

# Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

01 March 2018

## Update on the Somerset Autism Strategy

Lead Officer: Paul Goodwin, Deputy Chief Officer and Director of Commissioning and Governance and Stephen Chandler, Director of Adult Social Services, Somerset County Council

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	<b>Seen by:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Report Sign off</b>	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Office (Director Level)	Paul Goodwin, Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group  Stephen Chandler, Somerset County Council	19.02.18
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Cllr David Huxtable	19.02.18
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Julian Gale	19.02.18
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>The Somerset Autism Strategy was launched in November 2015 and is due to be updated in 2018. The strategy sets out the commitment of Somerset County Council (SCC) and Somerset NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG) to improve the quality of life for people with autism and their families and carers in Somerset.</p> <p>This paper should be read in conjunction with Appendix A which provides an annual progress update on the priority areas and actions identified within the Strategy.</p>		
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and comment on the annual progress report and the supporting forward actions.</p>		
<b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b>	<p>The Autism Strategy Group needs to review and refresh the current strategy in 2018 and key areas of work have to be identified to support this process.</p>		

<p><b>Links to Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy:</b></p>	<p>The Somerset Autism Strategy supports all three themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority One – People, families and communities take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Priority Two - Families and communities are thriving and resilient</li> <li>• Priority Three: Somerset people are able to live independently</li> </ul>
<p><b>Financial, Legal and HR Implications:</b></p>	<p>It is a statutory requirement under the Equality Act 2010 and the Health and Social Care Act 2008 that public sector agencies make reasonable adjustments to their services to make them accessible and effective for all, including people with autism, learning disabilities, mental health issues, or a combination of these. This means changing services for people with autism so that they are easier to use.</p>
<p><b>Equalities Implications:</b></p>	<p>The Somerset Autism Strategy has been developed with the primary aim of improving the quality of life for people with autism, their families and carers in Somerset and in doing so supports the duties within the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken with the development of the strategy and has influenced the implementation of the strategy action plan to ensure that alongside the autistic spectrum condition that an individual may have, their other protected characteristics are also identified and steps are taken to ensure that they are addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>In developing the next strategy, a new Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken and used to inform the implementation of the future action plan.</p>
<p><b>Risk Assessment:</b></p>	<p>The main risks identified would only present should there be a lack of implementation of the strategy and its action plan. These risks include negative impacts on the wellbeing and quality of life of people with autism and their families and carers, as well as risks to statutory organisations who will not be fulfilling their duties under legislation, as well as national care quality improvement initiatives such as the Transforming Care Programme.</p>

## 1. BACKGROUND

1.1. The Somerset strategy is aligned to the national strategy, Think Autism (2014) whose

vision is that: “All adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can get a diagnosis and access support if they need it and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents.

- 1.2. The vision set out within the strategy is that Somerset aims to significantly improve knowledge and understanding of autism amongst the general public, statutory services, the voluntary sector and community based groups.
- 1.3. In addition, it aims to improve the way all services and organisations work together utilising the resources that are available to meet needs and improve outcomes for people with autism and their families/carers and give the information and support they need to remain as independent as possible.
- 1.4. A detailed overview of the progress within each work stream is provided within the annual report.

## **2. PROGRESS UPDATE ON SOMERSET AUTISM STRATEGY**

- 2.1. The Autism Strategy Group brings together statutory services, commissioners from adults, children’s and public health teams, along with a range of carer support groups. The group meets on a quarterly basis to oversee the implementation of the strategy and the action plan. There are four sub groups which also meet separately to take forward the Action Plan, in respect of the following priority areas of work:

- Living with Autism
- Workforce Development
- Identification and Diagnosis
- Children & Young People

- 2.2. The work stream leads for the four sub groups provide updates and feedback to the Autism Strategy Group.
- 2.3. A detailed overview of the progress within each work stream is provided within the annual report (Appendix A).

## **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1. This paper presents an update on the Somerset Autism Strategy. Progress has been made in a number of areas highlighted under each of the work streams.
- 3.2. While services have continued to develop, there is always room for improvement to assure ourselves that outcomes are being met for individuals with autism and their families. Work will continue within each of the priority areas.
- 3.3. The Board are asked to note this report and offer their ongoing support to delivery of the Somerset Autism Strategy.

## **4. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix A – Annual Progress Report 2016