



# 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?

2

### Comment

*Our Clinical Commissioning Group is Luton Clinical Commissioning Group.  
We have also established a strong partnership with Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and other local statutory partners; therefore we are able to strategically coordinate the delivery of the Autism Strategy across Bedfordshire and Luton while being sensitive to specific needs of Luton Borough.*

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?

*Our partners in delivery of the Autism Strategy are Luton Clinical Commissioning Group, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council*

*We have two Commissioning Plans for Bedfordshire:*

- a) Joint Commissioning Strategy and Plan for Luton Borough Council and Luton Clinical Commissioning Group*
- b) Joint Commissioning Plans for Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group*

*There are two main governance structures in place which allow joint delivery:*

*a) Commissioners' Implementation Group - four named autism commissioners meet regularly seven times per year. Each commissioners' meeting is themed, with presence of relevant partners.*

*b) Fulfilling Lives Partnership (Bedfordshire and Luton Autism Partnership Board) - takes place four times per year. The commissioners and relevant partners inform, consult, seek feedback and suggestions from stakeholders.*

*Each statutory organisation also reports internally via required channels using information from the implementation and partnership meetings work.*

## 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.

*The named Joint Commissioner who oversees the implementation of the autism strategy is Simon Pattison (Head of Adult Joint Commissioning for Luton CCG and Luton Borough Council). Contact details simon.pattison@lutonccg.nhs.uk. Simon Pattison reports to the Director of Commissioning and Integration within Luton CCG, he also links with the Head of Adult Social Care within Luton Borough Council.*

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

- ☐ Red  
☐ Amber  
☒ Green

##### Comment

*Autism has been included in the JSNA since 20011*

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

- ☐ Red  
☒ Amber  
☐ Green

##### Comment

*Adult Social Care and Mental Health Staff are expected to record a diagnosis of autism on Carefirst case management system , staff are making reasonable progress in recording this information.*

#### 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?

174

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

174

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

4

##### Comment

*In relation to question above 4 people are recorded as having a learning disability and mental health problems.*

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

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

## If yes, how is this demonstrated?

Currently data is based on population estimates and data from Case Management System. Needs were identified and mapped out through a series of working groups meetings when drawing up the Luton strategy. The implementation of the commissioning plan is now overseen by the Fulfilling Lives Partnership and Learning Disability Partnership Board. These bodies help identify the ongoing needs of those on the autistic spectrum and seeks feedback from all relevant stakeholders, including those on the spectrum and their carers.

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

- ☐ Red  
☐ Red/Amber  
☒ Amber  
☐ Amber/Green  
☐ Green

## Comment

Data from case management system and that from public data source and the Office of National Statistics

## 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

\* CCG have both a named joint commissioner and clinical lead for Autism  
 \* Autism diagnosis and support was one of the main QIPP (Change Programme) projects for BCCG and LCCG in 2012/2013  
 \* Local CCGs fully understand link between diagnosis, community care assessments and on-going support, therefore is fully open to local authority's input into diagnostic service specification and operational protocols

## 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.

\* 2010-2012 Local autism strategy working and steering groups membership included third sector, self-advocates, carers representatives, regional NAS support  
 On-going:  
 \* Bedfordshire and Luton Autism Partnership Board invites input from individuals on the autistic spectrum and carers, this is open to all individuals with ASCs and carers in Luton. We have received comments and feedback in relation to the local diagnostic service, housing policy and training plan, for example.  
 Autism Training is co delivered by two people on the Autistic Spectrum

## 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.

*Autism Awareness training is attended by a wide group of staff across public sector services, this is changing working culture and staff attitudes. We have good anecdotal evidence from some services as to how they have started to make changes to their working practices. This includes GP practices and the DWP making changes to their waiting areas so that they are more "autism friendly". The local hospital also take individuals on the autism spectrum on work placements and staff have attended training to make the work place more accessible.*

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.

*Referrals are automatic for people who have a learning disability and meet adult social care eligibility criteria. It is not necessarily automatic for others, who may need to be referred into the system via the Contact Centre.*

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

- ☐ Red  
☒ Amber  
☐ Green

Comment

*Autism training is available to and taken up by staff in Older Persons services. Autism Bedfordshire are developing some services geared to older people on the autistic spectrum, however we still need undertake a more substantial needs assessment for older people on the autistic spectrum and collect data for this cohort*

## 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.

*Autism Awareness training has been commissioned for 18 months and has been available to all appropriate staff who work with, or may have contact with, adults with ASCs. Front line staff from receptionists to specialist workers are catered for in the training programmes. Social Workers, Community Care Workers, Nurses, GP's and OT's are just some of the types of workers who have attended. Currently over 800 staff have received the training across Bedfordshire and Luton, overwhelmingly offering positive feedback, and as a consequence, service delivery has been seen as improving for those with ASCs. Self advocates with autism are fully involved in the design of training and have a role as trainers (training is face to face) We have a training plan in place and regularly review and address gaps in provision.*

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

*Most relevant staff have attended awareness training and or level 2 Autism which covers adjustments in approach and communication.*

*We are currently developing an indepth Level 3 training course and will be inviting applications from relevant staff groups within the next month, this will cover adjustments and communication in detail*

**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.**

*GP's and other Primary Care practitioners have attended the current Autism Awareness training and specific training sessions have been delivered to a number of GP Practices. A more specialist, Level 3 training programme is being developed with the involvement of two Clinical Psychologists, for delivery to specialist staff, GP's and residential workers*

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

☒ Yes  
☐ No

**Please comment further on any developments and challenges.**

*Autism Bedfordshire have engaged with and have run a training programme for staff at Bedford Prison and are planning subsequent training for additional staff. A small number of Probation staff have attended the current training, fed back positively to their management and there will soon be negotiations to offer specific training to other Probation staff. Police trainers have attended the training and are cascading it through their own staff team training programmes*

*We have had two developmental workshops to establish how local the CJS will contribute to the autism strategy. CJS partners engaging with the autism strategy are: Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Probation Trust, CJS Mental Health Team, Community Safety Partnership, Bedford Prison and Bedfordshire Drug and Alcohol Team.*

*As a result of the workshops we have identified "critical" points for a) autism screening b) information sharing c) autism training across CJS.*

*All partners have expressed full support to organise their training or access already available local training pathway.*

*Bedford Prison leads the way by following activities: initial survey on autism prevalence, training delivered to prison staff as well as in reach providers, initial entry screening includes autism screening (AQ 10).*

*We have indications from full engagement of the local CJS partners that this area of the strategy which is one of our local priorities for 2013 will deliver significant awareness raising and CJS pathway modification for autism in near future.*

## Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

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

☐ Red  
☒ Amber  
☐ Green

## Please provide further comment.

*The Adult Autism Service (AAS) is for Adults (18+) and based on a multi-disciplinary model of local and community based assessment and diagnosis to work alongside existing Specialist Health Services, Local Authorities, independent and voluntary services.*

*The AAS will be based in community satellite clinics covering Bedford; Central Bedfordshire and Luton with an admin base as the central contact point for the service.*

*AAS will operate 09.00 - 17.00 Wednesday to Friday, with flexibility on appointments to meet patient need.*

*AAS Admin & Referrals  
Clinical Resources Centre - Twinwoods  
Milton Road  
Clapham  
Beds  
MK41 6AT*

*Referrals to the AAS admin are welcome from:*

- \* *GP's*
- \* *Specialist Healthcare Services*
- \* *Criminal Justice Service*
- \* *Local Authorities*

*Patients must be 18+ adults who are living in Bedfordshire and Luton, registered with a Bedfordshire or Luton GP and who are believed to be on the autistic spectrum.*

*All referrals will be acknowledged within 7 days of receipt of referral and an appointment scheduled with the appropriate clinician within 18 weeks.*

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

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

7

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

2013

Comment

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

Please report the total number of weeks

14

Comment

*New service, patients will be seen in 18 weeks*

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

18

## Comment

*10 referred to new service since April 2013*

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

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

## Comment

*Local CCG fully understands link between diagnosis, community care assessment and on-going support, therefore is fully open to local authority input into diagnostic service specification and operational protocols*

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

*Local Autism Pathway is based on "Bristol Model". It is a multidisciplinary team with clinical expertise, training element, clinical supervision element, social care element, and on-going long term support element.*

*The pathway has capability to support complex cases, however at the same it integrates with the mainstream services (e.g. LD teams, MH teams, etc) in order to support individuals with autism in the "referral area" by providing "free of charge" guidance.*

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?

*Protocols and procedures to be finalised, service has only been in place since July 13*

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

- \* Community care assessment and, if eligible, agreed support package
- \* Autism Support Worker linked to Diagnostic and Assessment Pathway for on-going targeted support
- \* Autism Bedfordshire available to anyone with the need of support ( main commissioned activities are social groups, telephone help line and employment support)
- \* Information provision - autism directory compiled by Autism Bedfordshire and learning disability directory
- \* Carers Support - newly commissioned services will provide support to parents and carers of those on the autistic spectrum
- \* Those on the spectrum and their parents and carers are also able to access advocacy support from POhWER

## 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

7

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

1

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

6

Comment

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

Autism Bedfordshire  
Helpline: 01234 350704  
Other Enquiries: 01234 214871  
Email: enquiries@autismbeds.org  
Address: St Mark's Church, Calder Rise  
Bedford, MK41 7UY  
<http://www.autismbedfordshire.net/>

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

Local Autism Pathway is based on "Bristol Model". It is a multidisciplinary team with clinical expertise, training element, clinical supervision element, social care element, and on-going long term support element.  
The pathway has capability to support complex cases, however at the same it integrates with the mainstream services (e.g. LD teams, MH teams, etc.) in order to support individuals with autism within "the referral area" by providing "free of charge" guidance. If the person does not have mental health problem or learning disability they will be able to be supported by the Autism Specialist Team, Autism Support Worker and Autism Bedfordshire. We are still working on the pathways to enable individuals to access a community care assessment

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**

*Our advocacy provider is POHWER*

*All PohWER Advocates receive training around engagement and working with people Autism. This is part of Pohwer's mandatory training and this is supplemented by accessing external training i.e. Level 2 Autism Training - Autism Beds.*

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**

See above

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.

*\* Autism Support Worker linked to Diagnostic and Assessment Pathway for on-going targeted support for social care non eligible people with Autism*

*\* Autism Bedfordshire is available to anyone ( main commissioned activities are social groups, telephone help line, training)*

*\* Information provision - information on universal services in Luton is available on the council's website. There is also an Autism Directory and Learning Disability Directory*

*\* Advocacy services are available to any vulnerable person in Luton*

*\* Housing related support available through Penrose for relevant individuals*

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**

*A copy of the Local Autism Strategy is available on both the Council and CCG Website.*

*We are also developing a Bedfordshire "Fulfilling Lives Partnership" Website, which gives relevant , accesible information about the Partnership Board and local services. Autism Bedfordshire also have a online directory of local services on their webiste*

## Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

- ☐ Red  
☒ Amber  
☐ Green

**Comment**

*Current housing strategy references people with disabilities, this is under review. Strategic Housing Manager aware of the needs of people of individuals on the autistic spectrum and has recently met with the Senior Officer from National Autistic Society*

## Employment

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

- ☐ Red  
☒ Amber  
☐ Green

#### Comment

*Disability Employment Advisors have had autism awareness training. The local supported employment service runs a project for individuals on the autistic spectrum and can access support from an advisor. We also have funding for autism apprentice project*

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

- ☐ Red  
☒ Amber  
☐ Green

#### Comment

*Strong focus on employment and training for everyone going through transitions*

## 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

*We have had two developmental workshops to establish how local criminal justice system (CJS) will contribute to the autism strategy. CJS partners engaging with the autism strategy are: Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Probation Trust, CJS Mental Health Team, Community Safety Partnership, Bedford Prison.*

*As a result of the workshops we have identified "critical" points for a) autism screening b) information sharing c) autism training across CJS.*

*All partners have expressed full support to organise their training or access already available local training pathway.*

*Bedford Prison implements following activities: initial survey on autism prevalence, training delivered to prison staff as well as in-reach providers, initial entry screening includes autism screening using autism screening tool AQ 10.*

*Autism Bedfordshire have engaged with and have run a training programme for staff at Bedford Prison and are planning subsequent training for additional staff. A small number of Probation staff have attended the current training, fed back positively to their management and there will soon be negotiations to offer specific training to other Probation*

## 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

Comment

#### Self-advocate story two

Question number

Comment

### Self-advocate story three

Question number

Comment

### Self-advocate story four

Question number

Comment

### Self-advocate story five

Question number

Comment

## 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

Month

Year