



## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD PAPER FORMAL PUBLIC MEETING

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**Report of:** John Macilwraith

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**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> September

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**Subject:** Autism Strategy Update

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**Author of Report:** Joel Hardwick

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### **Summary:**

Supporting autism should be considered as an area of all-age working.

A draft one year action plan for addressing the most urgent autism issues is in place.

The paper proposes a three step plan to address immediate issues and develop a more robust longer term plan.

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### **Questions for the Health and Wellbeing Board:**

- 1.1 Is this proposed plan appropriate?
- 1.2 Are there any areas of autism support that the Board wishes to flag to be considered as part of the action plan and spring review?
- 1.3 Are there any key changes would the Board like to see in Autism support over the next five years?

### **Recommendations for the Health and Wellbeing Board:**

- 1.4 The proposed three step plan is approved by the Board.
- 1.5 A further update on this work area is presented in September 2020.
- 1.6 A member of the board is nominated as the key link for the Autism Partnership Board.

### **Background Papers:**

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**Which of the ambitions in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy does this help to deliver?**

- Every child achieves a level of development in their early years for the best start in life.
- Every child is included in their education and can access their local school.
- Everyone has access to a home that supports their health.
- Everyone has a fulfilling occupation and resources to support their needs.
- Everyone has equitable access to care and support shaped around them

**Who has contributed to this paper?**

Joel Hardwick

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## **AUTISM STRATEGY UPDATE**

### **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Supporting autism should be considered as an area of all-age working.
- 2.2 A range of partners, including Sheffield City Council, the NHS, police, Department of Work & Pensions, the Universities, voluntary sector and others, must be involved in this area of work to ensure the greatest impact.
- 2.3 A draft one year action plan for addressing the most urgent autism issues is in place, and a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has been completed recently.
- 2.4 The paper proposes a three step plan to address immediate issues and develop a more robust longer term plan for the development of an Autism strategy which aligns with other developments.

### **3.0 HOW DOES THIS IMPACT ON HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN SHEFFIELD?**

- 3.1 The one year action plan has been aimed at addressing urgent issues with supporting autism in Sheffield; this helps to address health inequalities.

### **4.0 MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT**

- 4.1 An Autism Partnership Board is now in place with a broad range of organisations and those with lived experience. A children's focused group also exists, but this is solely for professionals.
- 4.2 Under the Partnership Board there is a draft one year action plan aimed at addressing the most urgent issues, this is linked to an Autism self-assessment undertaken by the Board.
- 4.3 A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has recently been completed; this needs to be reviewed for implications for the Partnership Board.
- 4.4 There are a number of plans and strategies being developed or already in existence across the city. Any Autism Strategy would need to link effectively to these areas of work.
- 4.5 Examples of these plans and strategies include, the SEND & Inclusion Strategy (under development following the recent CQC/Ofsted Inspection), the all-age mental health strategy (under development), work being undertaken in the NHS to improve support for autism and wider developments such as the growth in retailers and football clubs taking steps to be more autism friendly.
- 4.6 In order to effectively develop work in this area, the following three step plan is proposed;

- 4.6.1 Autumn 2019: Complete the one year action plan under the Partnership Board and complete immediate actions, also review the recent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and its implications.
- 4.6.2 Spring 2020: Review and take stock of other developments, such as the SEND & Inclusion Strategy, and gather cross-sector leaders to identify and propose a way forward.
- 4.6.3 Summer 2020: Develop a plan as agreed through the Spring 2020 review, this will potentially lead to the development of an Autism Strategy or a more robust longer term action plan.

## **5.0 WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS AREA?**

- 5.1 Agreement through the Health and Wellbeing Board that the proposed way forward is the appropriate; this will provide officers with the mandate to approach this area in this way.

## **6.0 QUESTIONS FOR THE BOARD**

- 6.1 Is this proposed plan appropriate?
- 6.2 Are there any areas of autism support that the Board wishes to flag to be considered as part of the action plan and spring review?
- 6.3 Are there any key changes would the Board like to see in Autism support over the next five years?

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The proposed three step plan is approved by the Board.
- 7.2 A further update on this work area is presented in September 2020.
- 7.3 A member of the board is nominated as the key link for the Autism Partnership Board.