



All-Age Autism Strategy 2023-2026

Report To (Meeting):	ONE Stockport Health and Care Board		
Report From (Board Lead)	Clare Parker - Executive Director of Quality, Nursing & Healthcare Professionals/Deputy CEO		
Report From (Author):	Heidi Shaw – Director of Family Help and Integration Stockport MBC / Autism Partnership Board Co-Chair		
Date:	18 th October 2023	Agenda Item No:	12
Previously Considered by:	Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Planning and Delivery Group in October 2023 One Stockport Health and Care Executive Group in October 2023		

Purpose of the report:
To achieve sign-off of the Stockport All-Age Autism Strategy
Key points (Executive Summary):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The All-Age Autism Strategy supports and bolsters our vision for Stockport to become a place where autistic people and their families are understood, valued, and supported to achieve their individual ambitions. • The strategy is based on a foundation of national and regional legislation and guidance, along with local data and lived experience of Stockport residents. • The strategy has been co-produced in partnership with autistic people and their families across Stockport; we have sought to capture their lived experiences and what is most important to them, following intensive engagement work in 2022. The engagement period was over 15 months and involved over 400 members of the autistic community in Stockport. This includes almost 200 people through attending community groups, delivering workshops with parents/ carers of autistic adults and children and young people and engagement with autistic children, young people, and adults. We also sought feedback from the wider community and received 116 responses to a survey alongside additional engagement through dedicated local Facebook pages. • The development of the strategy was supported by PACTS (Parents and Carers Together Stockport), members of Stockport’s autistic community, colleagues from partner organisations such as the NHS, Pennine care, Stockport council staff, Stockport Homes, GMP and Primary Care. • This strategy document is supported by an autism Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), which has enabled us to understand the demographics of autism across the community of Stockport and firmly underpin the strategy with local data. Both national and local data sources were used to provide up to date information specifically in relation to autism. The data indicates that the number of people with an autism diagnosis across Stockport is predicted to rise. This is key to understanding how Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC), NHS Greater



Manchester Integrated Care (GM IC) and partners will support all autistic children, young people, and adults.

- To oversee the strategy implementation, an Autism Partnership Board has been convened, co-chaired by Nick Rosenthal, an Autistic Adult and the Director of Family Help and Integration for Stockport MBC (Heidi Shaw) to ensure lived experience and co-production is at the heart of strategic and operational delivery.
- To translate the strategy to system implementation, seven subgroups have been established which include members of our autistic community and their families to ensure lived experience is heard and responded to within all priorities. The subgroups have representatives from Social Care, Education, Housing, Health, Employment, Criminal Justice, Police, Advocacy and third sector organisations.
- The Autism Programme works alongside other strategies such as the SEND Programme and will incorporate projects such as Delivering Better Value, to ensure that children/ young people and their families will receive earlier support, reducing the number of requests for EHCPs and requests for specialist placements.

Recommendation:

The Board are asked to:

- Agree the strategy plus accompanying summary document.
- As individual organisations, continue to support the delivery of the strategy through officers attending and delivering activity agreed by the sub-groups. Committing resources through officer time.
- Support the development of recruitment and employment initiatives in your organisations.

Decision	x	Discuss/Direction	x	Information/Assurance	
-----------------	----------	--------------------------	----------	------------------------------	--

Aims (please indicate x)

Which integrated care aim(s) is / are supported by this report:	Improving the health of adults, children, and young people	X
	Supporting people to stay well and independent	X
	Acting sooner to help those with preventable conditions	X
	Supporting those with long-term conditions or mental health issues	x

Conflicts of Interests

Potential Conflicts of Interest:	None identified
----------------------------------	-----------------

Risk and Assurance:

List all strategic and high-level risks relevant to this paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long wait times for assessment and diagnosis can cause stress, anxiety, frustration and a lack of access to the right support in schools, work and home leading to mental health problems and possible crisis. Further work to mitigate this risk is being undertaken.
--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assurance of continued prominence of this area of work. Commitment to the strategy to be included in the refreshed Borough Plan. • Autism already recognised as a key priority for the locality (highest number of EHCPs, referrals to the MASSH). • Cross sector senior level commitment to own and deliver the strategy has been secured.
--	---

Consultation and Engagement:	
Local People / Patient Engagement:	<p>Engaged with over 400 members of the autistic community in Stockport. This includes engaging directly with almost 200 people through attending community groups, delivering workshops with parents/carers of autistic adults and children and young people and engagement with autistic children, young people, and adults.</p> <p>Feedback from the community received via 116 responses to a survey and through active Facebook social media community connections.</p>
Workforce Engagement:	Fortnightly Task and Finish Group with a range of professionals and Autistic Individuals.

Potential Implications:			
Financial Impact: Please note - All reports with a financial implication require detail of the level of funding, funding stream and comments from Finance.	Non-Recurrent Expenditure	£	
	Recurrent Expenditure (please state annual cost)	£ to be confirmed as part of the Locality Board Financial and Resource overview.	
	Funding stream	Yes	No
	Included in the s75 Pooled Budget		
	GM ICB (Stockport) delegated budget		
	Other, please specify:		
Finance Comments:			
Performance Impact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness and acceptance of Autism in our community, teachers, employers, health care providers, police, housing, social care and Stockport Family staff. • Earlier support for autistic individuals and their families. • Reduction in number of EHCP and specialist placement requests. • Increased access to healthcare, and employment opportunities across ages. • Increased awareness of local sources of support. • Reduced hospital admissions. 		

Workforce Impact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of frontline staff required in partner organisations. • Reviewed delivery models in education, health and care is the key to implementing the strategy, in some instances within the broader context of neurodiversity. 					
Quality and Safety Impact:	The strategy is expected to contribute to improving the quality of services and care provided to individuals and their families.					
Compliance and/or Legal Impact:	Compliance with national and GM guidance and plans identified in the strategy.					
Equality and Diversity: Has an equality impact assessment been completed?	General Statement: In progress					
If Not Applicable please explain why	Yes		No	x	N/A	
Environmental Impact: Has an environmental impact assessment been completed?	General Statement:					
If Not Applicable please explain why	Yes		No	x	N/A	