

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

10 JUNE 2015

AUTISM UPDATE

- THE AUTISM STRATEGY 2014-2017 UPDATE**
- THE AUTISM SELF ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION (MARCH 2015)**

REPORT OF PAUL TAYLOR – INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CARE, HEALTH & WELLBEING

PART A) – SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Under the Autism Act 2009 the Secretary of State issued guidance to Local Authorities and NHS bodies/NHS Foundation Trusts about ‘the exercise of their functions concerned with the provision of relevant services’. They also provided guidance in the main national report ‘Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives’ (DH, 2010).
- 1.2 Following a review in 2013/14 of ‘Fulfilling Lives’ (DH 2010), ‘Think Autism’ (DH, April 2014) was published which set 15 Priority Challenges for Action. The existing All Age Autism Strategy (Appendix 1) requires a refresh to incorporate these actions as well as an update on the status of the action plan.
- 1.3 The Autism Strategy refresh will incorporate consultation with service users, parents of children and parents of adults with autism, social care and health staff, the Foundation trust and staff from the Hub, with the aim to update the Action Plan and to find innovative community based solutions that promote well-being and independence and reduce or delay the need for care and support.
- 1.4 In order to oversee the work a category management approach will be adopted to ensure the Autism Strategy is aligned with other linked strategies i.e. Mental Health Strategy, Learning Disabilities Strategy, Carer’s Strategy, Well-being & Prevention Strategy and to record all the various work streams which make up the action plan.
- 1.5 In addition to the category management approach and to enable local strategy groups to review their progress and support their future planning, the Department of Health requested that all areas submit an Autism Self Assessment by 9 March 2015 demonstrating their achievements against the Think Autism. This was to be signed off by the Chief Executive of the CCG, Director of Adult Social Care and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Due to the short notice given prior to the request for the completion of the Self Assessment both the Chief Executive and Director of Adult Social Care signed off the self assessment. This is attached in Appendix 2.

1.6A successful application for funding via the Autism Innovation Fund has meant that Listen not Label who run the Autism Hub have been able to focus on working to support life after school for young people with Autism. The project called 'Fulfilling Futures' is a transition service offering targeted support and intervention.

1.7 In addition to the Autism Innovation Fund a further £18.5k Autism Capital Grant has been given to Local Authorities to purchase equipment to support the implementation of Think Autism. The Council sought proposals from local providers about how they might spend the funding and after a formal evaluation of the proposals Listen not Label secured the funding to enhance the Autism Hub. Their proposal is attached in Appendix 3, with revised costs in Appendix 4 and the Declaration letter to DH in Appendix 5.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To approve a refresh of the All Age Autism Strategy 2014 – 2017 and the accompanying Autism Action Plan to include progress against the action plan to date and to include the 15 Priority Challenges from Think Autism (DH 2014).

2.2 To confirm that overall governance for the Autism Strategy will be with the Telford & Wrekin Learning Disabilities Partnership Board with the Health and Wellbeing Board receiving an annual report on progress, with a softer accountability to report to Aiming High and South Staffordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Autism Partnership Board.

2.3 To note submission of the Autism Self Assessment, submitted in March 2015.

2.4 To note how the Autism Capital Grant will be spent.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put our children and young people first • Improve local people's prospects through education and skills training • Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults • Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	

	Yes	The current prevalence data indicates 1 in every 100 people will be on the Autistic Spectrum. This cuts across all areas of society and all areas classified under diversity (age, gender, faith, disability etc.).
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE		The All Age Autism Strategy and Autism Action Plan covers the period 2014 – 2017. It will be a 'live' document, evolving with modifications occurring over the duration.
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p>The Council base budget for care and support includes provision for clients on the Autistic Spectrum, including Asperger's and their family carers. This budget for Community Care and Support is allocated on an individual basis following a needs assessment and is set to reflect Care and Support priorities and policy, including prevention and low level intervention services.</p> <p>The 'Lower Level' Autism Hub has now been in operation for 2 years and has provided support to a number of individuals to achieve outcomes which have either prevented, reduced or delayed their need for step up and acute services. The continuation of services required a renewed contract and identification of further funding. The CCG undertook a tender exercise and Listen not Label will deliver services in 2015/16. The funding available is for 2015/16 only and will be made up from funding remaining from the previous allocation of £6k, new funding of £18,800 from the CCG, and £6k one off funding from the Council. The funding resources available therefore total £30,800 for 2015/16. This funding is therefore available to deliver well-being and prevention services for the financial year 2015-16.</p> <p>The Autism Hub will also receive the full £18.5k Autism Capital Grant to improve the support they can deliver in line with Think Autism. The proposed use of the grant is detailed in Appendix 4. It is intended that this funding is used to support the work funded by the Autism Innovation Fund.</p> <p>There are areas of the Strategy which indicate that further resources may be required from partners to the Strategy. These will be considered prior to implementation. Where resources are requested from the Council and these are not included within existing budgets then these will be considered when requested as part of the ongoing budgets strategy.</p>

		Therefore, there are no significant funding/budget implications foreseen arising for the council budget by
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	<p>The Autism Act 2009 placed a duty on the Secretary of State to prepare and publish the first National Autism Strategy for England. Strategic guidance followed in 2010 which gave councils a legal duty to implement the Act. This guidance was updated in 2014.</p> <p>The Council is complying with its duty to refresh its Action Plan and its All Age Autism Strategy. In addition it is one of the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	Consideration of the inter-dependencies between several areas including autism, learning disability, and mental health, the further development of localised services will continue to provide improved outcomes for individuals and efficiencies.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	The Strategy is a Borough wide document.

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 Telford and Wrekin Council and Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have an All Age Autism Strategy in place. The Autism Strategy and Autism Action Plan is attached as Appendix 1. Statutory Guidance issued by the Department of Health sets out responsibilities for both local authorities and NHS organisations and sets out specific responsibilities for the Director of Adult Social Services to:
- develop the area's commissioning plan around services for adults with autism, using the best available information about adults with autism in the area.
 - appoint a joint commissioning/senior manager who has in their portfolio a clear commissioning responsibility for adults with autism – Autism Lead.. The Autism Lead is Manny Jhawar-Gill, Commissioning Specialist, Family, Cohesion & Commissioning Service.
 - ensure that the views of adults with autism and their carers are taken into account in the development of services locally.
- 4.2 Whilst the requirement is to have an adult strategy, locally the Autism Strategy (the Strategy) is all age and provides an opportunity for the Council and CCG to align approaches, developing the best of existing practices for Children, Young People and Adults. It covers all people with Autism and Asperger's, including those who may or may not have additional need linked to learning disability, mental health, behaviour which can challenge and any combination of these.
- 4.3 Whilst the strategy seeks to minimise costs, there is a need for some level of investment to progress the Well-being & Prevention Strategy agenda. The CCG and Council have made available £30k for the Autism Hub up to 31st March 2016 to continue the work of the last 2 years. In addition, CCG and Council Commissioners are working with Listen not Label to look at how they might generate an income, including the delivery of training to local organisations to support them to obtain the National Autistic Society Kite Mark.
- 4.4 In March 2015 DH released an £18.5k payment of the Autism Capital Grant to Local Authorities following the submission of a Declaration of how the grant would be spent. Council Commissioners requested proposals from local voluntary sector organisations. Proposals were evaluated by panel as per instruction in the invitation and awarded to Listen not Label – Autism Hub. The initial amount which was proposed by Listen not Label was increased following discussions with the Hub's Manager and prior to submission of the Declaration to DH in order that the entire grant was deployed effectively. Valid invoices will be sent to the Autism Lead who will monitor how the grant is being spent to ensure the grant conditions are satisfied.
- 4.5 Data from the pilot Autism Hub is being collated to inform future commissioning and service re-design in line with the Well-being and Prevention Strategy and

Think Autism, however anecdotally CCG and Council Commissioners are being told of the good work taking place to support people with Autism and their families.

4.6 Progress against the action plan is as follows;

- Action 1.1 – work is underway to identify membership for a steering group who will drive the action plan and make recommendations to the Health & Well-being Board. Family carers are already working with Commissioners and the Autism Hub and a more formal arrangement is currently being looked at.
- Action 1.3 – A4U provide an advocacy for people with autism and their families.
- Action 1.4 – The Autism Hub have been working closely with other providers to deliver information, advice and guidance.
- Action 3.1 – a working group has been set up and have met a number of times to begin planning for how the Autism Strategy will be refreshed, including updating the action plan.
- Action 4.1 - improvement in collecting data
- Action 5.1 - development of an OLLIE training module for Council staff to access any time via the Council's intranet page. Training delivered by the Foundation Trust to various staff groups.
- Action 4.2 - Development of a Adult Diagnostic Pathway and Diagnostic Service
- Development of an Autism Hub to deliver low level preventative services
- Action 2.1 and 2.3 - Council Commissioning Team tracking young people in transition to ensure appropriate services, including homecare, support and accommodation are available, leading to the successful transition of 4 young people to their own homes
- Action 4.3 – Meetings between Education, Health and Social Care staff to plan for joined up work.
- Action 4.4 – Autism is referenced in the Health and Well-being Board top ten priorities. Further work is required to identify specific outcomes.
- Action 3.3 and 4.5 – The low level preventative Autism Hub is well established and is delivering well-being and preventative services. Analysis of service delivery data will follow, initial reports demonstrate value for money.

4.7 In the further development of the Strategy and Action Plan, consultation will take place with various stakeholders including:

- Autonomy (voluntary group – Asperger's)
- STACs (Shropshire and Telford Asperger's Carers)
- Listen not Label (User Led Organisation)
- A4U (Advocacy service)

- PODs (Children's Carer organisation for carers of children and young people with disabilities)
- National Autistic Society rep for the region
- Educational Psychology Service
- South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust
- Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust
- Schools

4.8 Governance is a critical element of the Strategy. This includes the need for the Council and CCG to monitor progress via Commissioners, informed by the work of Quality Monitoring staff. Reporting is proposed to be via the Adult Learning Disabilities Partnership Board with an annual report to the Health & Well-being Board. Softer accountability will be to Aiming High and South Staffordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Autism Partnership Board. A project plan is currently being drawn up by Council and CCG Commissioners to drive the work forward.

4.9 The Council and CCG were required to complete The Autism Self Assessment about local progress and submit by the 9 March. Information gathered through the completion of the Autism Self assessment will inform the refresh of the Autism Strategy Action Plan. It was also required that the Self Assessment was considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board before the end of January 2014. The Self Assessment uses a red, amber, and green coding system with prescribed criteria to enable accurate coding.

4.10 Locally areas considered 'Green' include:

- Autism being referenced in the JSNA linked to the Health and Wellbeing Board priorities.
 - Engagement of people with autism and their carers in planning.
 - Transition process from Children's to Adult's Services taking into account the needs of people with Autism.
 - Development of a diagnostic pathway
 - Access for people with a diagnosis of autism to reasonably adjusted psychological assessments
 - Specific training for Advocates working with people with autism
 - Access to trained Advocates.
 - Accessible information available from support services
 - Carer's are routinely offered Carer's Assessments
- the introduction of the low level intervention hub, which is providing direct support and assisting in reducing the need for admission into acute settings

- supporting people into Housing – Autism was referenced in the original Learning Disability Housing Strategy and many people have been supported into appropriate accommodation – including single occupancy.

4.11 Areas considered 'Amber' include:

- Data on people with diagnosis who are accessing health and social care services.
- Use of a range of data collection sources
- CCG engagement in planning
- reasonable adjustments,
- autism awareness training and specific training for staff
- involvement of older people with autism in planning
- Access for people with a diagnosis of autism to reasonably adjusted occupational therapy services
- Some contact with Job Centres to support employment opportunities
- Transition plans include reference to employment

4.12 The areas considered 'Red' and therefore requiring more focused work are:

- Training – an OLLIE module is ready to launch and requires only a few amendments.
- Engagement with the Criminal Justice System – contact will be made by the steering group with an identified officer.
- Housing Strategy – specific mention of the needs of people with Autism as distinct from other disabilities is not specifically made in the Housing Strategy. However, Council Commissioners are working very closely with Social Care staff, particularly in the Transition Team to do some detailed tracking of young people moving into adulthood and independence.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5.1 Under the Disability Discrimination Act and The Autism Act 2009, Telford & Wrekin Council is required to act in a way that is anticipatory, to make reasonable adjustments and to not discriminate on the basis of disability. The implementation of the Autism Action Plan linked to the Autism Strategy will assist the Council in fulfilling it's obligations in a way that supports prevention and enablement, meets individual needs, promotes independence, increases choice and control and seeks to avoid un-necessary high cost, out of area placements.

6 PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Health & Well-being Board 22nd January 2014 – supporting people with Autism including Autism Strategy and Self Assessment.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Autism Act 2009

7.2 Rewarding and Fulfilling Lives (DH, 2010)

7.3 Implementing Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives – Statutory Guidance (DH 2010)

7.4 Think Autism (DH April 2014)

Report prepared by:

Manny Jhavar-Gill

Commissioning Specialist and Contracts Officer

01952 380544

APPENDIX 1

Telford & Wrekin All Age Commissioning Strategy for Autistic Spectrum Condition

1. Introduction

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 how that impacts 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 there are varying degrees 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.

This is an all age strategy to support the needs of the population for people who are identified as having an Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and who reside in Telford and Wrekin. The term ‘people’ used throughout this strategy therefore refers to children & young people, and adults. The All Age Autism Strategy (the Strategy) is written in response to the Autism Act 2009, and which reflects the priorities outlined in the original national strategy ‘*Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*’ (DH, March 2010).

In writing this strategy it is important to acknowledge and recognise the contributions to work over the last 3 years from different partners. This includes meetings at a sub-regional level across Staffordshire/Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, as well as considerable engagement via the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Autism Partnership Board and various meetings to discuss specific areas of work and consultation events and ongoing dialogue. This includes individuals with Autism, family carers, clinicians, including named GPs, Parents Open Doors, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Aspergers Carers Support, Listen not Label, Autonomy, A4U and

the South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust. I would like to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed to the writing of the Strategy.

The Strategy reflects the anticipated areas of work to be presented in the national, updated Autism Strategy due in Spring 2014; local priorities identified through producing a response to the *Improving Health and Lives – Learning Disability Observatory Self Assessment 2013* and feedback from local members of our community.

The Autism agenda and delivery of the Autism Action Plan (Annex 1) linked to the Strategy remains challenging, particularly because of the local decision to make it an ‘all age’ strategy rather than simply fulfilling the legal requirement to establish an Adult Autism Strategy. The challenges are exacerbated by the increased drive to achieve efficiencies across the public sector. No additional funding has been allocated by the Department of Health to support the implementation of the Strategy. Instead, the expectation is that the work will be absorbed within existing organisations. Whilst the strategy seeks to minimise additional costs, it is not possible to achieve progress without some level of investment. The intention will be to identify and meet needs in a timely and appropriate manner, which longer term should achieve savings to meet the costs of the required investment.

There is a demand for services from many vulnerable groups competing for the limited available resources or access to support services which offer appropriate support; for example towards sustainable, paid employment. Thus, all lead organisations involved in progress of the Strategy will be expected to work closely with partners and other stakeholders to introduce innovative approaches which will improve and deliver outcomes.

2. Telford & Wrekin Approach

2.1. Telford & Wrekin Council – a Co-operative Council

This section of the Strategy provides a context within which all partners will work together and take account of important underlying principles and values.

The Strategy will focus on developing services which reflect the social care local priorities and will be applicable to all who access services. These include

- Personalisation
- Promoting Independence
- Enablement
- Choice and Control.

Telford & Wrekin Council is committed to being a Co-operative Council. This commitment means we will work together with our residents, partners and local organisations to collectively deliver the 'best we can' for Telford & Wrekin. To do this we have adopted the following Co-operative Values and Priorities:

VALUES

- **Openness and Honesty**
 - We will - be open and honest in the way we work and make decisions and communicate in a clear, simple and timely way
 - We would like everyone - to be open and honest about what they want to improve in their community

- **Ownership**
 - We will - be accountable for our own actions and empower others with the skills to help themselves
 - We would like everyone - to the best of their abilities, to take action and responsibility for themselves and their community

- **Fairness and Respect**
 - We will - respond to people's needs in a fair and consistent way
 - We will and would like everyone to - respect and care for themselves and others, valuing the different ideas and skills that people bring and treating each other as equals

- **Involvement**
 - We will - work together with our communities, involving people in decisions that affect their lives and be prepared to listen and take on new ideas
 - We would like everyone - to work with and support others, get involved and share their views to help us develop the way we do things.

PRIORITIES

Our priorities are to:

- Put our children and young people first
- Protect and create jobs as a 'Business Supporting, Business Winning Council'
- Improve local people's prospects through education and skills training
- Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults
- Ensure that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained

- Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities
- Regenerate those neighbourhoods in need and work to ensure that local people have access to suitable housing

2.2. Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

The CCG is committed to *'Taking Care of Telford & Wrekin'* and this is reflected in the statement that *'Every patient experience matters - Every clinician is involved'*. This is reflected in the values, listed below which:

- Promote respect, dignity and compassion
- Put patients and the public at the heart of commissioning in Telford & Wrekin, allowing services to be personal and responsive to local need
- Deliver effective planning for health services based on a true understanding of the population and their needs, based on the Telford & Wrekin Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Maintain and improve the quality of health outcomes and the safety of services for patients
- Ensure clinical engagement and the achievement of the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) agenda
- Ensure a partnership approach to health and social care, through involvement in the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Work within the resources available

2.3. The shared context for the strategy includes the following:

- **Transformation and redesign** of services across the health, education and social care economies, working in partnership with other key partners and stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary sector to improve outcomes
- **Personalisation and enablement** to promote independence and self help in the community rather than requiring the support of social care
- **Efficiency** - required across all public sector service providers
Empowerment – promoting independence and self care so reducing reliance on statutory and other services

3. Commissioning:

In commissioning services for the future, both health and social care will take account of the following:

3.1. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

Autistic Spectrum Condition

Based on the prevalence of ASC on current accepted prevalence figures of 1:100 information the Table below provides an indication of local numbers. However, these figures may be an underestimate and further work will take

place to gather more accurate data in the future, as outlined in the Autism Action Plan.

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Children (0 – 19)	443	448	452	458
Adults (20 +)	1,294	1,311	1,328	1,345
Total	1,737	1,759	1,780	1,803

From September 2013 work will begin to collect data relating to people with Autism, with reporting commencing from April 2014. This information will be collected for all ages (children and adults).

3.2. Health and Well Being Board Priorities

Telford & Wrekin Health and Well Being Board published a Health and Wellbeing Strategy that includes agreed local priorities for its work. These are based on local data about services and community needs in the Borough. These are to:

- **Reduce**

- Teenage pregnancies
- the number of overweight children and adults
- the number of people who mis-use alcohol and drugs
- the numbers of smokers

- **Improve**

- differences in life expectancy particularly for people from deprived communities, black and minority ethnic groups, people with heart disease or cancer and differences within the male population
- emotional health and wellbeing of Borough residents
- unpaid carers health and wellbeing

- **Support**

- people with specific health needs to live independently for as long as possible
- people with dementia
- people with autism

3.3. National Policy and Guidance Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives (Department of Health, 2010)

The Government's vision for transforming the lives of and outcomes for adults with autism is:

'All adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can get a diagnosis and access support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents.'

Currently, the Department of Health (DH) is reviewing its national Autism Strategy. A new version will be published in 2014. The Minister of State for Care and Support, Norman Lamb MP, identified five key areas for future work:

- increasing awareness and understanding of autism
- developing clear, consistent pathways for the diagnosis of autism
- improving access for adults with autism to services and support
- helping adults with autism into work
- enabling local partners to develop relevant services.

3.4. Local Priorities

Historically, Telford and Wrekin Council identified a range of priorities in the draft strategy 2012, which are listed below and subsumed within the new Strategy.:

3.4.1. Four priority areas were identified for children:

- Effective engagement and consultation with young people with ASC and their families
- Ensuring provision of co-ordinated, high quality services based on assessed need 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

3.4.2. Five priority areas were 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 & 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)

3.5. Autism Self Assessment

Telford & Wrekin completed the Autism Self Assessment 2013 and submitted evidence to the Improving Health and Lives – Learning Disabilities Observatory on 30th September 2013. A considerable amount of information was gathered

reflecting work that was taking place locally, and shortfalls which required further action.

3.6. Partnership involvement

Telford & Wrekin Council is working closely with key local partner organisations including:

- Listen not Label – user led group for people with disabilities
- Autonomy – supports adults on the Autistic Spectrum Condition, including Aspergers
- STACS – Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Aspergers Carers support
- A4U – independent advice centre
- OSCA – Citizen advocacy group
- POD – Parents Open Doors/ Parent Carer Forum
- Parent Partnership Services (Education)
- SENCO Networks
- Head teachers networks
- Carers Partnership Board

Information from these partner organisations has informed the local Strategy and Autism Action Plan. In addition, the Health and Wellbeing Board has signed up to the Disabled Children’s Charter, which will also inform the Strategy.

3.7. Carers

Telford and Wrekin is committed to supporting carers of all adult client groups, including those on the Autistic Spectrum. The local Carers strategy identified the following priorities:

- Information, advice and support
- Planning for the future
- Promoting well-being
- Time for yourself
- Having your say
- Meeting diverse needs
- A life outside caring
- Feeling financially safe and secure

4. Geographic Boundaries

This strategy will respond to the needs of people living within the local geographical boundary area of Telford & Wrekin, including those ‘over the border, in Shropshire’ and those people registered with a Telford & Wrekin GP practice. As several Provider organisations/services work across Telford &

Wrekin and Shropshire the Strategy and Autism Action Plan will require collaborative partnership working with a wider range of colleagues.

5. Governance

5.1. Approval

The Strategy will be approved by the Council and the CCG and progress reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board. It will be circulated to other Boards for information including:

- Autism Partnership Board,
- Mental Health Partnership Board,
- Learning Disability Partnership Board,
- Carers Partnership Board,
- Winterbourne View Programme Board,
- Aiming Higher Disabled Children's Partnership Board,
- Clinical Commissioning Group,
- South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust Board,
- Criminal Justice System Board,
- Parents Opening Doors/Parent Carer Forum,
- Parents Partnership Services (Education),
- SENCO networks, and
- Head teacher's Networks.

5.2. Monitoring

Responsibility for the monitoring of progress of the Strategy, and the Autism Action Plan to support it will sit with Telford & Wrekin Council and the CCG via Commissioners, with input and support from Contracting and Quality Monitoring staff from the council and CCG.

5.3. Reporting

Reporting will occur via the Autism Partnership Board, with an annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

5.4. Accountability

5.4.1 Accountability is critical to achieving progress, particularly in relation to the Autism Action Plan which accompanies the Strategy. It is expected that each named lead from different organisations referenced in the Autism Action Plan will be accountable for developing an individual, robust Project Plan to support the delivery of the Objectives.

5.4.2 The development of the individual Project Plans by named, lead organisations will require consultation with others, including working with people with autism and family carers.

5.4.3 Overall responsibility for development, delivery, monitoring and reporting on progress will be with the named lead. Reporting will be on a quarterly basis, in the form of a written update to be submitted to the Autism Partnership Board.

5.4.4 Any issues that arise which prevent work taking place should be reported to the Chair of the Autism Partnership Board.

6. Expectations

The Autism Act 2009 placed accountability on all public sector services to meet the needs of adults on the autistic spectrum. Locally, Telford & Wrekin has agreed to widen this strategy to incorporate all ages. There will be an expectation that all public sector services will engage with the implementation of the Autism Action Plan, including Telford & Wrekin Council, Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group, Probation Services, Public Health, the CAMHs for children and teenagers and South Staffordshire & Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust for Adults.

Autism Action Plans will respond to the needs of:

- People with autism and no other classification who are able to 'self care', this includes people with Aspergers
- People with autism and no other classification who are require support, this includes people with Aspergers
- People with autism and a learning disability
- People with autism and mental health
- People with autism who exhibit behaviour which is challenging
- People with autism and a learning disability and mental health needs

In responding to the needs of people with autism, there will need to be access to the appropriate services at the time it is needed. Timely interventions at the earliest point of need will prevent the escalation of costs as the need for support moves towards a point of crisis.

Responses will need to be diversified to respond appropriately in the following situations:

- People who require minimal support, possibly just access to information
- People who need specific, preventative or enablement support sometimes on a frequent basis, maintain independence within the community
- People who require extensive support, including 24 hour care

In all cases, individuals may need to access low level preventative support and specialist support according to their need.

Delivery of the Autism Action Plan will be based on collaborative, partnership work across the public, private and voluntary sector. It will be focussed in encouraging self care through empowerment, support and access to appropriate information.

7. Developing the Strategy

This strategy reflects information gathered through:

- The Autism Self Assessment (2013)
- Local consultation (STACs and Autonomy)
- The Review of the 2010 Adult autism Strategy (October 2013)
- Big Lottery Fund Application (A4U)
- Parents Open Doors/Parent Carer Forum
- Children's Team/SEN
- Meeting with people with Autism/Aspergers and family carers/parents

Over the period of implementation of the strategy, further work will take place to improve the robustness of data. Overall, we will aim to gather information once and use it many times.

Also, in the near future, a revised Strategy is expected to be published by the Department of Health. This document is expected to highlight 'good practice' from other parts of the country, which will be used to inform local improvements and developments.

8. Next steps: areas of priority

The following areas require further work to develop clear Project Plans which are linked to the Autism Action Plan, covering the period 2014 – 2017.

Section One: Engagement

- **Local Autism Partnership Board:** There is a local Autism Partnership Board but meetings have been infrequent. Work is required to improve the robustness and effectiveness of this meeting, including membership (public, private and voluntary) frequency and partnership working. The Board will also link in with the group working across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Staffordshire. Voluntary representatives in attendance at board meetings will be eligible for reimbursement of expenses, in line with Telford and Wrekin Council policy.
- **Engagement:** There is clear evidence of engagement locally, however, this remains an emerging area for further work. People with Autism/Aspergers, family carers and parents have strong views and wish to be listened to, so that their opinions inform future commissioning. Through the Autism Partnership Board there is a need to develop a more systematic approach encourage and support on-going engagement. In taking this forward, it is important to recognise that for some people with severe autism who may require additional support with communication.

- **Advocacy support:** Through existing/future advocacy contracts with local providers, individuals will be able to access advocacy support.

Section Two: Service Experience

- **Data collection and reporting:** Data is gathered, but not in a robust and systematic manner across all commissioning and provider organisations, including schools and in line with Caldicott guidelines. Those involved in data will work together to increasingly align processes of gathering data. This is a significant task and will take time to achieve.
- **Health care:** Clinical engagement needs to be evident across all areas of the NHS provider services to improve outcomes for people with Autism. There is also a need to develop, agree and implement diagnostic pathways appropriate to children and young people, and adults which includes an expectation that a diagnosis will be made within 18 weeks following initial referral.
- **Transition for young people:** The strategy is for all ages. Further steps are required to ensure timely communication, anticipation of the need for future services and planned, reasonable adjustments to accommodate need during the transition process for young people. This will be supported by a Community Care Assessment undertaken in a timely manner, prior to an individual's 18th birthday.
- **Housing:** One of the areas for development identified in the local Housing Strategy for Adults with Learning Disabilities, 2009/10 to 2018/19 was planning and commissioning housing and support services for People with Autism. These needs will vary greatly between individuals. As part of this, there is a need to develop housing and accommodation planning for individuals, including young people in transition who will be entering adult services in the future (they will not necessarily be in unsuitable accommodation). Also to establish how many adults with autism are living in unsuitable accommodation or who will need alternative housing and accommodation in the longer term. The desired outcome should be increasing the number of people with autism that live in accommodation that meets their needs (which may include, for example, residential care, supported housing or fully independent living). A number of new supported housing schemes are in the development pipeline locally. These are generally one bed units, for which individual tenancies will be offered.
- **Employment:** Support for all vulnerable groups, including those on the autistic spectrum into employment should be strengthened. Currently, there is a strong view that this is an area that requires far more work to take place, leading to improved outcomes for those seeking employment.

Section Three: Value for Money

- **Efficiency:** There is a need to work with all partners and providers to ensure robust financial management and control. We need to know and be able to evidence that money is used appropriately and achieves real

outcomes. This includes avoiding costly, unnecessary interventions, unless required, for example, appropriate interventions during school years to avoid higher costs later in life. The Strategy endorses the need for efficiency, innovation and monitoring. This will support the development of effective services which improve outcomes and quality of life and which are 'value for money'. A significant number of people with autism are already receiving services within the local area. Steps should be taken to identify:

- how much is currently spent, and
- reductions achieved through earlier, planned interventions, reflecting either preventative or enablement support.

A recent example of this is the low level hub is highly valued by individuals with Autism/Aspergers and family carers. Any future investment should reflect an 'Invest to Save' approach.

Section Four: Operational Excellence

- **Pathway of care:** The pathway of care including referral, assessment, diagnosis and interventions according to identified need must be formally established, with involvement and agreement from all relevant partners, professionals and stakeholders. This will ensure an improved and consistent approach across all organisations as well as providing:
 - clear governance to ensure timely access to services, and
 - information to family carers including clarifying whom to approach when seeking a diagnosis or assessment.
- **Health and Well-being:** Autism is referenced in the Health and Well-being Board top ten priorities. Further work is required to develop a clear programme of action to ensure the necessary support is available at a local level to individuals and family carers/parents.
- **Collaboration:** Education, social care and health services work together to provide a seamless service for all.
- **Access and support:** The establishment of the low level preventative Hub for adults is welcomed. This model needs to progress to become a sustainable and critical feature of local provision, successfully reducing the need for un-necessary clinical interventions. Further consideration is required to determine the appropriate, similar low level responses to children & young people, including family carers and siblings. . Currently information for families, carers and professionals can be accessed through the Autism Co-ordinator (Children's Specialist Services) and Family Connect to sign post to this service and others within children's services to offer appropriate support.

- **Criminal Justice System:** Work must begin to establish meaningful engagement with colleagues in the Criminal Justice System and to identify and respond to a range of areas of work, as required.
- **Community Care Assessment:** When diagnosis is confirmed, the individual will be offered to the opportunity to have a Community Care Assessment as a matter of course.
- **Access to information, including post diagnostic support:** The access point will signpost individuals to appropriate support required to ensure their needs are both identified and met. This will include the use of Family Connect for children and young people with an ASC diagnosis. The role of the Autism Co-ordinator already supports this process within children's services.

Section Five: Organisational capability.

- **Training:** Work is required to progress issues of training for staff via the Care Workforce Development Partnership (Telford & Wrekin Council) and Workforce Development initiatives, commissioned by the CCG to establish a robust training programme which includes a partnership approach to future workforce development and training will need to be developed. This will need to include education and awareness raising for Primary Care and other health professionals and engagement with the Education sector and specialist services. The Autism Education Working Group is addressing the training needs of schools through an Audit and offer of training to all Telford and Wrekin Schools. OLLIE an on line training programme has been developed for Telford and Wrekin employees to access and will be going live during 2014.
- **Communication:** establishment of protocols to support effective, timely and meaningful communication between professionals from all organisations, (health, education and social care), including to and with family carers particularly during times of crisis

Annex 1**TELFORD AND WREKIN COUNCIL ALL AGE AUTISM STRATEGY 2014 – 2017****Introduction to the Strategy:**

As stated above (section 5), accountability is critical to achieving progress, particularly in relation to the Autism Action Plan which accompanies the Strategy. Each named lead from different organisations referenced in the Autism Action Plan will be accountable for developing an individual, robust and detailed Project Plan to support the specific Objectives listed in the Autism Action Plan. The development of the individual Project Plans by named, lead organisations will require consultation with others, including partnership working with people with autism and family carers. Overall responsibility for development, delivery, monitoring and reporting on progress will be with the named lead. Reporting will be on a quarterly basis, in the form of a written update to be submitted to the Autism Partnership Board, with other reports taken forward within each organisation, via their reporting mechanisms.

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE: ALL AGE STRATEGY

Action	Outcome	How measured	Lead	Deadline	Resource implications
Detailed discussions to take place between children's and adult services to ensure the all age strategy is taken forward.	People with Autism or Aspergers and their family carers/parents will experience a 'seamless service'. Needs of all people, regardless of age will be taken into account and if appropriate, responded to.	Surveys which reflect improved outcomes.	Children and Adult services Directors	Ongoing	Within existing resources.

SECTION ONE: ENGAGEMENT

Action	Outcome	How measured	Lead	Deadline	Resource implications
1.1. Representation of people with autism and family carers on the Autism Partnership Board. (N.B. Numbers will need to be limited to three. This may therefore require a selection process if more than three people wish to attend)	The voices of individuals with autism and family carers will inform discussions and decision making. FYPD (Forum of Young People with Disabilities) have a local voice on all issues and services.	Attendance and monitoring the linkage between what is done and how this matches with what individuals and carers have said.	Joint chairs of the Autism Partnership Board Mark Taylor	January 2014, and quarterly thereafter.	Pre-meeting work, support (if required) during meetings. Reimbursement for attendance as applicable, in line with Telford and Wrekin Council policy.
1.2. Forums for discussion and debate will occur on a six monthly basis and be open to larger numbers of people with autism and family carers.	There will be opportunities for wider involvement of people with autism and family carers to have their views heard and to be involved in service planning for commissioning of future services.	Meetings occur. Maintain a list of attendees and contact details.	Listen not Label (Adults) Parents Open Doors (Children & Young People)	January 2014, and six monthly thereafter.	Possible hire of venue, refreshments
1.3. Ensure people with autism have access to appropriate advocacy support, if required.	Individuals receive the support they need and, when they need it, so that they are able to express their views or concerns to others.	Advocacy services record and reported locally on engagement with and support for people with autism.	Advocacy service managers	January 2014 and quarterly reporting, thereafter.	Within existing contracts.
1.4. Provide information to	Family carers are	Through the	Carers Centre	January	Within existing

<p>family carers on the support and services available to support them, and/or the family members) with autism on relevant areas of concern, for example Housing Benefits/and the 'Bedroom Tax'.</p>	<p>informed and aware of information relevant to supporting them and their family carers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access Team, My Life Portal for adults, - the Telford and Shropshire ASD Parent & Carer Information Pack hosted on the Telford and Wrekin Website www.telford.gov.uk/autism , - the Shropshire Community Health website, - Ican2 website <p>all provide information for families and carers of children and young people with an ASC diagnosis Ican2 newsletter. DCYP bulletin distributed to parents, carers and all Telford and Wrekin employees offering local information and events The role of Autism Co-</p>	<p>Partnership Board and the Forum, receiving feedback that families are receiving information on a regular basis and feel more informed. This will be monitored over the duration of the Strategy. If evidence indicates this is not occurring, further steps will be proposed by the Autism Partnership Board.</p>	<p>PODs Autism Co-ordinator (Children's Specialist Services) Information Officer (Children's Specialist Services)</p>	<p>2014, and six monthly, thereafter</p>	<p>contracts</p>
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	<p>ordinator for Children and Young People with Autism and the Information Officer for all children with disabilities would sign post and provide information about local and national services for support including for example: charities or benefits.</p>				
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SECTION TWO: SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Action	Outcome	How measured	Lead	Deadline	Resource implications
<p>2.1. Young people moving through transition from children's services into adult services experience the appropriate level of support and care.</p>	<p>Young people who move from children's services to adult services feel positive about the experience and the way they were supported. They have increased knowledge, skills and confidence to live more independently and progress towards the right option for them, including Further Education, Employment or Housing.</p>	<p>Annual surveys of outcomes. Low referrals to specialist healthcare services for young people. Low numbers of young people entering into the Criminal Justice System. Forum for Young People with Disabilities (FYPD) – work with people from 0 – 25 years.</p>	<p>Transition Team CAMHs/ SSSFT Mark Taylor</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Within existing resources</p>
<p>2.2. Appropriate, timely, consistent clinical engagement is in place across all areas of CCG commissioned services,</p>	<p>People with autism receive healthcare interventions in a manner which reflects knowledge of staff about autism and demonstrates respect. This leads to positive and appropriate interventions, in a timely manner. Adults with autism, their</p>	<p>Use of the Quality and Performance Contract monitoring process and audit where required.</p>	<p>CCG and CSU contract and quality teams</p>	<p>Monthly on-going</p>	<p>Within existing resources/ contracts</p>

	families and carers are satisfied with local services.				
2.3. Telford and Wrekin will continue to develop local housing offers for vulnerable people, including those on the autistic spectrum ensuring the provision is matched to need including single occupancy, if required.	People with autism will have access to the same housing options and choices as other vulnerable groups, with reasonable adjustments being made to support their needs. Information will be available confirming the future housing needs of people with autism, including young people moving through Transition.	Monitoring of numbers of people with autism moving into different forms of accommodation, including children's fostering, tenancy or shared lives. In put from Future Focus (formally Connexions)	Community Access	Ongoing	Within existing resources
2.4. Through the Skills and Enterprise Hub (New Options) and the EEAST Team, and working with secondary schools/FE colleges to support people with autism towards long term, sustainable employment	More people with autism will become employed to work in jobs which are skilfully matched with their needs and abilities so that they are able to remain in sustained employment.	Through monitoring and reporting, data will evidence that more people with autism are moving into real employment opportunities, covering both paid and unpaid, part and full time.	Collaboration: - EEAST Team - Secondary Schools, and - TCAT	Ongoing	Additional resources may be required
2.5. Community Care	More people with a	Increase in the	Care and	Ongoing	Within existing

assessment: When someone is diagnosed with Autism, the individual will be offered access to a Community Care Assessment as a matter of course.	diagnosis of autism have a Community Care Assessment.	numbers of people with autism recorded and then offered and in receipt of a Community Care Assessment.	Assessment		resources
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SECTION THREE: VALUE FOR MONEY					
Action	Outcome	How measured	Lead	Deadline	Resource implications
3.1. There is a need for all organisations to ensure all financial resources are used in a way that achieves outcomes and is 'Value for Money'. The Strategy endorses the need for efficiency, innovation and monitoring, to ensure improved outcomes and value for money	Efficiencies will be identified. Improved outcomes. Providers and Commissioners will seek to establish new and innovative approaches to service delivery.	Efficiencies achieved. Use of contract monitoring processes.	Commissioners	Ongoing, within existing structures.	Within existing resources as much as possible. Investment linked to improvement and development, prevention and enablement will be linked to 'invest to save' proposals.
3.2.To ensure that quality monitoring and audit of services delivered by Providers occurs throughout the duration of the Strategy.	Value for Money. Timely response to meeting needs. Providers comply with contractual obligations. NHS constitutional objectives are met.	Contract reviews. Quality Monitoring visits. Audit	Commissioners	Ongoing, lined to contractual agreements.	Within existing resources.
3.3 To demonstrate that working in partnership with the Voluntary sector secures value for Money	Evidence of social and Emotional return on investment. Co-ordination of collaboration by different organisations, aligning support to individuals.	Reduction in crisis for individuals. Reduced admission into acute services.	Voluntary sector	Ongoing	Contracted services via the voluntary sector.

SECTION FOUR: OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Action	Outcome	How measured	Lead	Deadline	Resource implications
<p>4.1. Data is gathered. Work takes place to align the data so that it is accurate, and gathered once but used many times in a systematic manner across all commissioning and provider organisations</p>	<p>Data compliance with Caldicott guidelines. Information sharing agreements in place. Information is gathered in a systemic manner which informs future planning and commissioning of services. Data demonstrates improvement in the quality of service delivery whilst delivering value for money.</p>	<p>Annual reporting, with quarterly gathering of data.</p>	<p>Performance and Planning Business intelligence services. Public Health</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Within existing resources</p>
<p>4.2. Pathway of care including low level intervention, referral, assessment, diagnosis and interventions, differentiated according to categories of need must to be formally established, with involvement and 'sign up' from all relevant partners and stakeholders as well as clear governance and</p>	<p>Development and use of an agreed pathway of care including low level intervention, assessment, diagnosis and clinical intervention where appropriate. Patients receive a diagnosis within 18 weeks following initial referral.</p>	<p>Quality and contract performance e.g. waiting times/admission data. Satisfaction of people who use services and family carers/parents.</p>	<p>SSSFT/CAMHs/Commissioners/stakeholders</p>	<p>Agreed pathway in place by Spring 2014. On-going monitoring.</p>	<p>Within existing resources</p>

monitoring in place to ensure timely access to services, when needed.	Health services, which may be required intermittently, are available in a timely manner and for an appropriate amount of time.				
4.3. Collaboration: Education, Social Care and Health services work together to provide a seamless service of care across all ages.	Children's services across Education, Social Care and Health will work in an aligned manner to deliver a seamless service to children and young people, including supporting transition.	Children and Young People have their needs addressed in a way which reduces the need for unnecessary support in adulthood.	Children's services	Ongoing	Additional resources may be required
4.4. Autism is referenced in the Health and Well-being Board top ten priorities. Further work is required to develop and Programme manage the Projects to ensure necessary support is available at a local level.	People with autism receive high quality care which supports their overall health and well-being. People are enabled to actively engage within their local communities (relative to capacity) and avoid un-necessary admissions to health run services or the Criminal Justice System.	The Health and Wellbeing Board is able to provide evidence which shows achievement in the annual Autism Self Assessment.	H&WBB lead officer	Ongoing from Project Leads and annual report to the H&WBB	Within existing resources
4.5. The establishment of the	Adults diagnosed with	Contract reviews	Commissioning	Six	Additional

<p>low level preventative Hub is welcomed. This model needs to progress to a sustainable and critical feature of local provision, successfully reducing the need for unnecessary clinical interventions.</p>	<p>autism are able to access high quality, low level access to preventative and enabling support services within the local community. Early discussions at 'the Hub' providing information and access to commencing the initial stages of assessment, leading to the diagnostic pathway.</p>	<p>with providers</p>		<p>monthly reporting</p>	<p>resources required</p>
<p>4.6. Strong links are established and maintained with the different sections of the Criminal Justice System including probations, Police, prison and specialist commissioners so that people with autism are treated appropriately</p>	<p>People with autism who encounter any services within the Criminal Justice System are treated appropriately, with respect and reasonable adjustments are in place to improve safeguarding. Experiences which have a long lasting impact on their overall health and wellbeing reduced, or cease..</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Probation</p>	<p>Quarterly reporting</p>	<p>TBC</p>

SECTION FIVE: ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY

Action	Outcome	How measured	Lead	Deadline	Resource implications
5.1. Work is required to progress issues of training for staff via the Care Workforce Development Partnership (LA) and Workforce development, commissioned by the CCG to establish a robust training programme which includes a co-production approach to future workforce development and training.	The Care Workforce Development Partnership, provider organisations and the CCG establish robust programmes of differentiated training. This includes different professions including Primary Care, to ensure that staff are knowledgeable about autism. Staff in different organisations have the skills required to meet individual needs and make reasonable adjustments.	People with autism encounter staff working across the public sector who meet their needs, make reasonable adjustment to deliver high quality care/services and treat them with respect.	SPIC	Ongoing	Additional resources may be required from all partner organisations
5.2. Establish protocols to support effective, timely and meaningful communication between professionals from all organisations, including to and	Professionals will have clarity on who to liaise with and when. Family carers will be	Evidence of improved engagement and addressing of individual needs. Family carers	Council (children and adults) and CCG	Ongoing	Additional resources may be required from all partner organisations

with family carers, particularly during times of assessment and crisis	more informed and 'kept up to date', particularly during times of crisis. Family Connect Local Officer providing information.	indicating higher levels of satisfaction with the information and support they receive.			
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APPENDIX 3

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AUTISM CAPITAL GRANT

Contact Details	
Name:	Tina Jones
Telephone 1:	01952 916108
Telephone 2:	01952 262066
Email:	tina.jones@listennotlabel.org.uk
1. What would you use the Autism Capital Grant funding for, how much would it cost and what outcomes would you like to achieve? Weighting 35%	
<p>Telford and Wrekin Council for Voluntary Service deliver the Young Carer's Service, Adult Carer's Service, IASS, Independent support and Listen not Label (LnL).</p> <p>LnL is a Disabled User Led Organisation (DPULO) delivering person centred services to people with autism at our local Autism Hub.</p> <p>The funding will be used to ensure modifications to the environment to support clients. Low arousal and a well structured environment are important.</p> <p>We will support communication by offering a consistent approach in providing an improved information technology (IT) infrastructure, ensuring we;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. enable clients to access on line peer support,2. improve capacity to search for autism information, supporting independent living,3. support employment aspirations,4. develop systems to take information and support out into the community,5. develop new IT skills and access to on line learning modules,6. ensure the Autism Hub is accessible. <p>The funding will meet the following outcomes for people with autism;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the barriers to services• More people will report increased independence through the development of their peer to peer skills• Increase opportunities to access personalised training and career advice• Improved information, advice, advocacy and low level support services• Improve the Hubs environment• Increase self help and self management skills through enhanced knowledge and learning	

Equipment cost

Laptops	£1,832
Tablets	£796.00
License	£400
Software	£600
Television	£349.00
Projector	£270.00
Height adjustable desk	£175.00
Hearing loop	£1,500
De sensitised lighting	£2,500
TOTAL	£8,442

2. How would you ensure that your purchases will have an expected life of more than one year and beyond? Do you foresee any issues which might limit the expected life of your purchases?

Weighting 10%

Purchases would come from existing suppliers that Telford and Wrekin CVS have long term relationships with. Trusted suppliers will ensure the purchase and maintenance of high quality equipment.

The one off purchases will support the sustainability of the autism hub. The delivery is of a high standard and is continually quality assured.

The organisations internal policies and procedures include;

1. training for Volunteers and Staff that will support delivery of the activities identified above,
2. procedures for safe keeping of equipment,
3. asset register and procedures for itemising equipment,
4. indemnity and Liability and insurance for replacing stolen goods,
5. maintenance contracts for IT equipment.

Other projects within Telford and Wrekin CVS will benefit from the environmental changes to the building and the equipment. Children and young people going through transition will be onsite being supported to access information around changes from their statement to an education, health and care plan.

Unpaid family carers are often in the building and access the Autism hub regularly. Telford and Wrekin CVS have created on line training and have examples of modules created.

The effectiveness of this funding will change the environment permanently.

3. Discuss the outcomes of any consultation you have had with people with Autism during the last 3-6 months which can influence the thinking around the bid?

Weighting 25%

Our bespoke Autism Hub has a steering group of clients (which includes younger people) They are actively involved in participation and engagement of the local activities and

functions of the Hub. Their voices are fed into the priorities alongside local commissioners and other service providers. The voice of people with autism is gained through individual work sessions and group engagement, ensuring everyone can contribute. We have engaged by using a range of media including film, recently capturing clients experiencing social isolation.

Listen not Label are active members of the local Autism Partnership board and work with the Autism Lead on the Health and Wellbeing Board. Our clients have a voice in local, regional and national decision making, covering the entire health and social care economy. Listen not Label provides a “Mystery customer” service for the local Clinical Commissioning Group to improve reasonable adjustment under the Equality Duty for Public Sector providers.

This proposal has been developed as part of on going co-production with people with autism.

Telford and Wrekin has identified rural areas that can add to the social isolation of clients with autism. Many are already living with social behaviour challenges showing barriers when engaging and socialising with others.

It is well evidenced through local consultation that;

- services need to be autism friendly and accessible,
- an improved IT system would greatly improve communication and engagement with isolated clients,
- addressing the employment aspirations is a high priority for meeting successful client outcomes.

4.How many service users do you estimate will benefit from your proposal?

Weighting 5%

Please tick

1 – 5 people	
6 – 10 people	
11 – 15 people	
16 – 20 people	
21 people or more	X

5.How do you currently monitor services and will there be any changes to your approach for this project?

If Yes, please state how you will make changes and why.

Weighting 23%

The proposed project will be operated under the principles and values of a DPULO and clients will have a role in the project delivery, monitoring and evaluation of this project.

A performance management framework is used to monitor the delivery of services across Telford and Wrekin CVS and includes;

1. a project plan that includes indicators for quantitative and qualitative targets, milestones and timelines.
2. project plan monitoring by the delivery team, including clients and led by the project manager.

3. quantitative and qualitative data collection on a database recording workshop attendees, referrals, activity, person centred goal settings and personal outcomes. This includes client narratives demonstrating their journey, goals and outcomes.
4. low level intervention targeted support monitoring as a cost comparator and as a preventer to crisis intervention from a social and financial perspective.
5. using Google media development tools to capture data, showing how many people are using the site. This will be monitored and evaluated as a rich source of intelligence and will include “hits” from professionals using the site as an information resource.
6. evaluation as part of the learning outcomes of the project, showing differences made and achievements, pre and post intervention.

The only change for monitoring and evaluating this project will be the additional involvement of clients in the performance management framework as part of individual development of their IT skills in capturing and presenting data using the equipment purchased.

**6. Would you be prepared to provide two reports on achieved outcomes?
The report will need to include a description of what outcomes were achieved, and if they were the outcomes you wished to achieve, what difference it has made to individuals etc.
Weighting**

Yes	X
No	
Signed:	
Date:	

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SCORING CRITERIA

Question Number	Score	Description
Question 1	1	Limited description of how the funding will be spent and how outcomes will be achieved.
	2	Good description in part, with some costs and limited outcomes
	3	Good description, clarity about the skills and resources required to deliver the service, information on cost and
	4	Excellent clarity about the service delivery and clear costs.
Question 2	1	Limited explanation, purchases unlikely to be sustainable
	2	Some explanation, purchasing likely to be sustainable
	3	Good explanation, purchasing likely to be sustainable and one limitation explored.
	4	Excellent explanation, purchases likely to be sustainable and can foresee a range of issues that might limit the expected life limit of purchases.
Question 3	1	No/little consultation, limited outcomes and no link to the bid
	2	Some consultation and some outcomes and
	3	Good consultation and clear outcomes
	4	Excellent consultation and clear outcomes
Question 4	1	1 – 5 people would benefit
	2	6 – 10 people would benefit
	3	11 – 15 people would benefit
	4	16 – 20 people would benefit
	5	21 or more people would benefit
Question 5	1	Limited understanding of how services are currently monitored and no evidence to this project
	2	Some understanding of how one service is currently monitored, but limited understanding of how it can be adapted to meet the needs of this project
	3	Good understanding of how one service is currently monitored and good understanding of how it can be adapted for this project.
	4	Excellent understanding of how a number of services are currently monitored, excellent understanding of how the current monitoring can be adapted for this project.
Question 6	Yes	Pass
	No	Fail

APPENDIX 4

Autism Capital Grant – Revised Equipment Sosts

	Initial Costs	Revised Costs
Laptops	£1,832	£3,662
Tablets	£796	£2,500
License	£400	£1,000
Software	£600	£1,500
Television	£349	£698
Projector	£270	£540
Height adjustable desk	£175	£350
Hearing loop	£1,500	£1,500
De sensitised lighting	£2,500	£6,000
Website	£0	£750
TOTAL	£8,442	£18,500

Notes;

1. Doubled laptop and tablets based on your assumption that the grant would be shared between lots of organisations.
2. Increased the licence figure due to the increase in number of the laptops and tablets.
3. Increased software as Julie has informed me of several software packages available that families in Telford and Wrekin have either paid for themselves or obtained from charities.
4. Doubled the number of TVs
5. Doubled projector cost
6. Doubled height adjustable desks
7. I have kept the hearing loop the same unless you say otherwise because I assume you would only need one at the hub. Is this correct?
8. Increased the lighting as your research was based on a Google search which may have been quite conservative and would not include fitting of the lights.
9. I have added website as per our discussion as LNL are updating their website. Although, this was not mentioned explicitly in the letter from the DH, I do think that the virtual world as is as much of a reality as equipment so I think we could stretch the interpretation.

APPENDIX 5



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Private and Confidential
Autism Team
Department of Health

Paul Taylor
Director: Adult Social Services
Health Well-being and Care

Addenbrooke House
Ironmasters Way
Telford
TF3 4NT
Tel: +44 (0)1952 381 208
e-mail: paul.taylor@telford.gov.uk

Contact: Paul Taylor **Telephone:** 01952 381208 **Date:** 8 December 2014

Dear Colleagues

Re: Autism Capital Grant 2014-15 Proposal

On behalf of Telford & Wrekin Council, I am writing to you with a proposal for how the Autism Capital Funding will be utilised.

Declaration

We agree to utilising this one-off grant to enable progress with the implementation of Think Autism as per this Memorandum of Understanding.

The Proposal

The proposal requests the full grant to ensure modifications can be made to the Autism Hub to support people with Autism and improvements to communication through the use of technology allowing Customers to;

- Access online peer support
- Improve capacity to search for autism information
- Support employment aspirations
- Develop systems to take information out to the community
- Ensure the Telford Autism Hub is accessible.

The grant will be given to an existing provider who have also been awarded the Autism Innovation Grant, thus strengthening the services they can deliver. It is anticipated that the proposal will benefit more than 20 people.

The Equipment

The assets to be acquired are a combination of laptops, tablets, projectors, hearing loop, desensitised lighting, height adjustable desks, licenses and software.

Objectives and Outcomes

The proposal will enable people with autism to reduce barriers to accessing services; increase opportunities to access personalised training and career advice; improve information, advice, advocacy and low level support services; improve the Hubs environment and increase self help and self management skills through enhanced knowledge and learning.

I would like to thank you in advance.

Yours Faithfully

Paul Taylor
Director of Adult Social Services
Health, Well-being and Care