

Autism Strategy 2014 – 2024 Objectives

1. Review current information systems with a view to streamlining and developing a joined up approach and accurate data
2. Work towards developing a clear pathway and accountability for the diagnosis, treatment, care and support of children, young people and adults with autism, ensuring the engagement of relevant stakeholders
3. Ensuring the route to diagnosis is more consistent, accessible and visible, whilst recognising the needs of individuals without a formal diagnosis
4. Develop a single point of access for information for individuals with autism, their families, carers and practitioners
5. Ensure there is a robust transitions process in place at each important life stage with clear responsibility across health, social work and other relevant agencies
6. Develop a post-school framework as part of the transitions process by engaging with local further education facilities, employment agencies and other local organisations in order to maximise opportunities for people with autism.
7. Focus on supporting those individuals with co-existing problems around mental health, substance misuse and offending behaviour as part of the wider pathway, in particular those regarded as 'hard to reach' and non-engaging
8. Enable people with autism to feel safe in their communities via measures around self-protection and links with community safety agencies
9. Work with the local community in relation to a wider social integration agenda; promoting local assets through the East Dunbartonshire Community Asset Map and raising awareness of autism e.g. use of Autism Awareness week

10. Review existing employment support programmes, the impact of welfare reform and ways to improve engagement with local employers across all care groups with a specific focus on autism
11. Ensure that people with autism and their carers are enabled to actively engage with mainstream services e.g. leisure and culture
12. Address the geographical challenges, ensuring equitable access to resources and the development of outreach/mobile support
13. Work in partnership with local organisations to raise awareness and provide autism specific support if required
14. Undertake a multi-agency training needs assessment and develop a strategic training plan
15. Promote access to self-help groups and peer support for individuals with autism, their families and carers including use of self-directed support
16. Develop meaningful consultation involving individuals with autism, parents and carers in the planning and evaluation of services
17. Ensure that the needs of people with autism are reflected in local housing plans
18. Develop a self-evaluation framework to ensure best practice implementation and monitoring including updating the existing action plan
19. Ensure that people with autism and their carers benefit from services that are integrated and complimentary – a multi-disciplinary approach which is clear and accessible to those who make use of it