

Individual Executive Member Decision

Adult Autism Strategy October 2019 – October 2022

Committee considering report:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date ID to be signed:	10 October 2019
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Graham Bridgman
Forward Plan Ref:	ID3757

1. Purpose of the Report

To agree the Council's Three Year Autism Strategy.

2. Recommendation

That the Strategy is agreed.

3. Implications

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|---|
| 3.1 | Financial: | No ongoing financial commitment. The Autism Partnership Board (APB) oversees a ring-fenced capital grant from Central Government, and in part this paper proposes a methodology for spending the grant. |
| 3.2 | Policy: | None |
| 3.3 | Personnel: | None |
| 3.4 | Legal: | None |
| 3.5 | Risk Management: | None |
| 3.6 | Property: | None |
| 3.7 | Other: | None |

4. Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	Councillor Lynne Doherty
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:	Councillor Alan Law
Ward Members:	All. Policy forwarded in advance of decision.

**Opposition
Spokesperson:** Councillor Owen Jeffery

Local Stakeholders: N/A

Officers Consulted: Head of Adult Social Care
Human Resources

Trade Union: Ongoing work with to raise awareness on Autism

5. Executive Summary

- 5.1 The Autism Act 2009 aimed to improve the provision of relevant services and a wider appreciation and understanding of the condition as a whole. The Secretary of State for Health was charged with overseeing the progress of the Autism Strategy.
- 5.2 West Berkshire Council's response to the Autism Act 2009 was to provide Strategic Leadership in the form of the Autism Partnership Board, chaired by Adult Social Care Head of Service. Its purpose is to provide strategic leadership and user and family engagement in the planning and developing of services. Membership of the Autism Partnership Board includes autistic adults, parent carers, NHS providers and commissioners, WBC Children's and Adult Social Care, with voluntary sector representation from the National Autistic Society (NAS) and NAS West Berkshire, and Job Centre Plus. This list is not exclusive and the membership is under review so that the board's composition best meets needs.

6. Conclusion

The Strategy aims to offer structure and greater focus to the work of the Autism Partnership Board. Quarterly meetings will check on its progress in making a difference locally to those in West Berkshire on the Autism Spectrum.

7. Supporting Information

N/A

8. Options for Consideration

- 8.1 In 2017, it was agreed that the arrangements for overseeing implementation of the Strategy should be refreshed. In some areas it was agreed with stakeholders that progress was not as quick as envisaged, and that there was scope to streamline the set of actions and commitments, and to re-confirm ownership of specific actions to focus on those that would best realise the objectives of the Strategy.
- 8.2 The Strategy itself has not changed, but the implementation activities required to deliver its intended outcomes, and who will do what, have been clarified. This has returned the focus to delivering what is required by the Autism Act and Statutory Guidance, in a realistic and measurable way
- 8.3 The Department of Health and Social Care requires local authorities to report on their progress regularly through a self-assessment exercise. The information collected through this is available online for each local authority.
- 8.4 APBs are an integrated strategic planning forum that is responsible for developing autism provision across health and social care. These multi-agency forums bring together different agencies and stakeholders to identify local commissioning priorities and enable a more strategic approach to developing better outcomes for people with autism.
- 8.5 Such forums do not require additional funding to set up and they are a key mechanism for addressing the need for a more collaborative approach to public services, where agencies join up resources, both financial and human, to provide a more coherent response to local needs.

9. Proposals

The APB has been working to support our local strategy and is looking for the endorsement of the wider public so that it can be more widely publicised. If agreed by council the strategy will be better able to drive policy locally.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1 The Strategy is looking to build communities in West Berkshire that are more aware of and accessible to the needs of people with autism.
- 10.2 The APB will promote innovative local ideas, services and projects in West Berkshire which can help people in their communities.

11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix A – Data Protection Impact Assessment
- 11.2 Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment
- 11.3 Appendix C – Adult Autism Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2022

Wards affected:

All wards

Officer details:

Name:	Mike Harling
Job Title:	Principal Social Worker
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E-mail Address:	mike.harling@westberks.gov.uk

Appendix A

Data Protection Impact Assessment – Stage One

The General Data Protection Regulations require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for certain projects that have a significant impact on the rights of data subjects.

Should you require additional guidance in completing this assessment, please refer to the Information Management Officer via dp@westberks.gov.uk

Directorate:	Communities
Service:	Adult Social Care
Team:	Senior Management Team
Lead Officer:	Mike Harling
Title of Project/System:	Autism Strategy
Date of Assessment:	9 July 2019

Do you need to do a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)?

	Yes	No
Will you be processing SENSITIVE or “special category” personal data? Note – sensitive personal data is described as “data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person’s sex life or sexual orientation”		x
Will you be processing data on a large scale? Note – Large scale might apply to the number of individuals affected OR the volume of data you are processing OR both		x
Will your project or system have a “social media” dimension? Note – will it have an interactive element which allows users to communicate directly with one another?		x
Will any decisions be automated? Note – does your system or process involve circumstances where an individual's input is “scored” or assessed without intervention/review/checking by a human being? Will there be any “profiling” of data subjects?		x
Will your project/system involve CCTV or monitoring of an area accessible to the public?		x
Will you be using the data you collect to match or cross-reference against another existing set of data?		x
Will you be using any novel, or technologically advanced systems or processes? Note – this could include biometrics, “internet of things” connectivity or anything that is currently not widely utilised		x

If you answer “Yes” to any of the above, you will probably need to complete [Data Protection Impact Assessment - Stage Two](#). If you are unsure, please consult with the Information Management Officer before proceeding.

Appendix B

Equality Impact Assessment - Stage One

We need to ensure that our strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act), which states:

- “(1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:***
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;***
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; This includes the need to:***
 - (i) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;***
 - (ii) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;***
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, with due regard, in particular, to the need to be aware that compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.***
- (2) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.***
- (3) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.”***

The following list of questions may help to establish whether the decision is relevant to equality:

- Does the decision affect service users, employees or the wider community?
- (The relevance of a decision to equality depends not just on the number of those affected but on the significance of the impact on them)
- Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?
- Is it a major policy, or a major change to an existing policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?
- Will the decision have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?
- Does the decision relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?
- Does the decision relate to an area with known inequalities?
- Does the decision relate to any equality objectives that have been set by the council?

Please complete the following questions to determine whether a full Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.

What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Executive to make:	To agree an Autism Strategy
Summary of relevant legislation:	West Berkshire Council's response to the Autism Act 2009 was to provide Strategic Leadership in the form of the Autism Partnership Board, chaired by Adult Social Care Head of Service. Its purpose is to provide strategic leadership and user and family engagement in the planning and developing of services
Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council's key strategy priorities?	No
Name of assessor:	Mike Harling
Date of assessment:	9 July 2019

Is this a:		Is this:	
Policy	No	New or proposed	No
Strategy	Yes	Already exists and is being reviewed	No
Function	No	Is changing	No
Service	No		

1 What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?	
Aims:	To better meet the needs of Adults and
Objectives:	To identify minor and on-consequential amendments
Outcomes:	Minor changes proposed which do not result in negative impact on customers
Benefits:	Improved service efficiency and customer journey

2 Note which groups may be affected by the proposed decision. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this.

(Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)

Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Age	There are no negative impacts on this group	The proposed strategy looks to engage and have a positive impact for this group.
Disability	There are no negative impacts on this group	The proposed strategy looks to engage and have a positive impact for this group.
Gender Reassignment	There are no negative impacts on this group	The proposed strategy looks to engage and have a positive impact for this group.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	There are no negative impacts on this group	The proposed strategy looks to engage and have a positive impact for this group.
Pregnancy and Maternity	There are no negative impacts on this group	The proposed strategy looks to engage and have a positive impact for this group.
Race	There are no negative impacts on this group	The proposed strategy looks to engage and have a positive impact for this group.
Religion or Belief	There are no negative impacts on this group	The proposed strategy looks to engage and have a positive impact for this group.
Sex	There are no negative impacts on this group	The proposed strategy looks to engage and have a positive impact for this group.
Sexual Orientation	There are no negative impacts on this group	The proposed strategy looks to engage and have a positive impact for this group.
Further Comments relating to the item:		

3 Result	
Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?	No
Please provide an explanation for your answer: The aim of the strategy is to tackle inequality and increase awareness and understanding of Autism	
Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?	No
The strategy aims to have a positive impact upon the lives of everyone in West Berkshire including employees and service users.	

If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered 'yes' to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment.

If a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the [Equality Impact Assessment guidance and Stage Two template](#).

4 Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	No
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	

Name: Mike Harling

Date: 24 June 2019

Please now forward this completed form to Rachel Craggs, Principal Policy Officer (Equality and Diversity) (rachel.craggs@westberks.gov.uk), for publication on the WBC website.