



**Telford & Wrekin**  
**C O U N C I L**

**Addenbrooke House Ironmasters Way Telford TF3 4NT**

## HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Date	<b>Thursday, 9 December 2021</b>	Time	<b>2.00 pm</b>
Venue	<b>Severn Suite, The Valley Hotel, Buildwas, Ironbridge, Telford, TF8 7DW</b>		

### Enquiries Regarding this Agenda

Democratic Services	Lorna Gordon	01952 384978
Media Enquiries	Corporate Communications	01952 382406
Lead Officer	Partnership Manager	01952 382186

<b><u>Committee Membership:</u></b>	
Brandreth	Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group
J Britton	Executive Director: Childrens Safeguarding & Family Support
Cllr A J Burford	Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care, TWC
S Dillon	Director: Adult Social Care
Dunn	Community Safety Partnership
Cllr I T W Fletcher	Conservative Group, TWC
Cllr K Middleton	Labour Group, TWC
(Chair)	
L Noakes	Director: Health, Wellbeing & Commissioning
Nicky O'Connor	Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Sustainability and Transformation Partnership
A Oliver	Voluntary Sector Representative
B Parnaby	Healthwatch, Telford & Wrekin
Pepper	Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group
Cllr S A W Reynolds	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education & Lifelong Learning, TWC
J Rowe	Executive Director: Adults Social Care, Health Integration and Wellbeing.
Cllr K T Tomlinson	Liberal Democrat / Independent Group, TWC
Cllr P Watling	Cabinet Member for Co-Operative Communities, Engagement and Partnerships

# AGENDA

	<u>Page</u>
8. <b>Autism Strategy Consultation</b>	3 - 20
To receive a report on the Autism Strategy Consultation from the Director of Adult Social Care, Telford & Wrekin Council	

## TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

**COMMITTEE AND DATE:** Health and Well Being Board 09.12.21

**TITLE:** Autism Pre-engagement consultation

**REPORT OF:** Director of Adult Social Care

### **PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

#### **1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

**1.1 “Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how people perceive, communicate and interact with others, although it is important to recognise that there are differing opinions on this and not all autistic people see themselves as disabled. With an estimated 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK – approximately 1% of the population – most people probably know someone who is autistic. In addition, there are an estimated 3 million family members and carers of autistic people in the UK” – National Autistic Society.**

1.2 Autistic people see, hear and feel the world differently to other people. Autism varies widely and is often referred to as a spectrum condition, because of the range of ways it can impact on people and the different level of support they may need across their lives.

1.3 Some autistic people will need very little or no support in their everyday lives while others may need high levels of care, such as 24-hour support in residential care. People may need help with a range of things, from forming friendships, coping at school, managing at work, or being able to get out and about in the community.

1.4 We want to create a borough that truly understands and includes autistic people in all aspects of life; one in which autistic people of all ages, and backgrounds have equal opportunities to play a full part in their communities and to have better access to the services they need throughout their lives. This is our vision to make life fundamentally better for autistic people, their families and carers and we are determined to make it happen.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 Recognise the importance of the development of an Autism Strategy to support the community and wider partner services in the borough to create an inclusive borough for autistic people.**

**2.2 Note the contents of the report.**

## 2.3 Support the development and embedding of the All Age Autism Partnership Board.

### 3. IMPACT OF ACTION

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-operative Council priorities?	
	Yes	Ensuring every child, young person and adult lives well in their community
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	The Autistic Community in Telford and Wrekin, their families and carers.
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE</b>	The strategy is scheduled to be implemented in Summer 2022, depending on feedback from the consultation, approval by Cabinet and we continue to be mindful of any impact from Covid.	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	<p>The budget for Adult Social Care necessitates an annual financial review and modelling of the impact of future care strategy, numbers of clients anticipated to be supported, and the unit rates estimated to be valid in the ensuing financial year(s). In addition, the Council receives income from client contributions and contributions towards the cost of care from partners e.g. the CCG.</p> <p>The financial implications of the adoption of this strategy can only be considered when the detailed action plan is produced. There will then need to be a review to determine whether these changes can be met from within the available resources of all partners.</p>
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	<p>The Autism pre-engagement consultation for development of the Strategy is required to comply with The Care Act 2014, The Autism Act 2009 and the government updated all age strategy 2021-2026.</p> <p>This is also in line with the promotion of personal well-being in care and support.</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 details protected characteristics protected from discrimination, the prevention of disadvantage to classes of individuals including those with Autism and necessary reasonable adjustments which are accounted for within this report.</p> <p>The Human Rights Act 1998; including the right to be free from discrimination, and right to family life.</p>
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp;</b>	Yes	There are opportunities relating to improved outcomes for people, sustainability and improved efficiencies through delivering on the autism strategy.

<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<p>Since the government's autism strategy was published, new challenges have also emerged for autistic people, as has our understanding of the barriers people face across their lives.</p> <p>We have seen the number of people identified as being autistic in inpatient mental health services increase, and now know more about the scale of the life expectancy gap for autistic people, which is we know is approximately 16 years compared to the general population.</p> <p>We know the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had a significant impact on autistic people and their families' lives.</p>
----------------------	--

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4. INFORMATION**

4.1 A programme of communication and engagement has taken place through the winter, working in partnership with Autism West Midlands, as an independent partner to support Autistic people, their families and/or carers to feed into the pre-engagement consultation.

4.2 The engagement included online and face to face sessions, in a group and/or 1:1 sessions with Autism West Midlands. The questionnaire was available online and as a hard copy. The engagement has included:

- Autistic adults
- Autistic young people
- Carers and Families
- Housing providers
- Employment services
- Voluntary and community groups
- Criminal justice
- Health services
- Community services e.g. libraries, leisure centres
- Education providers
- Social Care providers

4.3 Our focused areas for the pre-engagement questionnaire and strategy are inline with the national strategy as follows:

- improving understanding and acceptance of autism within society
- improving autistic children and young people's access to education, and supporting positive transitions into adulthood
- supporting more autistic people into employment
- tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people
- building the right support in the community and supporting people in inpatient care
- improving support within the criminal and youth justice systems

4.4 The All age Autism Partnership Board was launched in December 2021. The Board will support the development of the Adult Strategy and support areas of priority in Childrens services ensuring clear links with wider partners and services.

**Report prepared by Amardeep Grewal – Service Delivery Manager and  
Simon Fraser – Autism Practice Lead  
Adult Social Care  
December 2021**

# Autism Strategy

## Developing an adult autism strategy for Telford and Wrekin

Page 7



# National & Local Context

## National

- ▶ National Strategy for Autistic Children, Young People and Adults: 2021-2026
- ▶ Autism Act 2009
- ▶ The Care Act 2014
- ▶ Children and Families Act 2014
- ▶ Human Rights Act, 1998
- ▶ Equalities Act 2010
- ▶ Mental Capacity Act 2005
- ▶ Mental Health Act 2007
- ▶ Transforming Care Programme (TCP)
- ▶ Think Local Act Personal

Telford and Wrekin placed  
based autism strategy



**Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin**  
Integrated Care System

National Autism  
Strategy –  
released summer  
2021



Professional  
Capability  
Framework for  
Autism

# Principles and the Local Context



**Autistic people have the right to**

- ▶ **lead happy and healthy lives**
- ▶ **live in autism friendly neighbourhoods where they are understood and supported by their communities socially and at work**
- ▶ **have access to good quality information, advice and guidance and know where to get support when necessary**

**How people are supported will be determined by the engagement. We want to know what is important to autistic adults and young people preparing for adulthood.**

# The Partnership



## Telford & Wrekin Council and Autism West Midlands

Page 10

### Autism West Midlands

- ▶ Work locally at the Telford Autism Hub
- ▶ Will act as expert friend to bring autism experience to the development of the strategy
- ▶ Will support the delivery of the consultation

### The Autism West Midlands Team

Hilary  
McGlynn



Sophie  
Meredith



# Case Study – Introducing K



## Experiences

Page 11

- ▶ Female late 20s with a diagnosis of emotional unstable personality disorder. She struggles with self-harming behaviours, money troubles and had difficult relationships at work . She was referred to the Autism Hub by the wellbeing service

## Support Received

- ▶ Diagnosed as autistic and then attended Autism Hub workshops and Autism West Midlands individual support sessions.
- ▶ Referral was also made to the Thrive partnership, Access to Work and Genius Within

## Outcome

- ▶ K self confidence has increased, self-harming has reduced, less need of support from crisis team and fewer absences from work

# Case Study – Introducing M



## Experiences

- ▶ Male late 40s referred to the Autism Hub for a diagnosis. Was experiencing difficulties at work and struggling with parenting.

## Support Received

- ▶ Support with his diagnosis of autism
- ▶ Individual support sessions at the Autism Hub with Autism West Midlands.
- ▶ Attended personal development workshops

## Outcome

- ▶ M has greater understanding of his autism which has positively impacted his work and parenting

# Autistic Children

*Our SEND service is working with education providers to ensure schools are working well with autistic children.*

*A programme of education for schools in partnership with the Autism Education Trust to increase the understanding of autism within Telford & Wrekin schools, to support inclusion.*

*A lead autism practitioner will be identified in each school to support autistic children, ensure they then drive planning the support and provision for children with social communication needs, across the school.*

*Autism in schools – pilot of 2 schools currently - The project is aimed at supporting schools to create capable environments for autistic students. The three core elements of the Project are:*

- ▶ *Autism self-awareness and skills development, hearing the voice of young people*
- ▶ *Providing learning opportunities for school's parent carer forums*
- ▶ *Building relationships and networks of support for staff*

# Childrens Autism Pathway Improvements

- ▶ Engagement events Winter 2018 acknowledged issues regarding Childrens Autism assessment waiting list and support

Since then:

- ▶ Bee-U have sourced additional capacity to undertake Autism assessments
- ▶ Autism Assessments are now started within 18 weeks of beginning on the pathway
- ▶ An autism pathway group oversees the offer to families and identifies further improvements
- ▶ Educational Psychology/Parents Opening Doors (PODs) sessions with families to provide support, information and practical solutions
- ▶ Training and support directory will be published
- ▶ Further plans regarding additional community based support in development

# The Program



## What are we doing and when?

### Key dates

#### Engagement;

- ▶ Oct– Dec 2021

#### Writing the draft strategy

- ▶ Dec - Feb 2022

#### Engagement on the draft strategy

- ▶ Spring/Summer 2022

## Who are we engaging with?

- ▶ Autistic adults
- ▶ Autistic young people
- ▶ Carers and Families
- ▶ Housing providers
- ▶ Employment services
- ▶ Voluntary and community groups
- ▶ Criminal justice
- ▶ Health services
- ▶ Community services e.g. libraries, leisure centres
- ▶ Education providers
- ▶ Social Care providers



# How are we engaging?



## Online questionnaire

- ▶ [Telford.gov.uk/autism](https://telford.gov.uk/autism)

## One to one or group support session with Autism West Midlands

## Engagement events

- ▶ Events for carers and providers

## The Council's social media

- ▶ [Facebook.com/telfordwrekin](https://facebook.com/telfordwrekin)
- ▶ [Twitter @TelfordWrekin](https://twitter.com/TelfordWrekin)

# Engagement Sessions

- ▶ 2 November, 1.30-2.30pm - Virtual session online
- ▶ 11 November, 10-11.30am - Face to face session
- ▶ 22 November, 7-8pm - Virtual session online

You will need to access the link to book the sessions

[telford.gov.uk/autism](https://telford.gov.uk/autism)

- ▶ One to one sessions held virtually or face to face at the Independent Living Centre

[Telford@autismwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:Telford@autismwestmidlands.org.uk) or 0121 450 7575

# How to request a paper copy

## ► Email address



► [autismconsultation2021@telford.gov.uk](mailto:autismconsultation2021@telford.gov.uk)



**“neuro-diversity is true for all of us and all brains are wired differently, but as autistics we are wired differently again”. Wenn Lawson**

**THANK YOU**  
**DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?**