



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE

18th May 2023

Report of the Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Health

Derbyshire Joint Health & Social Care All Age Autism Strategy 2023-28
(Cabinet Member for Adult Care)

1. Divisions Affected

County-wide

2. Key Decision

- 2.1 This is a Key Decision as it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral areas in the County.

3. Purpose

To request Cabinet Member approval of the final draft of the Derbyshire Joint Health & Social Care All Age Autism Strategy 2023-2028 which accompanies this report.

4. Information and Analysis

- 4.1 The draft Derbyshire Joint Health & Social Care All Age Autism Strategy 2023-2028 is the successor to the 'Derbyshire Joint Health and Social Care Adult Autism Strategy 2017-2020'.

The strategy has been co-produced through a collaborative approach with experts by experience, families and carers and with voluntary

sector organisations, City and County Local Authority colleagues and with our ICB and health partners. The work involved the creation of monthly task and finish work groups and stakeholder workshops which were steered and overseen by the Derbyshire Joint Autism Partnership Board and included the following:

- Experts by Experience advisory/subgroup
- Listening to the voices of autistic people through their health and social care assessments
- Three JUCD workshops
- Monthly Task and Finish workshops including experts by experience and commissioners
- A comprehensive review of achievements during the last strategy period
- The learning from several new services for autistic people that have been piloted since 2018

By working together, we have built a picture of the challenges facing autistic people and their families to help better understand and inform how we can ensure that autistic people are recognized, validated, and empowered to live the lives they want.

The draft Derbyshire Joint Health & Social Care All Age Autism Strategy 2023-2028 sets out five refreshed strategic system priorities to improve the lives of autistic people, their families, and carers in Derby and Derbyshire over the next five years and has utilised local and national sources for evidence and data, including the national strategy for autistic children, young people and adults: 2021 to 2026, HM Government - [The national strategy for autistic children, young people and adults: 2021 to 2026 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101421/national-strategy-for-autistic-children-young-people-and-adults-2021-to-2026.pdf), which has extended the scope to children and young people for the first time.

The draft Derbyshire Joint Health & Social Care All Age Autism Strategy 2023-2028 addresses the national priorities and, whilst these remain, there will be a concerted focus on the five most important priorities that were identified throughout the coproduction process locally by our autistic community, building upon those of the previous local strategy.

Additionally, whilst many priorities were addressed within the previous local strategy, any with goals or actions that are still outstanding, or where there is a feeling that there is still more that can be achieved, have been incorporated into the new strategy and efforts will be made to continue and expand upon their delivery over the next 5-years.

The strategic priorities of all the relevant strategies can be seen listed below.

Derbyshire Joint Health and Social Care Adult Autism Strategy 2017-2020	The National Strategy for autistic children, young people, and adults: 2021 to 2026	Draft Adult Health and Social Care All Age Autism Strategy 2023-2028
Improve access to advice, information, and training	Improving understanding and acceptance of autism within society	Delivering training that goes beyond raising awareness
Enable people to live well	Improving autistic children and young people's access to education, and supporting positive transitions into adulthood	Having a stronger professional peer support offer
Improve access to specialist support	Supporting more autistic people into employment	Increasing access to meaningful employment opportunities
Improve access to diagnostics	Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people	Improving earlier diagnosis
Preparing for adulthood	Building the right support in the community and supporting people in inpatient care	Increased preventative services
	Improving support within the criminal and youth justice systems	

4.2 Implementation of Strategic Vision

The strategic priorities are intended to provide a point of focus for Local Authority, Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Integrated Care System colleagues, including local voluntary sector organisations, to work collectively towards delivering them.

The draft strategy articulates a vision and goals for each identified priority and sets out how these might be achieved. Detailed action planning will take place with Joined Up Care Derbyshire (JUCD) partners following approval of the draft strategy through the appropriate organisational and system governance channels.

Whilst individual organisations will be accountable for their own internal action plans in response to the strategy, the Derbyshire Joint Autism Partnership Board will continue, on a quarterly basis, to oversee progress against delivery of the action plans and will hold lead organisations involved in delivery of specific actions to account.

Where delivery of actions is in relation to the JUCD Neurodevelopmental (ND) Workstreams, progress will also be reported into and overseen by the JUCD ND Delivery Group.

4.3 Next Steps

The Derbyshire Joint Autism Partnership Board, signed off the draft strategy on the 25.01.23 and will continue to meet on a quarterly basis, enabling joint action planning and system governance arrangements to be finalised.

Additionally, the Joint Autism Partnership Board will lead on the following three priorities through the creation of three task and finish groups dedicated to delivering them,

- Increased meaningful employment opportunities
- Having a stronger peer support offer
- Developing ND inclusive communities

5. Consultation

5.1 Whilst there is no requirement to consult in relation to the Autism Strategy, a core principle which underpins the development of the Strategy and implementation plan is that autistic people and their families and carers are at the centre of everything we do.

5.2 To develop the strategy, a co-production approach has been taken with autistic residents, their families and carers, alongside statutory and voluntary sector organisations to learn what is important to them and incorporate their views and priorities into this Strategy (see paragraph 4.1 above)

6. Alternative Options Considered

Alternative Option 1 - Do Nothing. The Council could decide not to have an Autism Strategy. This option is not desirable as it would mean a lack of focus and subsequent activity by the Council in contributing to meeting the needs of autistic people in Derbyshire.

7. Implications

7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Background Papers

None identified.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

9.2 Appendix 2 – Derbyshire Joint Health & Social Care All Age Autism Strategy 2023-28

10. Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet Member approves the Derbyshire Joint Health & Social Care All Age Autism Strategy 2023-2028

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The approval of the Derbyshire Joint Health and Social Care All-Age Autism Strategy 2023-2028 will ensure the strategic priorities and activity remain up to date.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

No

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 There are no direct financial implications identified in this Strategy, however further work will need to take place to produce business cases, as required, in relation to any specific schemes likely to be delivered by the Council to achieve the ambitions set out in the draft strategy.

Legal

- 2.1 Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and NHS Organisations to support implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy was issued under section 2 of the Autism Act 2009 (the Act) by the Department of Health in March 2015. It was issued to local authorities, NHS bodies and NHS Foundation Trusts and replaced the 2010 statutory guidance. As set out in section 3 of the Act, it is to be treated as though it were guidance issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 (LASS Act). This means that local authorities must “follow the path charted by the guidance, with liberty to deviate from it where the authority judges on admissible grounds that there is good reason to do so, but without freedom to take a substantially different course.”
- 2.2 The purpose of this was to secure the implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy “Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: The Strategy for Adults with Autism in England” 2010 as updated by Think Autism (2014) by giving guidance to Local Authorities, NHS Foundation Trusts and NHS bodies
- 2.3 Local authorities and NHS bodies must not only take account of this guidance, but also follow the relevant sections or provide a good reason why they are not doing so (one example might be because they can prove they are providing an equivalent or better alternative). If they do not follow the guidance and cannot provide a good reason, they may be liable to judicial review or action by the Secretary of State.
- 2.4 Whilst the Guidance does not compel the production of a Strategy, the preparation of this does evidence the steps the Local Authority has taken and intends to take to ensure compliance with the Guidance.
- 2.5 It is expected that Statutory Guidance will be further updated to reflect the new national all age strategy published in 2021.

- 2.6 Bespoke legal advice will be provided on individual projects and initiatives included in the Autism Strategy as necessary.

Human Resources

- 3.1 There are no Human Resources implications

Information Technology

- 4.1 There are no Information Technology implications.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out for the purpose of the Autism Strategy. Some projects to be delivered through the strategy may give rise to particular Equality Impact considerations and implications. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis
- 5.2 The strategy is expected to:
1. Improve health and wellbeing for autistic people living in Derbyshire
 2. Improve the delivery of health, care, housing, criminal justice system services in Derbyshire for autistic people.
- 5.3 The Autism Act 2009 remains the only disability specific piece of legislation in England. It places clear legal responsibilities on local authorities, NHS bodies (including Clinical Commissioning Groups) and NHS Foundation Trusts. Local authorities are required to treat the statutory guidance that accompanies the Act 'as though it were guidance issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 19706 (LASS Act).
- 5.4 The Guidance expects local authorities to ensure that their workforce is suitably aware and trained in Autism and neurodiversity is recognised in carrying out duties and responsibilities fairly and with awareness to prevent any inequalities in accessing or providing support.
- 5.5 The Council has a recently updated Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy 2022 to 2025 which specifically includes autism awareness and projects/training and plans to expand the training offer for staff working with autistic people in line with the national roll out of the mandatory Oliver McGowan training
- 5.6 A Joint Strategic Needs Analysis update is in progress by Public Health colleagues and will inform the Council's action planning to address any health inequalities for our autistic community.

5.7 All equality duties for the Council will be considered through the corporate action planning process

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 The recommendation links to the Council Plan priorities; Resilient, Healthy and Safe Communities and Effective Early Help for Individuals and Communities.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 No further implications