

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REPORT

DATE OF MEETING:	1 December 2014
SUBJECT:	Draft Lincolnshire All-Age Autism Strategy 2015 - 2018
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Purpose

To present to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership the draft Lincolnshire All-Age Autism Strategy, which has been developed in response to the Government's national strategy for adults with autism; *Fulfilling and rewarding lives*. This report outlines the development of the strategy and presents the draft strategy to the Partnership for review and comment as part of the wider consultation that is being conducted on the document.

Background

Fulfilling and rewarding lives, the Government's strategy for adults with autism in England, was published in 2010 with the following key aims;

- To help adults with autism to access the services they need easily and free of discrimination
- To improve diagnosis
- To increase awareness of autism across health, care and community services

A recent refresh of the national strategy, *Think Autism*, was published earlier this year and puts a focus on the need for more autism-friendly communities.

In response to the national strategy, the original intention was to produce an adults' autism strategy for Lincolnshire and a 3-month public consultation was conducted in 2013 in order to help inform its development.

Having comprehensively evaluated all of the feedback from the consultation, a number of key themes arose. One area which received repeated discussion and focus was the transition from children's to adults' services. We recognise that transition is often a very difficult time for individuals with an autism spectrum disorder and as such it is critical that improvements are made to enable a more seamless service so that individuals feel sufficiently supported through the transition from children and young people to adult services.

With this in mind Lincolnshire took the proactive decision to develop an all-age

autism strategy. A further engagement process commenced in 2014 conducted by the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi), which additionally incorporated themes and key stakeholders representing children and young people, as well as adults.

Conclusion

The draft strategy itself incorporates a proposal for 8 Strategic Principles that underpin the development and model for the Strategy. These are as follows;

- Equalities-based
- Reflects parity of esteem
- Strengths-based
- Person-centred
- Proactive and preventive
- Safe
- Local, mainstream and inclusive
- Ambitious but sustainable

The consultation and engagement process completed with people with lived experience of autism and other stakeholders has highlighted key issues and emerging themes. This has resulted in the development of building blocks for action, which incorporate all of these themes, many of which are overlapping and have things in common, and will inform how and what we deliver locally for our citizens living with autism.

An action plan has been developed, which incorporates four key strategic programmes to deliver the Autism Strategy, and has underpinning measurable objectives. It will be overseen by the Autism Partnership Board, which will take a leadership role and be accountable for the delivery of the plan. Work is being undertaken to develop and strengthen the Autism Partnership Board, including a review of the membership, to ensure that it is fit to meet this purpose.

Consultation on the draft Lincolnshire All-Age Autism Strategy has now commenced with key stakeholders and is also open to the public to respond on the proposed 8 Strategic Principles and building blocks for action.

Any comments from the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will be fed into the final version of the Strategy, which is currently intended to be formally launched in April 2015.

Recommendation

That the Partnership receives the draft All-Age Autism Strategy for Lincolnshire and takes the opportunity to comment and provide feedback on the content of the document as part of the wider consultation process that is being undertaken with key stakeholders.

Appendices

Appendix A – Executive Summary

Appendix B – Draft Lincolnshire Autism All Age Strategy 2015 - 2018