



ED- AUTISM STRATEGY

PRIORITIES UPDATE



Introduction

- ▶ An ASD needs assessment was completed in 2014 by Figure 8
- ▶ From the needs assessment there were 19 key objectives, which as a partnership we committed to deliver
- ▶ We are now nearly halfway through our strategy, so it is now time to reflect on what we have achieved, what still needs to be done and what changes need to be made
- ▶ This presentation reflects whether the objectives have been met, partially met or not met and looks at what objectives are short, long or medium term pieces of work
- ▶ The next slide details all objectives and colour codes objectives with similar intentions



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

1. Review current information systems with a view to streamlining and developing a joined up approach and accurate data

This has not yet been met and was recognised as a longer term action. Other stakeholders need to be engaged in this process including Carefirst, ICT, Health and Education. It was agreed that the current systems may not be able to join up so this objective at present should be more about making the best use of the information collected via each system and agreeing on how we share this information – being cognisant of information sharing protocols and GDPR.

- Not Currently Met
- Long Term objective – with information sharing processes agreed

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

Work has been carried out on developing an ASD pathways leaflet which includes stages of transition and contacts at each stage of an individual's life. We have a current ASD Pathway but this needs to be reviewed and include pre and post diagnosis signposting and processes for referral and assessment. Some work still needs to be done on where those with a diagnosis of ASD sit if they don't have an LD or MH diagnosis. Need to ensure that there are no barriers around accessing universal services. This links to objective 3.

- Partially Met
- Also a short term aim which we wish to focus on in working groups in 2020

3. Ensuring the route to diagnosis is more consistent, accessible and visible, whilst recognising the needs of individuals without a formal diagnosis

A clear diagnosis pathway needs to be established for both C&YP and adults. Access to services can depend on what the individual's diagnosis is, if the pathway is difficult to navigate this can be stressful for the individual, their families and/or carers. Ensure diagnosis pathway is also available to HSCP staff. This has been met to some extent through the LACs production of contacts at each stage in an individual's life – we also have a pathway in place for social work services but this requires adaptation with clearer signposting pre and post diagnosis.

- Partly met
- Short Term – to be developed through the pathways working group

4. Develop a single point of access for information for individuals with autism , their families, carers and practitioners

The LAC's and day service staff from Kelvinbank are providing a 'One-Stop-Shop' across key areas of East Dunbartonshire, where information pertaining to ASD can be accessed. There is also a 'Parent and Carers Forum' which is supported by the LAC's. The re-establishment of the 'Community Asset Map' would also support a single point of access for ASD information and services. There is now an autism advisor in each EDC school

- Met
- Short Term – continuing work on assets map and signposting to families, carers and professionals

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

It was agreed that transitions are not just about transitioning from C&YP to adults. Work has been on-going to redesign the current transitions process. Transitions will be part of the transformation agenda to develop a more efficient and streamlined process; the 'Principles of Good Transitions 3' needs to be embedded across this. Each secondary school also has an autism advisor who will be the first port of call within each school.

- Partially Met
- Medium Term – Transitions group currently looking at better transitions between children's and adult services – including provision and support relating to Autism.

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

The post-school framework is being examined by the council through its employability group, who have a main focus at present on individuals with additional support needs. There has also been a sub group established as part of the current LD review process with the remit of looking at supports to young people with a mild learning disability or autism. HSCP Transitions group currently underway with the aim of making our transitions process more supportive and effective. Education now have an agreed number of ASN spaces at college.

- Partially Met
- Medium Term – ongoing developments expected through the LD and MH strategy reviews

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

Need to involve Community Justice, CMHT, PCMHT, EDADS, the ADP, Community Safety and the Police in reviewing the current landscape. It was acknowledged that there is an increasing number of individuals with ASD being recognised within this pathway.

- Not Met
- Medium Term

Action(s):

- ✓ Arrange a short life working group to look at this, or link in with any current meetings
- ✓ Ensure appropriate stakeholders are included
- ✓ Establish a clear pathway for individuals

8. Enable people with autism to feel safe in their communities via measures around self-protection and links with community safety agencies

This links to the objective 7. and should involve Community Justice, the ADP, Community Safety and the Police. Homelessness and Housing also have a role in this.

- Not Met
- Medium Term

Action(s):

- ✓ This should be an action linked to the objective 7. and discussed via the same means
- ✓ Ensure the appropriate individuals are involved
- ✓ Link to any current legislation and/or policies

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

There have been some developments through EDLC with the Leisuredrome Bishopbriggs, for example, introducing ASD friendly slots. LACs and EDLC are also developing a pilot on an individual's journey (what to expect when entering EDLC premises) We have now had two ASD festivals organised by LACs prior to Autism awareness week 2018, 2019. The focus of a working group in 2020 will be to establish a template for local businesses and organisations on how to provide autism friendly environments. As we engage with local businesses and services we will add to our Community Assets Partially Met

- Short Term – to be addressed through 2020 through a short life working group and engagement with local businesses and services

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

This ties in with objective 6. so it was agreed that this should be included in the work being done around employability. CAB and Posi + also need to be involved in driving this forward.

- Partially Met
- Medium Term

Action(s):

- ✓ Link in with objective 6. and ensure this work is driven forward
- ✓ Ensure that CAB and Posi + are involved where appropriate
- ✓ Look at all existing employment programmes
- ✓ Ensure all staff are aware of welfare reform
- ✓ As part of the LD strategy looking at the current landscape
- ✓ Through EDC Employability group – examine supports and opportunities for those with additional support needs

11. Ensure that people with autism and their carers are enabled to actively engage with mainstream services e.g. leisure and culture

This ties in with objective 4. and 9. and should be part of a wider action plan . Autism awareness needs to be developed and promoted across the LA. Some work has already been carried out on One-Stop-Shops, the autism festival, through EDLC, and the parents and carers group.

- Partially Met
- Medium Term

Action(s):

- ✓ Look at objectives 4, 9 and 11 together as part of 2020 short life working group
- ✓ Continue to promote the autism festival and autism awareness week and developments in EDLC

12. Address the geographical challenges, ensuring equitable access to resources and the development of outreach/mobile support

Autism needs to be prevalent within the locality planning groups. Autism should be looked at as part of the LD review and as part of the mental health and substance misuse needs assessment. Mental health is covered by two very different centres, which also comes with its own geographical problems. The One-Stop-Shops however cover both localities. New community resource being developed in Bearsden/Milngavie as part of the new Allander centre (Joint EDLC/HSCP initiative) This was partly through a recognition that we lacked a balance across EDC with regard to access to services and resources, – which were predominantly on the Kirkintilloch side of the authority

- Partially Met
- Medium to Long Term

Action(s):

- ✓ Embed autism in locality planning
- ✓ Ensure geographical spread is included when commissioning new services
- ✓ This will be picked up in the mental health and substance misuse review and the LD review and within employment/employability strategy group

13. Work in partnership with local organisations to raise awareness and provide autism specific support if required

Training is key in developing East Dunbartonshire as an autism aware/friendly LA. Training has been provided by LACs to EDC services – autism awareness. Further training may be identified/required through the short life working group on ASD friendly environments – providing guidance and templates to businesses and services throughout EDC. Also internal council available training needs to be scoped with regard what training and establishing the required levels of training. Training and support provided to education through Educational Psychology and ASD support sessions

- Partially Met
- Medium Term

Action(s):

- ✓ Scope out training needs and levels
- ✓ Look at use current online modules across Scotland
- ✓ Involve central training and CLD
- ✓ Use LACs and ASD advanced practitioners to provide awareness training

14. Undertake a multi-agency training needs assessment and develop a strategic training plan

Training is key in developing East Dunbartonshire as an autism aware/friendly LA. Training needs to be scoped looking at what staff need what training and establishing the levels of training. We need to ensure the needs assessment is multi-agency and includes awareness training for the community. This ties with objective 13 and will be addressed through the same processes

- Partially Met
- Medium Term

Action(s):

- ✓ Scope out training needs and levels – autism awareness is vital – be clear about who needs what level – not everyone needs to be an autism specialist – utilise advanced practitioners – this needs to be embedded and go further than just the HSCP and the council
- ✓ Look at current online modules across Scotland
- ✓ Involve central training and CLD

15. Promote access to self-help groups and peer support for individuals with autism, their families and carers including use of self-directed support

This is being provided via the Parents and Carers Forum, one stop shops, the ASD signposting leaflet and the on-going promotion of SDS. Although there has been significant progress with regards to this objective there is still on-going work to be done. Community capacity also needs to be developed.

➤ Met but on-going

Action(s):

- ✓ Continue the Parents and Carers Forum
- ✓ Circulate and promote the ASD leaflet
- ✓ Develop community capacity

16. Develop meaningful consultation involving individuals with autism, parents and carers in the planning and evaluation of services

There is on-going consultation via the Parents and Carers Forum. It was agreed that there should be a participation event to provide an update on what has been achieved so far from the Autism Strategy. This event should also outline the draft priorities over the short, medium and long term and allow participation from parents, carers, individuals with autism and practitioners.

- Met – current ASD strategy (half way through 10 year) consultation
- Longer Term – continue to revisit objectives and any further objectives identified through the ASD consultation

Action(s):

- ✓ Compile an update on the strategy and the priorities
- ✓ Organise participation event
- ✓ Parents and Carers forum to continue / One stop shops
- ✓ Use ASD strategy group to review and agree further actions

17. Ensure that the needs of people with autism are reflected in local housing plans

There has been some disconnect with regards to ensuring the needs of individuals with autism are reflected in the local housing plans. It was agreed that the membership of the ASD Steering group needs to be revised and look at the rep for housing.

- Not Met
- Long Term

Action(s):

- ✓ Invite housing rep to the ASD Steering group identify strategy meetings with a focus on housing rather than continued attendance?–
- ✓ Ensure there is connection between the needs of individuals with autism and the local housing plans

18. Develop a self-evaluation framework to ensure best practice implementation and monitoring including updating the existing action plan

Develop a performance framework and action plan with measureable Key Performance Indicators based on the short, medium and long term priorities. The 'story so far' needs to be evaluated and presented at the participation event with input and direction based on a collation of personal experiences; and possible identification of shared need for specific supports

- Not Met
- Short Term

Action(s):

- ✓ Develop performance framework and action plan
- ✓ Agree measureable KPIs
- ✓ Reflection on where we are and the specific focus for the next five years
- ✓ Seek agreement on the two main focus areas for 2020 – pathways and autism friendly communities

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

The essence of this will be reflected through the LD review and the mental health and substance misuse review which will look at how services can be more accessible and integrated. The implementation of the Carers Act and carers assessment/support plans will help to support carers continue to care.

- Not Met
- Long Term

Action(s):

- ✓ Link this objective to the LD/MH and SM reviews
- ✓ Implement the Carers Act and carers assessment/support plans