

Meeting: Joint Commissioning Team Policy and Development Group **Date:** 28 November 2016

Wards Affected: Torbay Local Authority Area

Report Title: Autism Self-assessment Framework 2016 - UPDATE

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? N/A

Executive Lead Contact Details: Cllr Julien Parrott, Executive Lead for Adults and Children, tel: ext 7113, julien.parrot@torbay.gov.uk

Supporting Officer Contact Details: Mr. Justin Wiggin, Strategic Commissioning Officer, 01803 208792, justin.wiggin@torbay.gov.uk

1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 Public Health England's (PHE's) learning disabilities intelligence team issued the autism self-assessment framework (SAF) which measures how local services are performing, as reported by them and their partners.
- 1.2 Autism self-assessments provide councils with benchmarks on how they are meeting quality standard goals towards the government's Adult Autism Strategy. Torbay's Autism SAF was completed in partnership with Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, South Devon and Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group and Torbay Autism Partnership Board.
- 1.3 Torbay Council submitted the autism self-assessment framework 2016 to Public Health England, 17 October 2016. The following information provides an overview of the information found in the more details autism SAF.

2. Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 Public Health England's autism self-assessment framework focuses on a number of key areas to benchmark against government's Adult Autism Strategy, "Think Autism". Each thematic area consists of a number of questions, all of which are RAG rated; red, amber or green. An overall RAG rating is provided below for ease:

Thematic Area	Overall RAG Rating
Planning	A
Training	R
Diagnosis	R
Care and Support	A
Accommodation	A
Employment	A
Criminal Justice System	A

2.2 Planning

Whilst Torbay's overall rating for planning is amber there are elements which lend themselves to achieving green status. Strategic planning performs well. Autism is included and explicitly discussed in South Devon and Torbay Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. A joint commissioning strategy, "Living Well with Autism" has been developed in partnership with Plymouth Council, Devon Council, NEW Devon CCG and South Devon and Torbay CCG. Torbay Council's Market Position Statement again features the needs of people with Autism and Torbay has established an Autism Partnership Board.

2.3 Data collection is evident across public sector bodies within Torbay. However, oversight of this within one organisation or through the Autism Partnership Board does not currently happen. Consistency of data collection is being addressed through the PARIS system which will provide a greater understanding of the total number of people who access support from health and social care services.

2.4 More in-depth work is required relating to transition from children's to adult's services. Torbay needs to develop greater knowledge of the nuances for people with autism particularly those over 65, women with autism and BME groups to better meet the needs of current and future service users.

2.5 Much of the data to aid planning is captured through the SALT data set. A barrier to accessing this data is due to capacity issues within the Data Sharing Commissioning Regional Office (DSCRO). South Devon and Torbay CCG hold the license to access this data and are working with DSCRO to resolve data flow issues. Timescales to remedy this situation are ongoing.

2.6 Training

This thematic area remains red as currently a multi-agency autism training plan does not exist. Individual organisations such as Devon and Cornwall Police has considered implementing training but due to budgets pressures this has not been achieved. South Devon and Torbay CCG has developed a training plan and will be implemented from January 2017.

2.7 Whilst a completed version does not yet been created, a multi-agency autism training plan is in development through Devon Transforming Care Partnership. Devon TCP includes Torbay Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth Council, Torbay and South Devon CCG, NEW Devon CCG and South Devon and Torbay NHS Foundation Trust. In addition to the organisations listed above are providers of services which support people with Learning Disabilities, Autism, Mental Health and behaviours that challenge. Currently individual organisations within Torbay have training packages which includes Autism training. Devon TCP will provide a coordinated and agreed standard to Autism training.

2.8 The draft multi-agency training plan aims to deliver a programme to ensure that all staff, regardless of employer, are equipped and available to work effectively with people who have complex needs with Learning Disabilities and/or Autism. Delivery will focus on Positive Behavioural Support and link to the three tiers of the National LD Framework. Key outcomes are;

- Tier 1 - Broad understanding of LD and Autism, Communication, De-escalation and Autism card/Safe Places scheme.
- Tier 2 - Values of Positive Behavioural Support, Principles of Reasonable Adjustments, Risk management, Understanding of behaviours, Mental Capacity assessment, De-escalation, Team around the person, Person-centred care.
- Tier 3 - Application of PBS, Supportive interventions to challenging behaviour, Progressive progression, Mental Health, MCA and MHA, Positive risk taking, Inclusion, Person goal setting, Asset based approach to care planning and Safeguarding.

2.9 The above approach will ensure an amber score. To achieve green, training packages will need to be developed and delivered in partnership with advocates and people with autism. Systematic data collection of people who have received training will be required along with engaging Probation Services and local Court Services. Multi-agency training plan to be developed by April 2017, implementation 2017/2018 financial year.

2.10 **Diagnosis**

Torbay has an established local diagnostic pathway for people with autism. The diagnosis service is provided by Devon Partnership Trust's, Devon Autism and ADHD Service (DANA). DANA provides a diagnosis service across Torbay Council and Devon County Council areas.

2.11 Covering the 12 month period April 2015 to March 2016:

- 92 referrals were made by Torbay to the DANA service
- 0 people had been referred out of area for an Autism diagnosis.
- 33 people were given a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum condition
 - Of those receiving a diagnosis 20 did not meet care act eligibility criteria and are not considered to require support at this present time.
 - The above data suggests 13 people meet care act eligibility criteria. DANA is not able to comment on whether support is now being provided to individuals meeting care act eligibility criteria. Outcomes are currently not monitored.
- 22 received no diagnosis
- 37 referrals were still awaiting assessment.

2.12 The average wait between referral and assessment is 85 weeks. Diagnosis receives a red rating as recommended waiting times are no longer than three months. Whilst this reflects a national problem Torbay will work with Devon Partnership Trust to understand the local situation and barriers to reducing waiting times. This work will be taken forward through the Devon Partnership Trust Joint Improvement Plan and managed via DPT Performance and Contract meetings.

2.13 In addition to the above to ensure a green rating all services are required to be reasonably adjusted to provide access to post diagnostic specialist specific services when necessary in the following areas:

- Psychology assessments

- Speech and language therapy assessments
- Occupational therapy assessments

2.14 Work will be undertaken with local Health Commissioners to inform an action plan for improvement. Approach and timescales will be developed in partnership.

2.15 **Care and Support**

Torbay has 28 people who have a diagnosis of autism and receive a personal budget. Within this group 8 have a dual diagnosis of autism and a learning disability. Torbay does not operate a single point of contact or specialist access to adult social care. Access to adult social care is through a general point of contact and mirrors changes to people with learning disabilities accessing services from a more integrated approach to delivering adult social care.

2.16 Advocacy is provided for people with Autism who are resident in Torbay and meet care act eligibility criteria. Some training is provided for advocates to understand the needs of clients with autism. This will be greatly improved by the implementation of the multi-agency training plan discussed above.

2.17 Carers assessment are offered to carers of people with autism. Waiting times can vary depending on GP or Social Worker. Information is widely available through Torbay Disability Information Service and Signposts for carers, Carer Support Workers are also based in all GP surgeries to ensure information relating to Carers Assessments is readily available.

2.18 To achieve a green rating training needs to be provided for all advocates in the specific requirements of clients with autism. This will be mitigated through the multi-agency training plan being developed through Devon Transforming Care Partnerships. Multi-agency training plan to be developed by April 2017. Implementation to commence financial year 2017/2018.

2.19 In addition to the above action information is available on relevant support services available for people with autism. To achieve green information needs to be available on “all” relevant support services. A review of current information needs to be undertaken to ensure this is up to date and includes both voluntary, independent and public sector information. The review will also need to ensure information is communicated in the most appropriate way and through the correct channels. Timescale for completion – March 2018.

2.20 **Accommodation**

Housing requirements for people with autism are specifically mentioned within the Market Position Statement and Torbay Housing Strategy to achieve an amber rating. A comprehensive range of types of housing need for people with autism should be considered with estimates of numbers of placements required in each category to achieve green status. This will be supported through the collection of SALT data and remedied as discussed in point 2.5 above.

2.21 Work is being undertaken through the development of a supported living service specification and through a housing needs assessment. A more comprehensive and consistent data collection as discussed above will aid Torbay in moving towards green status.

2.22 Employment

Currently employment of people with Autism is promoted through Project Search. Project Search is delivered in partnership between South Devon College, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and Pluss. The project is a 12 month programme aiming to support young people with autism into employment through job placements at Torbay Hospital. Torbay Council provides funding to Pluss for job coaching element of the programme.

2.23 Employment currently receives an amber rating. There is a risk this will reduce to red as funding provided by Torbay Council to Pluss features in the Mayor's budget proposal. Whilst this is at a consultation stage, officers are working to understand if the project can be delivered in a different way or alternate funding found.

2.24 To achieve green status the following needs to be achieved:

- Autism included within employment or worklessness strategy for the council / or included in a disability employment strategy.
- Focused autism trained employment support.
- Proactive engagement with local employers specifically about employment of people with autism including retaining work.
- Engagement of local Job Centre in supporting reasonable adjustments in workplace via Access to work.
- Transition plans include detailed reference to employment, access to further development in relation to individual's future aspirations, choice and available opportunities.

2.25 The above actions will be taken forward as part of the work of the Autism Partnership Board. A detailed action plan will be drawn up to understand what is achievable. Timescale for draft action plan December 2016.

2.26 Criminal Justice System

Devon and Cornwall Police are partners featured within the Autism Partnership Board. However, to achieve a green rating probation and if relevant court services need to be involved.

2.27 An appropriate adult service is available; however specific autism awareness training is required. Specific autism training will be achieved through the multi-agency training plan and fit in with the proposed timescales discussed at point 2.9

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

3.1 The aim of this report is to provide an update on the submitted autism self-assessment framework 2016. There are no decisions to make at this point in time, therefore the report and following actions be noted:

- The role of Autism Partnership Board, membership and relationship to Learning Disability and Mental Health is to be reviewed with a view to streamline the governance process.
- Following the completion of the autism self-assessment framework 2016 a work plan is to be developed to support the improvement of services for people with autism. A key feature of this work plan will include:
 - Governance review
 - Review of data collection with recommendations of how to provide consistency of approach, oversight and detail required within the autism SAF

- Continue to develop and implement a multi-agency autism training plan via Devon Transforming Care Partnership
- Explore options with DANA to reduce waiting times of 85 weeks from referral to assessment and include monitoring outcomes for individuals diagnosed with autism
- Undertake to further engage the Criminal Justice System.

3.2 The above points will be developed into a detailed action plan for completion. This will be driven by the Autism Partnership Board with an update report provided to JCT PDG May 2017.