

London Borough of Islington AUTISM PARTNERSHIP BOARD (APB)

Terms of Reference (what we will do and how we will do it)

The aim of the Partnership Board is to work together with other organisations to improve the lives, health and wellbeing of people with an autistic spectrum condition. It also aims to give people on the spectrum a voice and empower them to make positive changes to enable increased choice and control.

What the Board will do:

- Make decisions that will help support the work of the Partnership Board and any action groups
- Agree what work needs to be done, how we are going to do it, who will be responsible for making sure it gets done, how we will know when we've done it and who we will tell
- Make sure we are working to the:
 - Autism Act 2009
 - The Autism Strategy 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' 2010
 - Think Autism 2014
 - Statutory guidance for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy 2015
- Sign off and monitor the Islington Autism Strategy
- Support work around the Health and Wellbeing Strategy or any other strategies that will help people with autism
- Identify current and future gaps in services and let commissioners know, including transitions services

Focus of the Board:

- The Board will focus its work around people with an autistic spectrum condition who don't have a learning disability
- The Learning Disability Partnership Board will lead on issues that affect people with autism and a learning disability, although the Autism Board will support this work where appropriate
- The Board will cover all ages
- The Board will cover people who live in Islington, are registered with an Islington GP or whom Islington Borough Council has a responsibility for

How we will do it:

We will meet bi-monthly to talk about the work we need to do and to share information. We may reduce this to 4 times per year once the Board is up and running.

These meetings will be co-chaired by an Expert by Experience. The co-chairs will meet before the Board meeting to plan the agenda.

We will all work together to achieve the Board's goals.

Membership:

We want to make sure the Partnership Board represents people with autism and also includes people that can help make a difference. The membership may change from time to time but will include:

Experts by Experience and Family Carers:

- Children or young people with an autistic spectrum condition who don't have a learning disability, that can represent a wider group of people
- Family carers of children or young people with an autistic spectrum condition who don't have a learning disability, or a representative from a relevant carer's organisation
- Adults with an autistic spectrum condition who don't have a learning disability, that can represent a wider group of people
- Family carers of adults with an autistic spectrum condition who don't have a learning disability, or a representative from a relevant carer's

organisation

Empowerment and Consumer Voice Organisations:

- Autism London Asperger's Group
- Ambitious About Autism
- The National Autistic Society
- Other relevant advocacy organisations
- Healthwatch

Islington Council Officers:

- Service Director Adult Social Care
- Head of Pupil Services
- Autism Specialist Senior Practitioner, ILDP
- Director, Targeted & Specialist Children

Islington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG):

- Head of Children's Health Commissioning
- Joint Commissioners for Disabilities and Mental Health (adult's services)
- CCG Clinical Lead for Learning Disabilities and Autism
- GP Champion

Health Professionals:

- Head of Speech and Language Therapy
- CAMHS psychologist
- Head of Paediatric Therapy
- Clinical lead for psychology (with ASD remit) – adult's services
- Clinical lead for psychiatry (with ASD remit) – adult's services
- CIFT Service Lead – adult's mental health services

Education / Employment:

- The Bridge Outreach Service
- Colleges\Higher Education
 - City and Islington College
- LBI Employment Lead
- Co-ordinator of the SENCO Forum

Criminal Justice System:

- Police
- Court Liaison and Diversion Service
- Head of Service - Community Safety

Chairpersons:

- Representative Expert by Experience
- Service Director Adult Social Care

Meeting Advisors:

When the Partnership Board needs specialist advice we may invite people with special knowledge to attend which may include representatives from:

- Learning and Development (Children's and Adult's)
- Information Technology Department
- Quality and Performance (Children's and Adult's)
- Job Centre Plus
- The Access Service
- Contact Islington
- Other professional, voluntary and community organisations

All members are expected to take an active role in the Partnership Board and promote its work. If a member can't attend then they will send someone in their place. If members were given an action at the last meeting, they will be asked to give an update on what has been done.

Communication:

We will use different ways to communicate with each other and also let other people know what we are doing.

We will organise:

- Meetings
- Workshop Events

We will write:

- Newsletters
- Emails
- Reports
- Minutes
- Website updates

We will make reasonable adjustments to ensure meetings and communications are accessible to all.

Reporting Arrangements:

To make sure our Partnership Board works well we will write reports to say what we have been doing. We might send these to:

- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Department of Health
- NHS England

We will also ask people to send reports to us to tell us about the work they have been doing.

Islington Autism Partnership Board – Priorities – Updated Sept 2016

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Priorities →	Commissioning	Data Collection and Analysis	Autism Awareness and Reasonable Adjustments	Education *** new priority after July meeting***
Objective	<p>Ensure that Islington has a robust strategy for supporting increasing numbers of people with an autistic spectrum condition who don't have a learning disability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an autism strategy for sign-off by the board Review the NDD Service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the service has clear outcomes and performance data is regularly monitored Work with the service to reduce waiting times Consider impact of increasing numbers of people with autism on service planning Map the local offer for people with an autistic spectrum condition who don't have a learning disability; including advocacy services Review the numbers of people with autism who have a personal budget Ensure that autism is a key theme in the on-going review of transitions arrangements Develop the range of prevention services available that make reasonable adjustments for people with autism Ensure that people with autism who also experience mental ill-health can access good quality mental health services, including in-patient services, that make necessary reasonable adjustments – linking to the Transforming Care programme Carry out the autism self-assessment framework Support the public health suicide prevention review 	<p>Improve our understanding of the numbers and needs of people in Islington with an autistic spectrum condition who don't have a learning disability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse current health and social care data held about people with autism; including those in transitions and those in education Identify any gaps in the existing data that would be useful to collect to help us to better understand the needs of people with autism in Islington Greater local accountability for unblocking data quality problems within primary and secondary care. Work with IT in order to implement best practice codings Ensure that new codings are embedded in social work practice Carry out a health needs assessment for people with autism 	<p>Improve awareness of autism and autism specific services. Ensure reasonable adjustments are being made in mainstream services and the training offer is robust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure relevant professionals (health – including GPs, social care, housing, education and employment services, and the voluntary sector) are aware of the local adult autism diagnostic and treatment pathway Ensure the Council, CCG and partner organisations are aware of the need to make reasonable adjustments for people with autism, making use of models of best practice Identify any gaps in the training offer for professionals, family carers and shared lives workers Ensure autism awareness training is embedded in LBI and CCG equalities trainings Ensure that family carers and self-advocates are involved in developing and delivering training Ensure that primary and secondary health providers flag people with autism when they come into contact with services and reasonable adjustments are made 	<p>Ensure people with autism have fair and equal access to education opportunities and can access any support required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of local school capacity to cope with increased numbers of people with autism
Actions we looked at last time				
Comments from the meeting on 20th July			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective might need to be tightened up as currently very broad Should be aiming to be an autism friendly borough – would need buy in from businesses It would be good to hear about initiatives that work so we can learn from them Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could a training package be developed around autism awareness and working with people who have autism which could then tailored to particular groups as required e.g. prison staff? It could be a joint piece of work between children's and adult services' and 3rd sector providers. The training could incorporate looking at screening tools and referral processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges for education: Inclusion, Funding, Transitions, ASD awareness in mainstream education Action needed – mainstream schools should have ASD champions and ASD specialist schools should share their best practice

Priorities →	Pathways	Criminal Justice	Employment and Training
Objective	<p>Ensure people with autism have a clear pathway through life with access to a range of appropriate services.</p>	<p>Ensure people with autism receive fair and equal treatment within the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>Ensure people with autism have fair and equal access to employment and training opportunities and can access any support required.</p>
Actions we looked at last time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design a clear pathway from diagnosis to community care assessments (where eligible) and advice, information and sign posting to prevention and universal services Ensure the pathway meets the needs of those going through transition Ensure that the pathway is explained to people and that accessible reference information is available Review commissioning's mapping of the local service offer for people with autism and identify any gaps Ensure people are aware of the local offer – ensure the website is up to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick up the Hate and Mate crime agenda Work with the Liaison and Diversion service to improve outcomes for offenders with autism; including signposting to appropriate support and health services to prevent re-offending Work with HMP Pentonville to ensure all healthcare staff have received autism awareness training and appoint autism awareness champions Work with HMP Pentonville to develop screening tools to ensure prisoners with diagnosed or undiagnosed autism are identified and given appropriate support Work with HMP Pentonville to ensure there is continuity of care for individuals with support needs when they are released back into the community Link in with the work of the Reducing Offending Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure people with autism are included within any Council and CCG employment strategies and needs / reasonable adjustments are understood Provide guidance and support to local employers around high functioning autism, including implementing reasonable adjustments, the Access to Work scheme and apprenticeships Ensure there is good access to employment related support for people with autism and widely advertise these services Ensure that people with autism who are already in work know where they can access employment related support Discuss with NHS colleagues employment opportunities within the organisation
Comments from the meeting on 20th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify diagnostic pathways – children and adults <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We should ask the people who are responsible for diagnosis what the pathways are Review information and advice available Review post-diagnostic services – community care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to clarify the pre-diagnostic work to ensure people are appropriately referred Local offer website needs to reach people that are out of borough too and it should include voluntary organisations e.g. AAA, Tree House Social networks are important to prevent isolation and should be given funding Actions needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More peer to peer support More support available for YP and families Designing a pathway from assessment --> community care should be done by a small working group with a reference group who will check the draft Commissioning's mapping of local service offer should also be presented to LD partnership board, FCRG and Parents Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we better understand the needs of and our responsibilities towards people in the prison system? Need an action around probation services and how they work with people with autism Training and awareness for CJS staff Could use Reducing Offending Board as a vehicle Need to understand the national guidance relevant to this area The Court Liaison and Diversion Service needs to be able to identify people who might need extra support Good transition planning is required for offenders known to children's services as they transfer to adult services Children's services should work with schools to support with issues around multiple offending Information about support services needs to be more readily available (services other than MAPP) e.g. Through The Gate, Fulfilling Lives, link workers through Providence Row, Elfrida Society Agreed that all police officers, probation officers, youth offending officers, prison officers and prison healthcare staff have received good autism awareness training (see autism awareness section for a general note on training) Screening tools in prisons should be reviewed and linked with the autism diagnostic service to ensure there is a pathway after diagnosis Encourage better use of the Through The Gate service Agreed the autism board should link in with the reducing offending board The Appropriate Adult service should be reviewed, especially as the Met Police no longer commission this – is the service still responsive to need? People with autism – and particularly young people – need to understand that criminal justice system and their rights Could criminal justice services have autism champions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing action around local employers – add awareness of the employer disability awards Question whether employment related support is currently available? NAS support employers If employment related support is expected through DWP and work choice – ensure that these are ASD accessible Action needed – increase the number of people with ASD in employment For employment, need to work with: DWP, Wellbeing and Work Partnership, SCOPE?, Remploy, National Careers Service, National Apprenticeship Service, NAS