

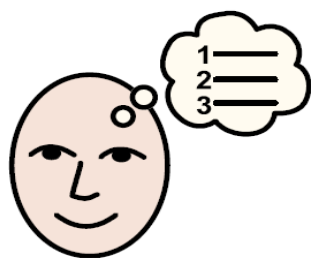


	A strategy for meeting the needs of children and young people with autism (0-25)
--	---

 working together	1. Introduction This strategy has been developed jointly by the CYPS and NHS North Yorkshire and York, in close partnership with a number of other services e.g. Disabled Children's Service. We are keen to make sure that the needs of children and young people are understood and that they, and their families, can access the additional support they require at every stage of their journey.
--	---

 support	2. The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Service The SEND service provides support to children and young people, schools, early years' settings and families with a range of needs in North Yorkshire. We offer a range of provision for children and young people with autism including; 10 Enhanced Mainstream Schools (EMS), an autism outreach support service (ASCOS), mainstream schools with planned support as required and special schools.
---	---



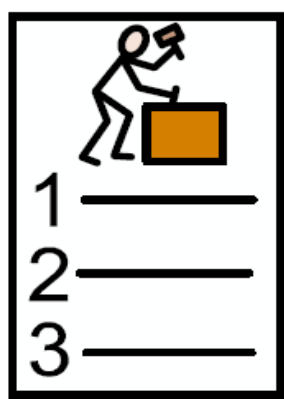
strategy

3. Why have a strategy for autism?

The strategy will ensure a clear, consistent and coordinated pathway (journey) for children and young people with autism.

We will make sure we have high quality provision that meets national guidelines.

It will link with a strategy for adults with autism which is being developed by Health and Adult Services (HAS).



plan

4. We aim to:

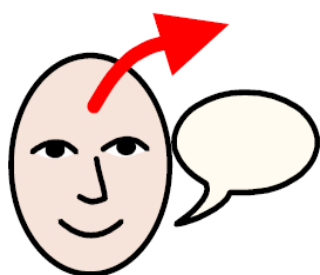
Keep children, young people and their families at the centre of our work

Provide earlier, better integrated support, services and information for families

Prepare young people with autism well for future life

Make sure that similar services are provided wherever children and young people with autism are diagnosed, live and attend schools in North Yorkshire

Make sure that our services are in line with national policies.



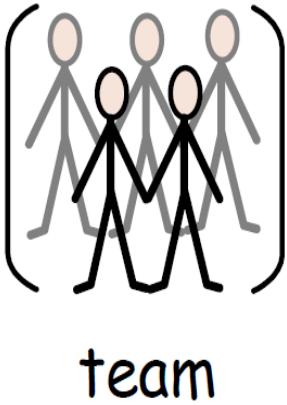


definition

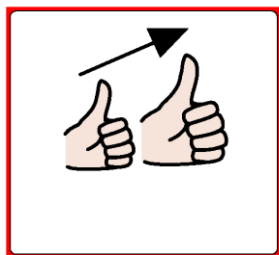
5. What is our understanding of autism?

We decided to use the term 'autism' throughout the strategy to include all types of autism e.g. Asperger syndrome, high functioning autism.

Autism is a medical condition - identified and diagnosed by health. It is a lifelong condition that can have great impact on children, young people and their families or carers.

We recognise that each person with autism is unique and autism is only part of the story of who they are i.e. individuals with strengths, likes and dislikes who face challenges throughout life because of their autism.

 <p>team</p>	<p>6. Who have we worked with in developing the strategy?</p> <p>We have listened to and taken feedback from a wide range of professionals, parents/carers, voluntary sector e.g. the National Autistic Society and young people with autism.</p> <p>We have already made a number of changes to the draft strategy to reflect people's views. The strategy was subject to a 12 week formal consultation starting 4th May 2012 and will be published on the local authority website.</p> <p>The information gathered from the consultation has helped to shape the final strategy.</p>
 <p>diagnosis</p>	<p>7. Identification and diagnosis of autism</p> <p>Assessment and diagnosis of autism is provided by local health services, in partnership with the local authority across North Yorkshire. Each area has an autism diagnostic team.</p> <p>We have reviewed the diagnostic process and brought it in to line with national best practice.</p> <p>Diagnosis of autism will lead to an autism supportive pathway of care being put into place. This will include an information pack for parents to help them to better understand autism.</p>
 <p>family</p>	<p>8. Supporting parents and families</p> <p>Following a diagnosis of autism, parents or carers will be given the opportunity to attend a parent support programme such as Cygnet or Early Bird. These are designed to raise their understanding and awareness of autism and offer a range of strategies and approaches.</p> <p>Parents tell us they really value these sessions and the opportunity to talk with other parents who are in a similar situation.</p>



priority actions for improvement

9. What are our priorities for development?

We have identified a number of key priority actions to help us to move forward. These include:

- Improving early identification and awareness raising through a targeted programme of training
- Making sure we have a clear pathway for assessment and diagnosis across the county
- Giving parents greater control and influence in shaping services for autism
- Talking with and listening to young people with autism to make sure their voice is heard
- Enhancing our provision and making it better e.g. through early intervention
- Planning and coordinating transition at every stage for children and young people with autism, particularly as they move from children and young people's services into adulthood



information

10. Other reports

We referred to a number of key documents in developing the strategy to meet the needs of children and young people with autism. Details on how to access this can be found in the complete version of the strategy.

This can be found by looking at our website using the link below:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2926