

Stockport's all-age Autism Strategy (2023-2026) – Mid-way review

Report To (Meeting):	ONE Stockport Health and Care Board		
Report From (Executive Lead)	Heidi Shaw, Director, Family Help and Integration Stockport Family, Stockport MBC		
Report From (Author):	Cheryl Knupfer Strategic Lead for Autism, Stockport Family, Stockport MBC		
Date:	04/12/2024	Agenda Item No:	10
Previously Considered by:	Stockport Autism Partnership Board		

Purpose of the report:

The report provides a mid-way review of Stockport's all-age Autism Strategy (2023-2026).

Key points (Executive Summary):

The three-year (2023-2026) strategy supports our aim for Stockport to become a place where autistic people and their families are understood, valued, and supported to achieve their individual ambitions.

It was 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. 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, and Stockport Council Staff.

The strategy is supported by a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which has enabled us to understand the demographics of autism across the community of Stockport. Both national and local data sources were used to provide up to date information specifically in relation to autism; illustrating 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 integrated Care System (ICS) and partners will support all autistic children, young people, and adults.

There are 6 priority areas which also reflect Greater Manchester's overall ambitions:

Priority 1: Improving understanding and acceptance of autism within Stockport

Priority 2: Improving autistic children and young people's access to education, and supporting positive transitions into adulthood



Priority 3: Supporting more autistic people into employment

Priority 4: Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people

Priority 5: Building the right support in the community and supporting people in inpatient care

Priority 6: Improving support within the criminal and youth justice systems

To steer and inform the strategy, eight subgroups have been established which include members of our autistic community and their families to ensure lived experience is heard and responded to. The subgroups have representatives from Social Care, Education, Housing, Health, Employment, Criminal Justice, Police, Advocacy in addition to third sector organisations.

A mid strategy review was undertaken with the Autism Partnership Board in the summer and the key areas of note are as follows:

Stockport has been noted as leading the way in Greater Manchester with:

- Piloting the Neuro-profiling tool
- 'Support whilst waiting' initiative
- Co-producing the school environmental audit tool
- SACS-R and I-BASIS Pilot Projects.

Progress includes:

- Published Stockport's first all-age Autism Strategy
- Re-established Autism Partnership Board and appointed a lived experience co-chair
- Published Stockport's Autism Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- Established quarterly engagement sessions to engage with the autistic community.

Understanding and Acceptance:

- Recruited 2 lived experience experts to co-create and deliver neurodiversity training to local businesses in Stockport
- Piloting neurodiversity sensory kits in 15 locations across Stockport to improve access to services
- Co-delivered neuro-affirmative language learning circle for Stockport Family staff
- Recruited Early Years staff to access the train the trainer course for Early Years Riding the Rapids
- Co-produced 'Understanding your Neurodivergent young person' course for parents and carers.

Education:

- Delivered training to school staff on creating and using one page profiles
- Co-produced and co-delivered Neurodiversity assembly for primary and secondary schools
- Updated and rolled out transition resources for children and young people

- Co-produced part-time timetable guidance for parents and carers
- Co-produced school sensory audit checklist, now being rolled out across Greater Manchester
- Piloting Neurodiversity in Education Programme (Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) and Neurodiversity in Schools (NDIS))
- Co-produced and co-delivered 'Understanding Autism' and 'Enabling Environments' training to all school staff from the 'Neurodiversity in Education Programme'.

Employment:

- Created work profiles for neurodivergent Stockport Family staff, which is now general practice via the 'Working Well Passport'
- Set up a neurodevelopmental support group for Stockport Council staff
- Created a webpage on the council website to outline employment information, guidance and avenues of support for autistic people in work and seeking work.

Housing:

- Organised a workshop to develop a multiple disadvantage tool
- Collected lived experience case studies to inform our work
- Began collecting data required to create an action plan to work toward our priorities.

Health:

- Rolled out a support while waiting initiative including webinars for parents and carers of topics identified by them
- Piloted Neuro-profiling Tool with families across 8 areas to screen young people and produce an action plan of support. Shared findings with Greater Manchester colleagues and co-produced final tool
- Launched 'Coffee & Connect' sessions for parents and carers to discuss concerns with our multi-agency team
- Re-structured children's Autism Team to become the Neurodevelopmental Team to incorporate both pre and post diagnosis
- Trained lived experience trainers to co-deliver the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training
- Carried out SACS-R and I-Basis projects and trained staff to use screening tool as part of the universal offer
- Created Neurodevelopmental Padlets to showcase local and wider support, training, resources and events
- Weekly drop-in sessions ran by Disability Stockport and Adult Social Care
- Developed a parent/ carer 'Exploring Neurodiversity' course and a post-diagnostic 'Exploring Autism' course.

Criminal Justice:

- Created a webpage on the council website to outline Criminal Justice information, guidance and avenues of support for autistic people who may come into contact with the criminal justice system as either a witness or someone who has been accused
- Co-produced a bespoke training package on neurodiversity and policing to co-deliver to 400 police staff

- Completed a sensory audit of Cheadle Heath Custody Suite and recommended changes.

Next Steps:

- Create health, Education and Housing webpages
- Roll out community training
- Roll out Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) and ADHD training
- Develop Preparation for Adulthood (PFA) action plan for next 5 years
- Review and amend autism assessment paperwork to use 'neuro-affirmative' language
- Roll out the Neuro-profiling screening tool
- Design and deliver parent/carer webinars as part of the 'support whilst waiting initiative'
- Design and deliver housing provider training
- Run Police and neurodiversity training from January to April 2025.

Recommendation:

The Board are asked to note the progress on the strategy.

Decision		Discuss/Direction	x	Information/Assurance	x
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Aims	(please indicate x)	
Which integrated care aim(s) is / are supported by this report:	People are happier and healthier and inequalities are reduced	x
	There are safe, high-quality services which make best use of the Stockport pound	x
	Everyone takes responsibility for their health with the right support	x
	We support local social and economic development together	

Conflicts of Interests

Potential Conflicts of Interest: None

Risk and Assurance:

List all strategic and high-level risks relevant to this paper | There remain long waiting times for children, young people and adults.

Consultation and Engagement:

Local People / Patient Engagement: All-Age Autism Strategy has been co-produced with our autistic community, their families and local partner workforce. We wish to thank all the people who contributed in creating this strategy and its ongoing implementation plan.

Workforce Engagement:

Potential Implications:

Financial Impact: Please note - All reports with a financial implication require	Non-Recurrent Expenditure	£ TBC
	Recurrent Expenditure (please state annual cost)	£ TBC

detail of the level of funding, funding stream and comments from Finance.	Funding stream	Yes	No
	Included in the s75 Pooled Budget		
	GM ICB (Stockport) delegated budget		
	Other, please specify:		
Finance Comments:			
Performance Impact:	Performance will be monitored through the Autism Board and reported through the Performance Improvement and Assurance framework for the Locality.		
Workforce Impact:	Further training, support and guidance will be provided to frontline staff and the specialist workforce.		
Compliance and/or Legal Impact:	Written in compliance with the Autism Act 2009, SEND Code of Practice. The strategy has been written with consideration of other reports, guidance and good practice guidelines that have been published.		
Equality and Diversity:	General Statement:		
Has an equality impact assessment been completed?	If Not Applicable please explain why	Yes	No
			N/A
Environmental Impact:	General Statement:		
Has an environmental impact assessment been completed?	If Not Applicable please explain why	Yes	No
			N/A