

Assurance and delivery framework for Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism

Introduction

The vision set out in the One Stockport Health and Care Plan is for everyone to live happy healthy lives by having the best possible start in life, reducing inequality between different communities while improving health and wellbeing for everyone in the borough. In Stockport we want to achieve this by working with all our partners and more importantly putting our residents at the heart of what we do and how we achieve this.

Improving mental health and wellbeing is one of the priorities identified in the One Stockport Health and Care Plan and our All-age Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy sets the strategic approach we will take.



There is a large degree of overlap and interconnect between Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism (MH&LDA) – approximately 20-30% of people with a learning disability also have autism and people with a learning disability (LD) and/or autism are more likely to experience mental health (MH) problems.

People with good mental wellbeing are more likely to have positive self-esteem, maintain good relationships, live and work productively and cope with the stresses of daily life. This is particularly important for people with a learning disability and/or autism who face many challenges to their resilience. Having a learning disability and/or autism increases the likelihood of experiencing poverty which is a key underlying driver mental distress and inequalities in mental health. It is important that we recognise and address common social factors and the impact they have on keeping people with a mental illness, learning disability or autism well.

Centrality of lived experience and co-production is particularly important for mental health, learning disability and autism because people with these conditions can

struggle to get their voice heard. We are therefore committed to meaningful conversations with people and creating the right structures, pathways and mechanisms to allow people with lived experience to shape the system to better meet their needs.

The purpose of this paper is to set out the governance and delivery framework as to how we will deliver on the vision. The paper will set out the:

- Context within which we are operating
- Current governance and delivery for MH&LDA
- Proposals for a new MH&LDA governance and delivery framework

Context

The health and care system are currently experiencing many challenges:

- People with mental health challenges (particularly serious mental illness), learning disability and autism live approximately 15-20 years less than the general population
- There is less money invested in mental health and LDA compared with other parts of the wider health and care system and investment in capacity has not kept pace with the growth in the demand, for example for autism and other neurodevelopmental needs
- The health and care sectors are experiencing significant workforce challenges
- There is an unprecedented demand for mental health support for children and young people across all sectors, including education.

There are clear national and local strategies which underpin what we need to do to achieve good outcomes for people with Mental Health, Learning Disability, and Autism:

- *NHS Long Term Implementation for Mental Health* sets a vision to transform mental health care so more people of all ages can access treatment and support
- The *National Strategy for Autistic People, Children and Young People (CYP) (2021 – 2026)* provides a re-refresh of the National Strategy (2014) which sets out a vision to address the challenges experienced by CYP and adults with autism across 6 key themes (e.g. education, employment, accepting autism in society)
- *Building the Right Support* for people with learning disability and autism (2022) emphasises that we are aiming for CYP and adults to be equal citizens in their communities, living in their own home and with the right health, social care support to meet their needs, and for CYP to have the right support to access education.

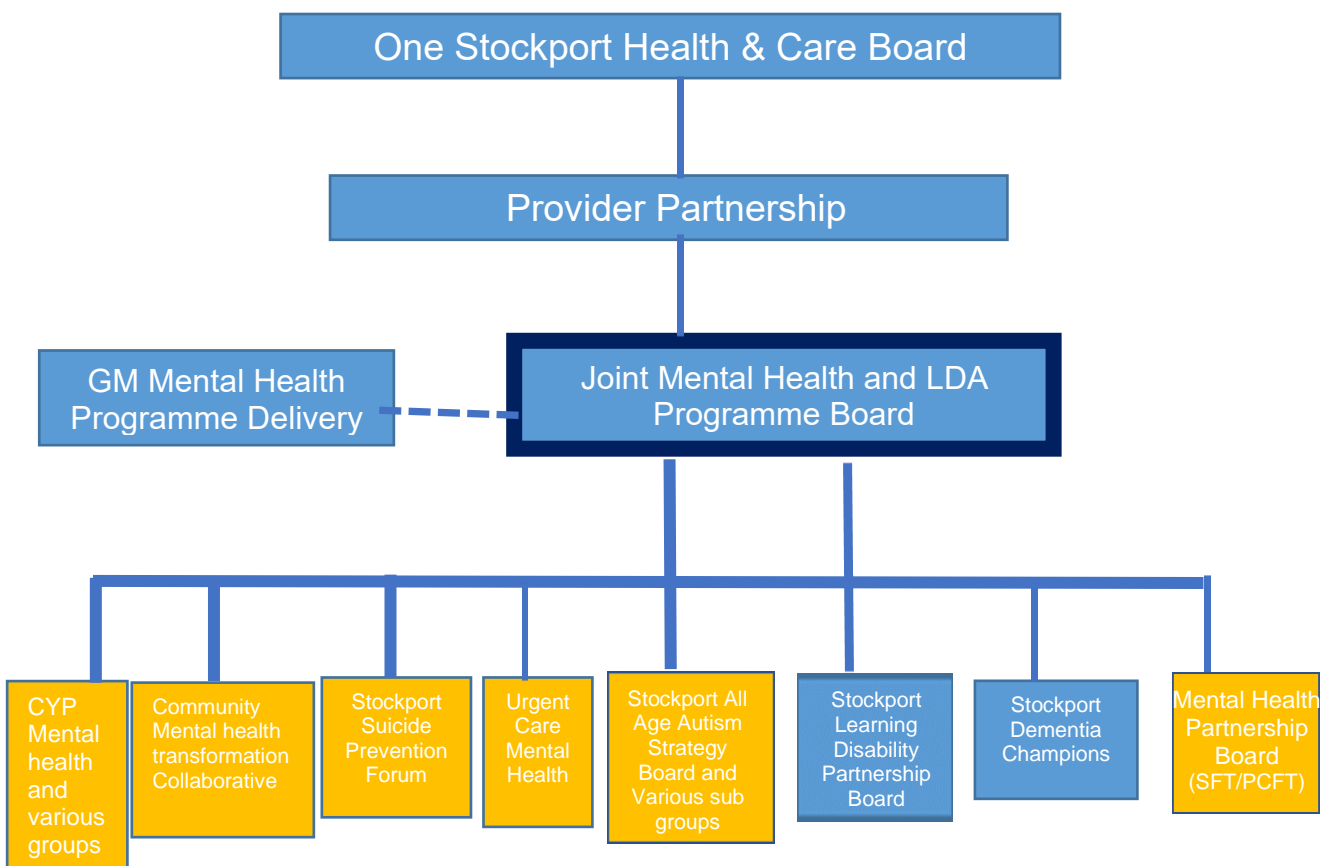
In response to the national plans and strategies we have developed our local strategies (Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and All Age Autism Strategy) to deliver improvements to our residents. The Valuing People Partnership Board (for people with a Learning Disability) is also in the process of developing a set of priorities and discussions with regards to a local Learning Disability strategy.

Central to our strategies and plans is the commitment to ensuring that people with lived experience are at the heart of what we do and our governance and delivery framework will ensure that people with lived experience are driving our strategies and are central to any decision making.

Current Governance and Delivery Framework

Partners have brought the three areas of Mental Health, Learning Disability, and Autism together under a single programme delivery board (with associated sub-groups), which currently sits above existing partnership arrangements in place for Autism and for Learning Disability (the current governance structures are illustrated in the diagram below). The current governance and delivery framework attempts to capture our responsibilities for delivering the ‘must do’s’ for the national and local plans and illustrates the breadth and scale of work that needs to be done. However, it does not fully reflect the ambition to ensure that people are at the heart of what we do. Both the autism and learning disability partnership boards are co-chaired by professionals and people with lived experience and we want this reflected across all areas.

Current Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Governance Structures



Proposals for a new Mental Health, Learning Disability, and Autism governance and delivery framework

It is proposed to change the current governance and delivery framework to recognise the value and importance that people with lived experience bring to the delivery of our plans.

Also, as an Integrated Care System we want to be consistent in demonstrating our commitment to co-production.

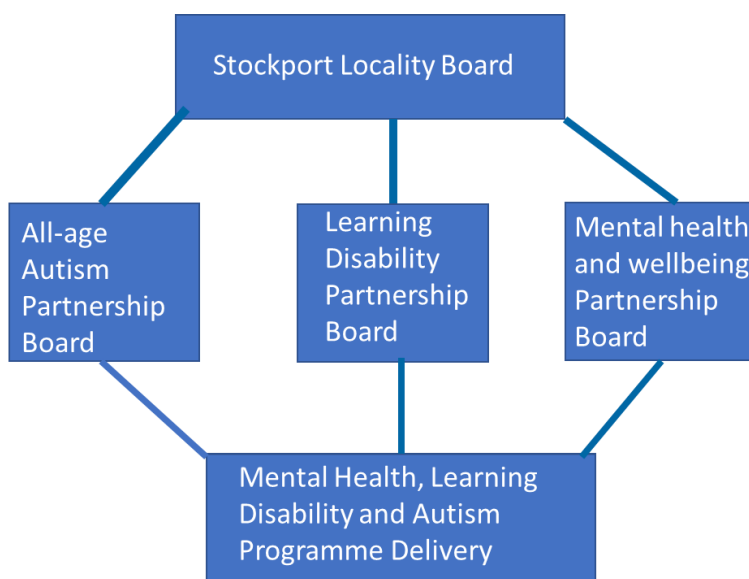
It is proposed to:

- Lift existing partnerships for both Autism and Learning Disability so they report directly to the Stockport Health and Care Board (the Locality Board).
- Establish a Mental Health Partnership Board, that is co-chaired by a lead professional and someone with lived experience. Terms of reference will be co-produced by the members but it is envisaged this Board will provide oversight and assurance on the delivery of the all-age mental health and mental wellbeing strategy and delivery plan.
- Shift the focus and position of the existing Mental Health, Learning Disability, and Autism Programme Board to one of planning and delivery of our key strategies, sitting underneath the three Partnership Boards.

This will mean that the three partnerships - Mental Health, Learning Disability, and Autism (MHLDA) - are each co-chaired by someone with lived experience, are elevated strategically and given a clear reporting line up to the One Stockport Health and Care Board as well as holding the new MHLDA planning and delivery group to account for delivery of the Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy, the All-Age Autism Strategy and plans for people with Learning Disabilities.

It will also be necessary to ensure that there are effective links and reporting arrangements with other boards and work programmes for example, SEND Board, Children, Young People and Families, Urgent and Emergency Care, Primary Care and Neighbourhoods and Prevention.

Stockport Mental Health, Wellbeing, Learning Disability and Autism Governance and Delivery Framework



The Planning and Delivery Group will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of national, Greater Manchester and locality strategy and plans. There are agreed national performance metrics across the Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism programmes, and the Planning and Delivery Group will be responsible for oversight; this will be through contributions to the monthly Performance, Improvement and Assurance meetings. Working with the 3 partnership boards the Planning and Delivery Group will agree locality metrics to measure delivery of our strategy and plans.

The Planning and Delivery Group will provide an update report to the Locality Board on a quarterly basis to provide assurance of the delivery of the strategies. Risks and mitigations requiring escalation to Board as they cannot be mitigated or pose a risk to the delivery objectives will be presented to the Performance, Improvement and Assurance group for consideration.

The Planning and Delivery Group will work with finance colleagues to identify the totality of resource available across the system to support these key areas of work.

The terms of reference for the Partnership Boards and the wider Programme Delivery group will be both co-produced and reviewed to define the alignment, relationships, inter-connection and reporting across the governance and delivery framework. It is also recognised that this is a new approach and will be kept under review with people with lived experience and system partners.

Recommendations

Stockport Locality Board is recommended to:

- **Note** the progress made in evolving our governance and assurance structures to better meet the needs of people with mental health, learning disability, and autism difficulties in a coordinated and robust way.
- **Support** the proposed new governance arrangements for these three interlinked agendas of Mental Health, Learning Disability, and Autism.
- **Support** the establishment of a New Mental Health Partnership Board to be co-chaired by someone with lived experience and a lead professional.