

## National Autism 2<sup>nd</sup> Self –Assessment October 2013

*[with additional information from the South CCGs added December 2013]*

1. How many Clinical Commissioning Groups do you need to work with to implement the Adult Autism Strategy in your local authority area?

5

North East

West

Mid

South East

South West

2. Are you working with other local authorities to implement part or all of the priorities of the strategy?

Yes

**If yes, how are you doing this?**

Both Southend Borough Council and Thurrock District Council are represented / engaged on the Adult Autism Working Group and as key stakeholders are being consulted on the co-production of the joint Essex adult autism strategy

## Planning

3. Do you have a named joint commissioner/senior manager of responsible for services for adults with autism?

Yes

Lead commissioner for Working age adult services (learning disabilities, physical and sensory impairments, behaviours which challenge and autistic spectrum disorders.

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4. Is Autism included in the local JSNA?

Amber

The latest draft autism chapter will be issued to the Adult Autism working group in September to consult / sign-off

5. Have you started to collect data on people with a diagnosis of autism?

Amber

Yes the two diagnostic services in Essex covering South East/West and North East do maintain intelligence data on the numbers of people diagnosed.

6. Do you collect data on the number of people with a diagnosis of autism meeting eligibility criteria for social care (irrespective of whether they receive any)?

For people aged 18+ who have had a social care assessment in Essex, health details are recorded in their notes on OSCARS (internal recording system). This does include diagnoses of autism but depends on the practitioner being aware of the diagnosis and deciding to record it in the notes. These notes cannot be queried like a database so it is not possible to count who has and who has not got a recorded diagnosis of autism

If yes, what is

the total number of people?

the number who are also identified as having a learning disability?

the number who are identified as also having mental health problems?

Comment

7. Does your commissioning plan reflect local data and needs of people with autism?

Yes

The joint integrated 6th plan (Adult Social Care and North West/Mid) Section 2 details the need for a Pan Essex Autism/HF strategy.

*[Addition from South CSU December 2013:-The 2014-2016 commissioning intention gives notice to the local provider of intentions to look at the current service and review the ADHD/Autism service to ensure it meets the needs of people with autism.]*

8. What data collection sources do you use?

Amber/Green

Public Health Executive

Pansi

Poppi

Plus any other relevant data source

9. Is your local Clinical Commissioning Group or Clinical Commissioning Groups (including the Support Service) engaged in the planning and implementation of the strategy in your local area?

Amber

The joint integrated 6th plan (Adult Social Care and North West/Mid) 2 section details the need for a Pan Essex Autism/HF strategy.

*[Addition from South CSU December 2013:- We have been engaging with the pan Essex autism work with current service provider SEPT on behalf of the south CCG's.]*

10. How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their carers in planning?

Green

Adult Autism Working Group has been instrumental in supporting / advising and guiding commissioners to understand the needs of people with ASD and support future planning. As key stakeholders they will co-produce the Essex Adult Autism Strategy 'action plan' to implement future activity / commissioning.

11. Have reasonable adjustments been made to everyday services to improve access and support for people with autism?

Amber

**Please give an example.**

JobCentrePlus

Work Choice

Right to Control

12. Do you have a Transition process in place from Children's social services to Adult social services?

Yes

Generally if a young person is in receipt of children's social care (csc) (e.g. respite/direct payments) and this needs to continue into

adulthood, there will be an automatic request. Other referrals may be received for young people not currently in receipt of csc but who are deemed by other professionals to require an adult service.

Parental requests may be made directly through Essex Social Care Direct and via General Practitioners. The Transition Pathway Service operates a central referral process for Children's Services. There is no restriction as any person may request for and be entitled to an assessment, although may not meet ASC eligibility criteria.

### 13. Does your planning consider the particular needs of older people with Autism?

Red

Not specifically but as people age with autism (that are known to services) their needs would be considered along the journey they take through services and would pass through into older adults services so by default the needs will be considered as we operate in a person centred approach.

## Training

### 14. Have you got a multi-agency autism training plan?

No

### 15. Is autism awareness training being/been made available to all staff working in health and social care?

Green

YES - we have KWANGO E-learning which are available online or via a DVD to any staff that need it. We have also previously delivered face to face basic awareness training and intermediate level training for ECC staff within adult learning disability services.

### 16. Is specific training being/been provided to staff that carry out statutory assessments on how to make adjustments in their approach and communication?

Green

We have already commissioned Assessor level training for the social work staff. We have also just commissioned 2 x 1 day Advanced level courses for Autism Champions and staff who complete assessments with people who have autism. This training includes summarising the Autism Act and Strategy as well as communication methods.

17. Have Clinical Commissioning Group(s) been involved in the development of workforce planning and are general practitioners and primary care practitioners engaged included in the training agenda?

No

We were originally approached by health but after offering initial advice and guidance have not been communicated to again.

18. Have local Criminal Justice services engaged in the training agenda?

No

We invited Essex Police to take part in engaging with us for Autism but they have not taken up the offer. But there is evidence and knowledge of training being implemented with Essex Police.

## Diagnosis led by the local NHS Commissioner

19. Have you got an established local diagnostic pathway?

Amber

There are two commissioned diagnostic services in Essex covering South East/West (SEPFT) and North East (NEPFT). The NEPFT project does not support the diagnosis of people with severe mental health. The pilot autism pathway project in West/Mid is coming to an end, an external evaluation process will begin shortly.

20. If you have got an established local diagnostic pathway, when was the pathway put in place?

Month (Numerical, e.g. January 01)

Year (Four figures, e.g. 2013)

## Comment

NEPFT -North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust started April 2011. It was agreed that the clinical psychologists in the Trust would provide a formal diagnostic assessment for referred clients, as long as they also met the Trust criteria for the severity of their co morbid mental health problems and do not have a severe LD.

SEPFT – THE service began in September 2009 and with this the diagnostic pathway for the Aspergers service only

## 21. How long is the average wait for referral to diagnostic services?

NEPFT - 16 Weeks

SEPFT – Currently this is up to 52 weeks but could be more or less depending on the circumstances of the referral.

## 22. How many people have completed the pathway in the last year?

NEPFT - It is estimated that in the last year, there have been approximately 18 ASD assessments in North East, 10 in Mid and 12 in the West areas of the Trust's Psychology Service.

However, there may be many more potential referrals that have been "rejected" at the "single gate". There may also have been clients who have been diagnosed by psychiatrists with a special interest in ASD, who have not come to the attention of the Clinical Psychology Specialists. There may also have been clients referred for help with their mental health presentation who already had an ASD diagnosis...so you see that the data is complex and therefore not likely to be 100% accurate: NB this is an estimate of numbers provided by the Trust's Psychologists only it is not based on a trawl of the Trust's formal client information system.

SEPFT – From the beginning of July 2012 to end of July 2013 of the people we have assessed 17 were given the diagnosis of an ASD.

## 23. Has the local Clinical Commissioning Group(s)/support services taken the lead in developing the pathway?

Yes

NEPFT - The CSU has supported the ASD 3D QIPP which provides a diagnostic service to clients who do not have an LD or severe mental illness. These figures are being provided through Health in Mind, whom you have contracted separately, in order to avoid double counting.

SEPFT – No

## 24. How would you describe the local diagnostic pathway, i.e. Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis or a specialist autism specific service?

*a. Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis*

*b. Specialist autism specific service*

NEPFT - The Clinical Psychologists in the Trust have highly specialist training in ASD diagnostic assessment, within the context of a specialist mental health Trust that is aware of the necessary attention to co morbid mental health presentations.

SEPFT – Specialist Aspergers specific service

25. In your local diagnostic path does a diagnosis of autism automatically trigger an offer of a Community Care Assessment?

Yes

NEPFT - all clients who receive the diagnosis are informed of their statutory right to a Social/Community Care Assessment.

SEPFT – No unfortunately not but we are working on this

26. What post-diagnostic support (in a wider personalisation perspective, not just assuming statutory services), is available to people diagnosed?

NEPFT - On receiving a diagnosis a full care plan with appropriate adaptations to account for the ASC, would be drawn up. This includes information about and help in accessing SAFE/Autism, Anglia/Employability and Benefits advice etc. A Carers' Assessment would also be offered.

SEPFT – Where possible we try and help individuals access mainstream services but for those individuals who are aged 18-30 where this is not possible or further work is needed to achieve this we can offer support around vocational / employment aspects, accessing the community, support around anxiety / low mood, psychoeducation. We have some family therapy sessions, we do run some groups but these tend to be located in the Basildon area. A weekly running group, a monthly reading group and we also have access to a weekly sports group.

## Care and support

27. Of those adults who were assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and are in receipt of a personal care budget, how many

people have a diagnosis of Autism both with a co-occurring learning disability and without?

- a. Number of adults assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and in receipt of a personal budget
- b. Number of those reported in 27a. who have a diagnosis of Autism but not learning disability
- c. Number of those reported in 27a. who have both a diagnosis of Autism AND Learning Disability

For people aged 18+ who have had a social care assessment in Essex, health details are recorded in their notes on OSCARS (internal recording system). This does include diagnoses of autism but depends on the practitioner being aware of the diagnosis and deciding to record it in the notes. These notes cannot be queried like a database so it is not possible to count who has and who has not got a recorded diagnosis of autism.

28. Do you have a single identifiable contact point where people with autism whether or not in receipt of statutory services can get information signposting autism-friendly entry points for a wide range of local services?

No

If yes, please give details

29. Do you have a recognised pathway for people with autism but without a learning disability to access a community care assessment and other support?

No

The pathway to access a community care assessment is generic however reasonable adjustments would be applied to the community care assessment based on individual needs.

30. Do you have a programme in place to ensure that all advocates working with people with autism have training in their specific requirements?

Red

The advocate contract covers learning disabilities with co-morbid diagnosis. The expectation is that provider staff either access in-house awareness training or the county councils commissioned training in autism



31. Do adults with autism who could not otherwise meaningfully participate in needs assessments, care and support planning, appeals, reviews, or safeguarding processes have access to an advocate?

Red

No -there is no specific funded advocacy service for people with a single diagnosis of autism. The commissioned service is for learning disabilities with co-morbidity

32. Can people with autism access support if they are non Fair Access Criteria eligible or not eligible for statutory services?

Yes

Floating Support (short term intervention / enablement)

33. How would you assess the level of information about local support in your area being accessible to people with autism?

Red

## Housing & Accommodation

34. Does your local housing strategy specifically identify Autism?

Amber

Essex is not a housing authority and needs to refer to each of the 12 districts housing strategies for a clearer perspective.  
The Essex housing strategy does mention Autism.

## Employment

35. How have you promoted in your area the employment of people on the Autistic Spectrum?

Red

Through linked employment there was a specific project for Aspergers into employment which has expired. Due to lack of funding this has not continued

36. Do transition processes to adult services have an employment focus?

Green

Detailed plans arise from the learning difficulty assessments and support plans we produce through a person-centred approach.

## Criminal Justice System (CJS)

37. Are the CJS engaging with you as a key partner in your planning for adults with autism?

Red