

High-level implementation plan for interim strategy for meeting the needs of adults with autism in North Yorkshire 2014-15

Action Number	Action	Timeframe	Progress
1	Exploring research around women and girls with autism to better understand the needs of this cohort. This research will be carried out in 2014 and the findings will inform the development of the joint strategy for children, young people, adults and older people with autism to be published in 2015.	June-September 2014	Underway
2	The Partnership Commissioning Unit will liaise with local area teams to promote the Royal College of General Practitioners' online autism awareness e-learning tool 'Autism in General Practice' to GP practices and to monitor uptake of this e-learning opportunity.	By December 2014	Initial discussions to take place
3	Extending the use of a new online e-learning package designed to raise awareness of autism from January 2014. Initially this was piloted and rolled out with North Yorkshire County Council staff, but it is anticipated that other public sector staff will be able to use the tool from April 2014. Training will be available for health and social care staff (mandatory for social care staff) and will include the necessity of making reasonable adjustments to take account of people's autism. This training will take place on a continuing basis throughout 2014/15.	May-September 2014	Rolled out to NYCC social care staff. Discussions underway re other public sector staff
4	Working in partnership with people with autism, where possible, to develop and deliver appropriate training for frontline staff. This work will begin in 2014.	May-June 2014	Virtual reference group will be consulted on training plans and invited to participate in modules if spaces are available
5	Raising the profile of autism within secondary mental health services via	By March	There are 3 specific

	Autism champions in each locality across the county.	2015	MH Autism Champions. All Autism Champions will meet in Summer 2014
6	The Partnership Commissioning Unit will review the accessibility of other health services such as counselling, psychology etc. for those with autism and make recommendations to the CCGs to improve access. Signposting to other services such as support for carers and advocacy will also be promoted at diagnosis. This work will take place in 2014.	By March 2015	Underway
7	The CCGs and NYCC will ensure that any person with more complex needs will receive appropriate care in line with the recommendations and principles of the Winterbourne Concordat Action Plan. This will include robust checks on providers. This work is on-going. People requiring health care under the Winterbourne Concordat Action Plan within York and North Yorkshire will all have a plan in place to ensure they receive appropriate care, where possible within community based settings.	By March 2015	Underway
8	The Partnership Commissioning Unit will consider a procurement approach for the provision of a diagnostic service for autism in North Yorkshire. This will include the provision of information and signposting following a diagnosis and onward referral to eligible services, depending on the needs of the person. This will be completed during 2014.	By March 2015	Underway
9	A new support planning tool, which will be used from 2014, will aid social care assessors and mental health staff by building an autism checklist into the standard assessment. This will enable the development of a personalised support plan to meet identified need.	April 2014	Complete
10	Lead commissioners from North Yorkshire County Council and the Partnership Commissioning Unit will link with District Councils on the	Oct/Nov 2014	Meetings to take place in Autumn 2014

	development of appropriate accommodation for adults with autism.		
11	The reablement (START) service in North Yorkshire will monitor the number of people with autism who undertake the period of reablement, and the outcomes of this input.	By March 2015	Underway
12	As part of the North Yorkshire Prevention Strategy, work will continue to maximise the use of personal budgets by adults with autism. North Yorkshire County Council will monitor the uptake of personal budgets by people with autism. Information will be made available on Personal Health Budgets as they are implemented.	By March 2015	Underway
13	Health and Adult Services and Children and Young People's Services will continue to work together to improve the Transitions process for young people moving into adult services. There is a Transitions Steering Group, a multi-agency protocol and action plan in place to aid this improvement.	By March 2015	Underway
14	Advocacy service specifications will include the requirements for staff to have autism awareness training and have the skills to appropriately support people with autism.	October 2014	Meeting with Contracting officers to take place in Autumn 14
15	The Partnership Commissioning Unit will promote autism awareness training and making reasonable adjustments within all CCG commissioned services. Providers will have a responsibility to demonstrate awareness that people with autism may also have a co-existing learning disability or mental health issue.	By March 2015	Underway
16	Health and Adult Services will work with the Carers Forum on support for carers and people with autism.	September 2014	Underway
17	The Supported Employment team have registered to work towards NAS accreditation status. The timescale for completion of this process is June 2016.	Core standards completed by	Core standards completed to deadline

		end May 2014. Specialist standards completed by November 14	
18	The Supported Employment lead for North Yorkshire County Council will engage with the Department for Work and Pensions regionally to discuss their targets and objectives for supporting adults with autism into work. This engagement will take place in 2014.	By March 2015	Underway
19	The Supported Employment team will continue to work with employers to develop their skills and knowledge of the needs of employees with autism (and co-occurring mental health needs, where identified). This will improve the experience of people with autism in the workplace.	By March 2015	Underway
20	Health and Adult Services and Children and Young People's Services will continue to work together to improve the Transitions process for young people moving into adulthood. This will include moving from education to employment. The Transitions Steering Group has this issue as a key priority and will monitor the outcomes of people with autism as they move into work.	By March 2015	Underway
21	Co-ordinating information about voluntary and other sector organisations that offer support to people with autism and their families.	June-October 2014	Underway
22	Ensuring information on autism is readily available and accessible through public networks such as libraries and via autism community channels.	June-October 2014	Initial discussions June 2014
23	Work will take place in 2014 to explore with people with autism how to co-produce options for the best support.	By March 2015	Virtual reference group established June 2014

24	An online directory of support, advice and services that offer support to people with autism will be added to North Yorkshire County Council's website. This online directory will be shared with people with autism, their carers, the North Yorkshire County Council Customer Services Centre and key organisations such as GP practices and Carers Centres.	By December 2014	Underway
25	To demonstrate transparency in our actions we will publicise the results of a self-assessment exercise on autism carried out in September/October 2013. We will benchmark our performance against that of other local authority areas.	June 2014	Data shared with operational General Managers June 2014. To share with wider teams.