

LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod, Director of Adult Social Services

Report to	Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	25 March 2014
Subject:	Autism Self-Evaluation 2013

Summary

The Department of Health is currently leading a formal review of progress against the National Autism Strategy (DH, 2010). This is an opportunity for the National Government to assess whether the objectives of the Strategy remain fundamentally the right ones, to be assured of the progress that is being achieved by Local Authorities and the NHS, and consider what should happen to continue to make progress.

As part of the review process, a self-evaluation questionnaire was issued to all local authorities in summer 2013.

The completed self-evaluation for Lincolnshire was submitted to Public Health England as required by 30 September 2013.

The response for each local authority area was required to be agreed by the Autism Partnership Board or equivalent group, and the ratings validated by people who have autism. The questionnaire was completed in co-production with members of the local Autism Partnership Group, who also agreed the contents of the questionnaire prior to submission.

There is also a requirement for the content of the questionnaire to be signed off by the local Health and Wellbeing Board as evidence for local planning, health needs assessment strategy development and support for local implementation work.

Actions Required:

The Health and Wellbeing board is requested to note, discuss as necessary and agree the contents of the self-evaluation as evidence of local planning and support for local implementation work.

1. Background

Statutory guidance which accompanies 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' (DH, 2010), the Government's strategy for adults with autism, issued under section 2 of the Autism Act (2009), sets out key objectives for local authorities and NHS bodies in England, principally to ensure that:

All adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can get a diagnosis and access support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents.

The Department of Health is carrying out a review of the the National Autism Strategy (DH, 2010). The investigative stage of the review lasted until the end of October 2013 and the Strategy will be revised as necessary with an anticipated completion of March 2014. Part of this review is to understand how the strategy is being implemented, and what progression is being made by Local Authorities and the NHS. Part of that review was asking local authorities and their NHS partners to complete a self-assessment questionnaire.

Local authorities and the NHS play a key role in implementing the recommendations of the National Autism Strategy and the statutory guidance that supports it. The purpose of the self-evaluation was to:

- assist local authorities and their partners in assessing progress in implementing the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy;
- evaluate how much progress has been made since the baseline survey, as at February 2012;
- provide evidence of examples of good progress that can be shared and to note remaining challenges.

The self-assessment builds on the first self-assessment exercise which looked at what progress had been made since February 2012. This was based around the self-assessment framework which the Department of Health launched in April 2011 to support localities with the delivery of the Adult Autism Strategy and the statutory guidance for health and social care which was issued in December 2010.

The complete self-assessment questionnaire is attached as Appendix A, but the key themes from the local return were:

- Joint commissioning is in place
- There are issues around data collection
- Good co-production in place
- Lack of service improvement
- Lack of consideration of Older People with Autism
- Some progression on training, but more to do
- Diagnostic pathway is in place
- Problems separating Learning Disability and Autism

- Good local information sources
- Lack of a holistic approach
 - No links to housing
 - Lack of employment support
 - Lack of engagement with the Criminal Justice System

2. Conclusion

The Lincolnshire self-evaluation was submitted by the deadline date of 30 September 2013. All 152 local authorities in England Wales completed the self-assessment exercise by November 2013.

A report summarising the initial findings has been published by Public Health England, and is attached to this report as Appendix B.

The Public Health England website remains open so local authorities can confirm the date on which the self-evaluation was considered by Health and Wellbeing Boards, and we will update the website after the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board have considered this report and the questionnaire itself.

A fuller report giving regional and local details along with thematic analysis of key themes is scheduled to be published shortly. At that stage, Public Health England will also be making available the returns from local areas in full, both as document files and as a spread sheet to facilitate comparative analysis. This will be used locally to support the development of an All-age Autism Strategy for Lincolnshire.

3. Consultation

As part of the completion process the text and ratings submitted in the self-evaluation were discussed and agreed before submission by the Autism Partnership Group. All members were invited to make contributions including members with autism. Lead commissioners for both health and social care sectors were also involved.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Autism Self Evaluation
Appendix B	Autism self-assessment exercise 2013 Initial Findings

5. Background Papers

Fulfilling and rewarding lives: the strategy for adults with autism in England - http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_113369

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