

## Health and Wellbeing Board

4 December 2013

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Health & Wellbeing, Dr. Paul Edmondson-Jones.

### Autism Self-Assessment Framework Return Summary

1. The Minister for Health, Norman Lamb, wrote to Directors of Public Health earlier this year to request that all self-assessment returns for autism were discussed at the relevant Health and Wellbeing Boards. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the second self-assessment submission by the Council and its partners for the implementation of the Autism Strategy. The purpose of the self assessment was to:
  - assist Local Authorities and their partners in assessing progress in implementing the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy;
  - see how much progress has been made since the baseline survey, as at February 2012;
  - provide evidence of examples of good progress made that can be shared and of remaining challenges.

### Background

2. The Adult Autism Strategy *Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives* was published in 2010. It is an essential step towards realising the Government's long term vision for transforming the lives of and outcomes for adults with autism. The Department of Health is the lead policy department for the Strategy but with delivery shared across a range of government departments and agencies and local health and social service providers.

The Autism Strategy has five areas for action aimed at improving the lives of adults with autism:

- increasing awareness and understanding of autism;
- developing a clear, consistent pathway for diagnosis of autism;

- improving access for adults with autism to services and support;
- helping adults with autism into work; and
- enabling local partners to develop relevant services.

The Strategy is not just about putting in place autism services but about enabling equal access to mainstream services, support and opportunities through reasonable adjustments, training and awareness raising.

This exercise builds on the first self assessment exercise which looked at what progress had been made since February 2012. This was based around the self-assessment framework which the Department of Health launched in April 2011 to support localities with the delivery of the Adult Autism Strategy and the statutory guidance for health and social care which was issued in December 2010.

The Council recently launched its own Joint Strategy for Autism (2013-15) and a successful “engagement” event was held recently with the following as the key areas for discussion:

- Have we captured the vision and the priority for everyone?
- How can we all be involved in making the priorities happen?
- What’s missing?

### **Consultation**

3. Consultation was undertaken as part of the development of York’s response to the National Strategy. Specific consultation was not undertaken as part of the self-assessment but it was important to come to a multi-agency perspective which included liaison with Health colleagues, to reflect the requirements of the implementation of the strategy, although the Local Authority is tasked with the consolidation of the return as the lead body locally

The Department of Health has recently undertaken a formal review of progress against the Strategy. This is an opportunity for Government to assess whether the objectives of the Strategy remain fundamentally the right ones, to be assured of the progress that is being achieved by Local Authorities and the NHS, and consider what should happen to continue to make progress and what barriers could be resolved. The investigative stage of the

Review ended in October and the Strategy will be revised as necessary by March 2014.

### **Options**

4. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to review and comment on the attached statutory return.

### **Analysis**

5. Further updates and options to support the progress of the Autism Strategy Action Plan for York will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in 2014-2015.

### **Council Plan**

6. York's Joint Autism Strategy links to the following Council Plan priorities:
  - Create Jobs and Grow the Economy:
    - Connecting residents to jobs
  - Protect Vulnerable People:
    - Supporting families who may be struggling
    - Community based support and promoting individual budgets
    - Improved health and wellbeing arrangements
  - Build Strong Communities:
    - Community infrastructure
    - Healthy Communities
    - Community engagement
    - Create communities where young people flourish
    - Safer & Inclusive

### **Implications**

7. The implications of the report include:

- **Financial**

There are no financial implications

- **Human Resources (HR)**

There are no HR implications

- **Equalities**

The strategy aims to improve access to services for vulnerable adults.

- **Legal**

There are no legal implications.

- **Crime and Disorder**

The strategy will involve partnership working with North Yorkshire Police.

- **Information Technology (IT)**

There are no IT implications

- **Property**

There are no implications for property

### **Risk Management**

8. There are no known risks attached to the presentation of City of York's self assessment return.

### **Recommendation**

9. Members of the Board are asked to review the statutory return and provide any comments to the responsible officer.

Reason: To fulfil statutory requirements.

## Contact Details

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### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

**Dr Paul Edmondson Jones**  
Deputy Chief Executive and Director of  
Health and Wellbeing

### Report Approved

**Date** 25  
November  
2013

**Wards Affected:** List wards or tick box to indicate all

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

### Annexes:

Annex A: "Fulfilling and rewarding lives for adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions living in York", A Joint Strategy for 2013-2015.  
Annex B: Online Autism Return to Public Health England