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| Report to Health & Wellbeing Board Report of Cllr Aldridge | Reference number <i>HWB/004/14</i> |
| Date of meeting 14 th January 2014 Date of report 17 th December 2013 | County Divisions affected by the decision All Divisions |
| Title of report : National Adult Autism 2 nd Self-Assessment | |
| Report by Cllr Aldridge | |
| Enquiries to <i>Steven Allen 07748 623975</i> | |

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 In line with the request from Norman Lamb MP Minister of State for Care and Support dated 2nd August 2013 (see attached), all Health and Wellbeing boards are requested to endorse their local 2nd Adult Autism Self-Assessment submission as part of the evidence for local planning, health needs assessment strategy development and the supporting of local implementation work.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the information submitted as the 2nd Adult Autism Self-Assessment framework for Essex in order for the Health and Wellbeing Board to endorse prior to the January 2014 deadline.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree to endorse the Adult Autism Self-Assessment submission, and agree the further submission from South Essex's CCGs.

3. Background and proposal

- 3.1 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.

3.2 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 Review of the Strategy

3.4.1 The Department of Health is currently leading 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 will last until the end of October and the Strategy will be revised as necessary by March 2014.

3.4.2 The Department of Health launched the second self-assessment exercise for councils and CCGs on the 2nd August 2013. The exercise required Essex County Council and the CCGs to complete a self-assessment form setting out our progress against the National Autism Strategy (DH 2010). The national strategy sets out clear objectives against which our progress will be measured.

3.5 Current Position on Progress

3.5.1 The attached self-assessment response was co-produced through the formation of a task and finish group incorporating stakeholders from the Adult Autism Working Group, Voluntary and Community Sector partners, Education Service, Transition Service, and North Essex Commissioning Support Unit. Input to the framework questions was also sought from the specialist providers Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust and South Essex Partnership Foundation Trust and internal county council officers.

3.5.2 The Adults Health and Wellbeing, Working Age Adults lead for Autism submitted this joint response by the deadline of Monday 30th September 2013.

3.5.3 This provided information from Essex County Council, the CCGs in the North, Mid and West areas, and the mental health provider in the South. Since then some additional information has been received from the South CCGs in relation

to their commissioning intentions which has been added to the return [in italics] for completeness.

4. Policy context

- 4.1. In line with the request from Norman Lamb MP Minister of State for Care and Support dated 2nd August 2013, all Health and Wellbeing boards are requested to discuss the self-assessment submission by the end of January 2014 as evidence for local planning and health needs assessment strategy development and supporting local implementation work

5. Financial Implication

- 5.1 While there are no direct financial implications arising from this report, paragraph 3.2 sets out the 5 areas for actions aimed at improving the lives of adults with autism. One of which is developing a clear, consistent pathway for the diagnosis of autism. The review of the efficacy of this pathway is part of the joint planning process between the ECC and the NHS, and will be contained within future joint planning reports to this board.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Autism Act 2009 placed a duty on the Secretary of State to publish an Autism Strategy by the 1st April 2010 and to keep it under review. In order to secure compliance with the strategy the Secretary of State was also under a duty to prepare statutory guidance for the exercise of social services functions by local authorities by the 31st December 2010. Local authorities are to be consulted in the preparation of such guidance and are under a duty to exercise their duties in compliance with it.
- 6.2 Under S. 116 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as amended by the Health and social Care Act 2012, the Council, in partnership with clinical commissioning groups, is under a duty to prepare and publish a joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA). In so doing they must have regard to whether the needs can best be met by a partnership arrangement under S.75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and any guidance issued by the Secretary of State. In the subsequent exercise of their functions the Council must have regard to any statutory assessment or strategy prepared under these arrangements.
- 6.3 The Board are reminded that in considering this matter they are subject to the public sector equality duty set out in the Equality Act 2010. The Board must have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).

- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Advancing equality of opportunity involves having due regard to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Take steps to meet the needs of people with certain protected characteristics where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encourage people with certain protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

7. Staffing and other resource implications

There are no staffing or resource implications. Progress made against the National Adult Autism Strategy has been within/ and continues as business as usual

8. Equality and Diversity implications

There are no equality and diversity implications. The self-assessment framework is the evidencing of progress made against the National Adult Autism Strategy. The DH completed the original Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) in 2009/2010.

9. Background papers

Not applicable