

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Health & Well Being Board
Date: 3rd December 2013
Report for: Information
Report of: Executive Member for Community Health and Wellbeing

Report Title

National Autism Strategy Self Assessment Exercise

Summary

This is the second national self-assessment exercise of the Adult Autism Strategy “Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives”.

Local Authorities play a key role in implementing the recommendations of the Strategy and the statutory guidance that supports it.

The purpose of the self-assessment is:

- To assist Local Authorities and their partners to assess progress in implementing the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy;
- To see how much progress has been made since the baseline survey, as at February 2012;
- To provide evidence of examples of good progress made that can be shared as well as remaining challenges.

The on-line assessment was completed and returned to Public Health England at the end of September 2013

The Adult Autism Strategy

The Adult Autism Strategy “*Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives*” was published in 2010. It was an essential step towards realising the Government’s long term vision for transforming the lives of and outcomes for adults with autism.

The Autism Strategy has five areas for action aimed at improving the lives of adults with autism:

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

The Strategy is not just about putting in place autism services; it's also about enabling equal access to mainstream services, support and opportunities through reasonable adjustments and training and awareness raising.

Commissioners from Trafford Council and Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group responded to the Autism Act by establishing a local Autism Partnership Board. This is a multi- agency group which includes carer representatives and representation from people with autism, as well as providers and commissioners in health and social care. This group coordinates Trafford's response to the national strategy and has identified local priorities for people with autism living in the borough. The Partnership Board has produced Trafford's Autism Strategy to implement the areas of the national strategy at local level.

In November 2011 Trafford employed an Autism Coordinator to co-ordinate the implementation of the Autism Act and develop Trafford's own response. The coordinator reports to the Autism Partnership Board and works collaboratively with people in mainstream and specialist services as well as carers and people with autism.

Trafford make up one of the ten Greater Manchester Authorities who have worked together as a network for a number of years to develop better services for people with autism. The Greater Manchester Autism Consortium, supported by the National Autistic Society Family Services Development Project, organises numerous events for the partner authorities to work together to develop ideas and resources.

The Self-Assessment Exercise

The 2013 self-assessment exercise builds on the first self-assessment exercise which looked at what progress had been made since February 2012. This was based around the self-assessment framework which the Department of Health launched in April 2011 to support localities with the delivery of the Adult Autism Strategy.

The purpose of the self-assessment is to get a national overview of local area implementation of the strategy and to identify the good progress made to assist in developing the next steps for the strategy. It is hoped that, as well as sharing good practice, the self-assessment will also help to highlight the challenges which may be impacting on progress and local solutions.

The national strategy is being reviewed and it is anticipated that the revised version will be published in March 2014.

Recommendations

To note the contents of the self-assessment

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Jenny Holt - Commissioning and Service Development Manager