

Autism Strategy

Developing an adult autism strategy for Telford and Wrekin



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

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

- ▶ 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://www.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://www.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

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

Telford@autismwestmidlands.org.uk or **0121 450 7575**

How to request a paper copy

- ▶ Email address



- ▶ 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?