We also aim to work for better services and provision for adults with Asperger Syndrome/Autistic Spectrum Condition and their Carers' The Carers Centre provides support to carers of all vulnerable groups who live in Telford and Wrekin and this will include Carers of people with autism. Jointly, Telford and Wrekin council and the CCG have a Section 75 Pooled Funding Agreement to commission a diverse range of approaches providing real support for carers of people, including those with ASC. The Telford and Wrekin council has a Funding Panel which receives applications for funding for care and support. This panel will consider applications relating to people with ASC. The Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin CMHT also offer support to a range of individuals, including those with ASC. All CMHT's are co-located with local authority staff and operate to Fair Access to Care guidance. As such Community Care Assessments are completed through the local authority and co-located community based teams.

## [Care and support](#)

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

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

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

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

#### Comment

*This information is not gathered at the moment.*

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

- Yes  
 No

#### If yes, please give details

*Yes. Telford and Wrekin has a single Access Point for all people, to support appropriate signposting to Council services. Staff receive training to support and respond appropriately to a wide range of individuals, including those with ASC.*

*Telford and Wrekin Council has produced a hard copy Directory of Services and Information for Adults with High Ability Autism or Asperger's Syndrome. It gives details of a wide range of organisations that provide support at a local level, information on publication of resources and other West Midlands support organisations. Online resources and web pages are listed. Contacts for FE, employment, work experience and volunteering, Welfare benefits and awareness training are listed. The document was published in August 2013.*

*In early September, Telford and Wrekin Council formally launched the 'My Life' Portal which is a web based, key resource for informing local people of information relevant to their own care. Individuals can create their own portal.*

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

- Yes  
 No

#### If yes, please give details

*As explained above (Q26), all CMHT's are co-located with local authority staff and operate to Fair Access to Care guidance.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

*Yes. Telford and Wrekin Council in partnership with the CCG are funding a pilot project to support advocates working with people with ASC. Staff from a range of voluntary organisations including A4U (Advocacy for you), LNL (Listen not Label); Shropshire and Telford Aspergers and Carers Support (STACS); OSCA (Citizen Advocacy) and Autonomy (Asperger Organisation) and staff from the organisations have attended training on Autism. Taking Part - an advocacy group for learning disability have trained all staff in relation to Autism and training is provided regularly. As confirmed above, local FE providers run courses on ASC.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

*Yes. The pilot project referred to in Q30 is aimed at providing low level preventative services to support and empower people with ASC to maximise their potential and live independently. An example includes the development of a Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire ASC Parent and Carer Information Pack which signposts families to local and national support services and provides the contact details for families at a local level.*

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

- Yes  
 No

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

*The information provided above in Q 30 and 31 applies to all people with ASC and their families, not just to those who have been assessed against FACs. Individuals are able to attend the drop in sessions that local advocacy services hold and the resource pack and access to support is available to all families and individuals with ASC.*

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

*As referenced above, information is available about the local support. Specifically, Telford and Wrekin Council has produced a hard copy Directory of Services and Information for Adults with High Ability Autism or Asperger's Syndrome. In addition, last week T&WC launched it's 'My Life' web based portal on the 12th September. The Portal has been designed to help people find up to date details of organisations and information about keeping healthy, housing, leisure activities and employment, as well as care and support and care homes. The intention is to support people in making informed choices at different stages of life and times of need. Work has taken place to ensure the site is accessible to people with a range of different disabilities. Discussions are taking place with our voluntary sector partners to support meaningful access to the Portal by people with ASC.*

## Housing & Accommodation

**34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?**

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

A Housing Strategy was written in 2009, covering a ten year period. It referenced people with learning disabilities, ASC, ADHD. At that time, 29 young people with ASC, moving towards transition were identified as requiring housing options over the next ten years. Work is currently in hand to refresh the Housing Strategy, so these numbers may increase. The Council is working with its local Registered Provider (RP) partners to plan and deliver a specialist housing programme to help adults with a Learning Disability to live more independently. 15 new housing units (London House, Holyhead Road) have been completed within the last three years, with a further 26 units (Telford Millennium Community, Limekiln Lane) currently on site. Several similar schemes are currently being considered. The schemes have been supported by a mix of funding from The Homes & Communities Agency, The Council and Registered Providers.

Locally, the Operations team hold monthly accommodation meetings to match the needs of vulnerable people requiring housing and this includes people with ASC, including those coming through transition. In some cases, Telford and Wrekin Council and the (then PCT) CCG have worked closely to support housing named individuals. Whilst the initial placement has been high cost, as the individual has stabilised, staffing and costs have reduced. A jointly funded service in the community provides short term breaks (respite) and an Emergency bed to support people with behaviour which can be challenging. This including people who are ASC. In addition, the SSSFT have a community based support team who provide in-reach support to families and providers of services to support the same groups of people and prevent escalation of need leading to in-patient admissions.

## Employment

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

Telford and Wrekin is committed to supporting different client groups, including those with ASC into employment. Through EEAST, its internal Employment Support service, the following areas are covered: CV Building, Job Searches, Job Applications, Universal Job match account set up, Email account set up, Training advice and referrals, Computer skills support, Interview Skills building, Voluntary Work opportunities, Follow on support when in initial stages of employment, Liaising between Coordinator and Job Centre advisors and Referrals to EEAST for one to one support. This service is for all clients, including those with autism.

Wavelength is a local service which works with Probation Services and continues to take referrals from transition and Future Focus (connexions). The service runs Work Clubs for people to access for specialist support as there is an increased number of individuals who are deemed fit for work via DWP medicals and being removed from health related benefits. People with autism are not excluded from this regime.

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

Yes. Through transition staff supporting individuals will consider a range of needs of individuals, including employment. This will also include people with autism.

## Criminal Justice System (CJS)

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

- Red  
 Amber  
 Green

**Comment**

Steps have ben taken to engage with the CJS to support planning and this will be a key objective in the revised strategy and Action Plan.

## Optional Self-advocate stories

### Self-advocate stories.

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

#### Self-advocate story one

Question number

35

Comment

*A male (aged 25) with LD/ASC who was interested in work was referred to the Employment and Advisory Support Team (EEAST) by the Adult Social Work Team. He was diagnosed as LD with ASC. Work was undertaken to establish skills and attributes for him to understand options available. His family were unsure if he would be able to work and were more interested in Day Opportunities. The person was withdrawn and avoided using public transport. He found conversations difficult and avoided new tasks or situations. This information informed consideration in relation to progression.*

*An advisor worked 'One to One' and enabled him to start an Action Plan, exploring options and for the family to understand the ongoing support that would be available.*

*Mobility Training was pursued. He was supported to apply for jobs as he had limited literacy skills, but his lack of work evidence was proving to be a barrier in getting an interview.*

*The Advisor went 'cold calling' to potential companies. After providing support at interview he was offered a work experience placement with a local retail company to enhance his skills and employment history. Job Coaching was put in place and Job Carving was negotiated with the employer as he wanted to try retail work but could not realistically use the till. His tasks were based on routine which complimented his autistic needs and discreet pictorial prompt cards were used as an aid to remind him of what to do and in what order. Monitoring and mentoring continued on a regular basis. New tasks were introduced to trial and achieve. Retention strategies and interventions were needed as new managers were brought into the store to familiarise them with ASC and the importance of reasonable adjustments. Through ongoing, focussed work and support, negotiations took place with in relation to a paid position. In conclusion, he feels more confident and respected and although he has faced many barriers he has made significant steps towards wemployment.*

#### Self-advocate story two

Question number

34

Comment

*When: This story happened during the Autumn 2012.*

*What happened: A gentlemen got involved in a consultation process through Taking Part advocacy that was arranged by the council to help redesign respite services in Telford. At the end of the consultation process current respite services changed, previously there was only one option in Telford available to people if they wanted to access respite and the building and the service that facilitated the respite, closed. It did not represent what people with learning disabilities wanted from respite any longer. A service called A1 supported living met the gentlemen at an event arranged by commissioning services to advertise their services that provide respite. He accessed the service for respite and liked their support. A1 supported living identified the old building that provided respite for people in Telford was no longer being used so they moved in and refurbished the building. The gentlemen made people aware with the support of his advocate from Taking Part that he would like to move on from his family home. As he was familiar with A1 supported living and familiar with the old respite home he moved in and is now supported by A1 to live in the community.*

*What is important for us to know about this service or support?*

*The Gentlemen was working closely with advocacy services to get involved in the consultation process.*

*What was good about the support?*

*The gentlemen was involved in each step of the process RAG rating: Green - Very good*

*What do you think we can learn from this story?*

*Planning and service user involvement is key for successful outcomes*

#### Self-advocate story three

## Question number

26

## Comment

*I have a learning disability and autism. I access the Inclusive Leisure Service three days a week which is part of Telford & Wrekin's Day Opportunity Service. Since I came here I have developed new skills which have helped to become more independent. I had two enablement workers when I started who followed me around all the time to keep me safe. I now have one person who supports me to do more things for myself.*

*My autism means I prefer to have my own space, but I have learnt to communicate better with people and enjoy spending a bit more my time with other people who access the same activities as me. I do still find a lot of noise difficult to cope with and will choose to leave the room but I don't get as angry anymore as I know how to cope better. I find it easier to talk to the staff who support me than I did when I first came here.*

*I like taking part in lots of activities such as going to the gym, cycling, swimming and ice skating. I have become much more confident in the water and the person who supports me has helped me to learn how to be under water.*

*I really like coming here and would find moving to somewhere else very difficult.*

## Self-advocate story four

## Question number

35

## Comment

*Over the years I have been supported by County Training which has been patchy in quality and never leading to a full time, worthwhile job. Landau were quite supportive and would keep me in mind when looking at the job market. The Job Centre seems too busy to properly help. Sitting in front of computers going through lists of jobs is hard, especially when all the good jobs get snapped up despite still being advertised!*

*Since the beginning of September I have had a job interview with McDonalds, not successful. I was interviewed by Apley Hall Restaurant weeks ago and have had no answer to whether I got the job. This can be frustrating for someone who just wants to work. My disability should not be a barrier to me or others and this can be hard when I try to keep positive despite setbacks.*

*I feel that a mentor who is employment and has the time to work with me would be ideal. I have the work ethic we just need the understanding and support to do a good job.*

## Self-advocate story five

## Question number

28

## Comment

*The service I use is the support group Autonomy. Autonomy provides social groups for people on the Autism Spectrum to meet up and converse, as well as active roles in the community such as training days for Professionals working in Mental Health.*

*Autonomy provides support and assistance, as well as advocating more resources to become available for people on the Autism Spectrum. Autonomy also provides social groups and creative ideas for improving the quality of living for people on the Autism Spectrum. Autonomy has helped many people to claim benefits and Disability Living Allowance and encourages people to achieve their goals and grow in character.*

*I enjoy the social groups because it offers me a chance to communicate and get along with people who will understand me. I also enjoy expressing and sharing my creative ideas with people and witnessing the ideas and interests of other people. If I have ideas and plans, I can be sure that Autonomy will help me to achieve them, through advice or more practical means.*

*Autonomy is free, but if it needed to charge I would still want to be a member of this service.*

*There needs to be more resources readily available for people on the Autism Spectrum. Society needs to understand and accommodate for the needs and requirements of people who may not be catered for in a world that tends not to understand or support the direction of growth and strengths of people who are on the Autism Spectrum. Society needs to be more flexible, individuals need to be encouraged to branch out on the directions that work for them and there needs to be more liberty and freedom in the choices people make.*

## This marks the end of principal data collection.

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

The data fill will remain open after that for two reasons:

1. to allow entry of the dates on which Health and Well Being Boards discuss the submission and
2. to allow modifications arising from this discussion to be made to RAG rated or yes/no questions.

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

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

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

Day

22

Month

1

Year

2014