

**Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod,  
Executive Director Adult Care and Community Wellbeing**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>26 April 2019</b>
Subject:	<b>Refresh of Lincolnshire's All-Age Autism Strategy</b>

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to present to Members details of the refresh of Lincolnshire's All-Age Autism Strategy for their information and comment.

**Actions Required:**

That the Scrutiny Committee note and consider the report.

## **1. Background**

In April 2015, Lincolnshire's first local All-Age Autism Strategy was launched in response to the government's national Adult Autism Strategy for England and its accompanying Statutory Guidance.

This three year strategy was jointly developed by Lincolnshire County Council, the four Lincolnshire CCG's and the Lincolnshire Autism Partnership Board (LAPB), following a comprehensive period of engagement and consultation activity with multi-agency stakeholders, autistic people and family members/carers.

As this three year period has now come to an end, it has been necessary to refresh the strategy taking into account both the national and local focus around this agenda.

Some of the key strategic programmes of work within the original strategy action plan to improve services and support in Lincolnshire include the following;

- Provision of training resources to raise autism awareness
- Establish a multi-agency Autism Champions Network to improve understanding and acceptance of autism across services, and share good practice
- Development of an Autism Reasonable Adjustments Mark to review the accessibility of services for autistic people
- Launch of a virtual Autism Information Hub providing information and advice about autism, as well as local services and support that are available
- Introduction of an Autism JSNA Topic, meaning it is recognised as a key condition in its own right as part of Lincolnshire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Good progress has been made over the last three years to raise awareness of autism and to drive improvements in Lincolnshire. However, it is acknowledged nationally that much more is required to ensure that autistic people receive the services and support they need to lead fulfilling and rewarding lives.

This is highlighted by the intentions set out in the NHS Long Term Plan, which recognises that services and support for autistic people is a key priority theme to improve. The government has also recently consulted on intentions to make autism training mandatory for all health and social care staff.

Additionally, the government are currently conducting a formal review of the national autism strategy and have announced that this will be extended to include children and young people. This reinforces the decision made back in 2014 for Lincolnshire to develop a local all-age strategy.

The refresh of Lincolnshire's Autism Strategy has recently been completed to set out the aims and objectives over the next three year period. This builds on what has been achieved over the previous three years and takes into account the key priorities identified locally that need to be improved. It also reflects the national challenges that have been indicated by the government and forthcoming changes to the national strategy that we may need to consider and adapt to.

**2. Conclusion**

N/A

**3. Consultation**

**a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?**

No

**b) Risks and Impact Analysis**

N/A

**4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report.	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019 – 2022

**5. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Rob Barber, Commissioning Officer, Adult Care and Community Wellbeing, who can be contacted on 01522 555380 or Robert.Barber@lincolnshire.gov.uk.