



North

Yorkshire County Council

# Improvement and Integration

## Strategy for meeting the needs of Children and Young People with Autism in North Yorkshire

### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

#### Highlight Report

July 2013



**Partnership Commissioning Unit**

Commissioning services on behalf of:  
NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG  
NHS Harrogate and Rural District CCG  
NHS Scarborough and Ryedale CCG  
NHS Vale of York CCG

“Care through partnership”

Children and Young People's Service

## The Strategy

The following report outlines progress on implementation of the Strategy for Children and Young People with Autism in North Yorkshire.

The strategy was approved by CYPS Executive Members on 9th October 2012.

The aim of this highlight report is:

- ◆ To provide a regular update on progress against the priority actions set out in the plan
- ◆ To summarise the main successes and challenges
- ◆ To identify key recommendations and developments for the next period

### What we have achieved in this period

- ◆ The strategy can be accessed via:  
<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/send>  
<http://nyypct.nhs.uk/localservices/children/index.asp>
- ◆ The CCGs are in the process of signing up to the strategy
- ◆ Autism is Included in the JSNA

### What we know / have found

- ◆ There are many examples of good and improving provision within North Yorkshire, but further work is required to achieve greater integration and consistency
- ◆ In line with national trends, the numbers of children and young people with a diagnosis of autism is increasing

### Parents / professionals' view

During consultation some parents asked that greater emphasis be given to outcomes for children and young people. Professionals highlighted the importance of senior managers and practitioners understanding the importance of the strategy.

### Challenges

- ◆ Identifying where autism should fit into local social care and health structures
- ◆ Access to mental health services
- ◆ The impact of the strategy on children and young people

### Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ Further develop the outcomes framework
- ◆ Continue to work together to meet our obligations in the strategy

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## The Implementation Plan

This section focuses on the implementation plan which will deliver the major strands of work identified in the strategy.

### What we have achieved in this period

- ◆ NY and York Autism Strategic Partnership Group will monitor and evaluate delivery of the strategy implementation plan
- ◆ The Terms of Reference for the above group have been revised
- ◆ CYPS SEND Steering Group signed off the Autism Strategy on 9th July 2013
- ◆ We have adopted a holistic focus to ensure that more professionals who come into contact with young people with autism undergo basic training e.g. Residential Care team, Taxi Drivers and Escorts who transport children and young people

### What we know / have found

- ◆ Autism is everybody's business and the wider LA workforce have demonstrated a commitment to developing their knowledge of autism
- ◆ Receiving a timely diagnosis is important to families

### Parents / professionals' view

### Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ Health will formally take forward the Implementation Plan through their Partnership Board
- ◆ CCGs to sign off joint strategy
- ◆ Training for Youth Support Service staff

## Integrated, collaborative working with Health

There is much to celebrate in North Yorkshire in relation to current practice and provision; however we acknowledge that more needs to be done to integrate across health, education and social care approaches and activities to support children and young people with autism, in a planned and managed way.

The restructuring of the NHS came into effect on April 1st 2013 in the wake of the Health and Social Care Bill 2012. Commission responsibilities were transferred to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). New governance arrangements are now being established between the CCGs to ensure a suitable forum for initiatives. This will include, moving forward, the Implementation Plan for the Autism Strategy.

### What we have achieved in this period

- ◆ We have agreed a joint strategy for children and young people with autism (CYPS & CCGs)
- ◆ A NY and York Strategic Group is in place
- ◆ A Task and Finish Group, which included parents, health providers and health commissioners developed an information pack for parents

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## Focus Area 1: Raising Awareness of Autism

This section focuses on improving the knowledge and skills of the workforce in relation to understanding, identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people with autism through a targeted programme of competency-based training.

### What we have achieved in this period

- ◆ Parent/carer support and training programme 2013-14 developed and delivered e.g. 8 Cygnet programmes across NY.
- ◆ Cygnet SRE and Puberty programme piloted
- ◆ 2 rounds of Cygnet for Practitioners training
- ◆ Mowbray, Springwater have NAS Accreditation,
- ◆ Information pack for parents/ carers developed and piloted in two areas of NY. Copies in Children's Centres, Libraries etc.
- ◆ 'You said ... We did' feedback summary
- ◆ Autism Conference for Residential Care Providers – 17th July 2013. A Passport to Autism and SLCN developed to record professional development
- ◆ Professionals have been trained to deliver ASCEND (12 trained) and EarlyBird (1 trained)

### What we know / have found

- ◆ Joint delivery of parent programmes has increased collaboration between health and education on the front line

### Parents / professionals' view

Parents have requested that the use of acronyms is avoided, where possible.

Parents are pleased that the strategy is a joint strategy with health.

Other professionals/ groups are more proactive in approaching the specialist autism team for training and information.

### Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ Update the CYPS/ Health websites
- ◆ Continue to build relationships between health and education at a local level
- ◆ Share our health/education joint working structure with HAS to ensure the Adult Strategy is developed in collaboration with health partners

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### What we know / have found

- ◆ Parents would value hearing the perspective of young people with autism
- ◆ Interest in undertaking the Cygnet for Practitioners training programme is increasing rapidly
- ◆ Parents value the information pack

### Parents / professionals' view

Many of the professionals and parents we have spoken to are confident that progress has been made in this area, whilst also acknowledging there is much more to do.

They would welcome the development of a group of 'Expert Parents' to be involved in delivery of training.

### Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ Identify priority groups for training
- ◆ Pilot ASCEND and EarlyBird in Autumn Term 2013
- ◆ NAS accreditation process for Central Autism Team to commence in September
- ◆ 3 more Specialist Teachers to be EarlyBird trained
- ◆ DVD developed by young people with autism to be completed

## Focus Area 2: Identification, assessment and diagnosis

This section considers the pathway for assessment and diagnosis of autism.

We acknowledge the need to ensure consistency across the County, timely identification of need and NICE compliance.

### What we have achieved in this period

- ◆ Development of a NICE compliant, pathway for identification and diagnosis of autism
- ◆ The local diagnostic teams and Specialist Autism Team meet regularly to ensure parents are signposted appropriately (Harrogate / Northallerton)
- ◆ Draft format for Health, Education and Care Plan agreed
- ◆ Agreed arrangements for accessing the joint CYPS/Health information pack for parents
- ◆ Liaised with diagnostic teams to agree a protocol for signposting to support and outreach services

### What we know / have found

- ◆ Families requesting assessment exceed the prevalence figure that services were commissioned upon (1%).
- ◆ There is a need to review demands on the newly developed diagnostic teams as prevalence is above that used to model commissioning activity
- ◆ There is a need to monitor the number of children and young people being identified with autism in particular sub-groups e.g. Girls with Autism, EMA, PDA
- ◆ The number of children and young people with autism being assessed across NY has increased steadily since the implementation of the strategy

### Parents / professionals' view

Some families report long waiting times for assessment and diagnosis.

The diagnostic pathway needs communicating more widely to GP's to enable a timely referral to specialist services.

### Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Review practice against NICE guidelines
- ◆ Further establish good local relationships between health and education
- ◆ The EHCP will be widely consulted on in the Autumn Term

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## Focus Area 3: Give parents greater control and influence

This section concentrates on our partnership with parents.

It also considers the local authority 'Local Offer' which will include comprehensive information on the full range of support available for children and young people with autism and their families.

### What we have achieved in this period

- ◆ We have reviewed and extended representation on the NY and York Steering Group
- ◆ The Information Pack for families has been published and is available through diagnostic panels, Children's Centres, Libraries etc.
- ◆ The Corporate Director CYPS met with parents of children and young people with SEND in the Craven Area
- ◆ We have arranged a Cygnet Train the Trainer session for January 2014 to develop a group of 'expert parents'
- ◆ We use Children's Centres for the majority of parent training programmes
- ◆ The Lead for Autism is attending parent support groups across NY, insofar as possible
- ◆ Display stands at NYPACT and Inclusion Conferences to publicise services available

### What we know / have found

- ◆ Universal services need to be supported to enable children and young people with autism to access social activities
- ◆ Annual parental engagement meetings should be organised to facilitate their involvement in future service development

### Parents / professionals' view

Some parents continue to feel that they have to 'fight' for services, in particular social inclusion opportunities for their children

Parents have given positive feedback on the Information Pack and valued being able to influence its development

### Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Collate training available for parents of children with SEND as part of the 'Local Offer'.
- ◆ Arrange engagement meetings jointly with Parent Partnership across the county
- ◆ Work with Health and Adult Services to develop an on-line autism module
- ◆ Develop user satisfaction survey to collect and monitor feedback

## Focus Area 4: Improve local provision

This section focuses on the model of specialist support for children and young people with autism, schools and families.

Define what we mean by the 'local area' ....

### What we have achieved in this period

- ◆ Development of a single integrated Specialist Support Service (from April 2013)
- ◆ Central Autism Service and EMS are piloting the Quality of Provision for Autism Audit tool
- ◆ Input to SENCO Networks
- ◆ Staff trained to deliver Lego intervention, which is evidence-based
- ◆ Close collaborative working with HAS to support the development of an Adult Autism Strategy

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## Focus Area 5: Transitions

This section considers transition for children and young people with autism at all ages and stages through to adulthood.

It is important that services explore more joined-up working practices in order to ensure smooth transition for children and young people.

### What we have achieved in this period

- ◆ Provision post 16 mapped in Scarborough Area
- ◆ Liaison with HAS Autism Development officer
- ◆ Transitions Group meeting on 8th July 2013
- ◆ Contribution to the HAS Autism Strategy Consultation and engagement
- ◆ CYPS and HAS are jointly pursuing NAS accreditation

### What we know / have found

- ◆ Consideration needs to be given to how families are supported after hours, at weekends and during the school holidays
- ◆ Consultation with parents highlighted the strong links between the Strategy for Autism and the Speech, Language and Communication strategy

### Parents / professionals' view

Feedback from schools and settings in relation to the quality of outreach support is mainly positive.

Parents report positive outcomes following outreach involvement with their child on an individual case basis.

### Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Continue to develop the Local Offer
- ◆ Lego therapy pilot to be evaluated
- ◆ ASCEND programme to be trialled in partnership with the Children's Resource Centres
- ◆ Review a range of autism specific/generic assessment tools for use in measuring impact of outreach services
- ◆ Central outreach service to commence the NAS accreditation process

### What we know / have found

- ◆ Providing appropriate services to support transition and achieving positive outcomes for young people is recognised as a challenge
- ◆ The Children and families Bill 2013 will extend the SEN system from 0 – 25, giving children, young people and their parents greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring their needs are met
- ◆ The new EHCP will be more outcomes focused and will ensure that services work together to complete and deliver the plan

### Parents / professionals' view

Transition post-school into Adulthood was highlighted by many parents as one of the stressful periods for young people. In particular transition between children's and adult's social care.

Parents and professionals welcome the new EHCP in principle and look forward to seeing it work in practice. They welcome early and proactive engagement.

### Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Explore the benefits of implementing a multi-agency integrated transition service across CYPS, HAS and Health

## Recommendations

## Glossary of abbreviations

- ASCEND – Autism Spectrum Condition Enhancing and Nurturing Development
- CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group
- CYPS – Children & Young People’s Service
- EHCP – Education, Health and Care Plan
- HAS – Health and Adult Services
- JSNA – Joint Strategic Needs Analysis
- NAS – National Autistic Society
- NICE – National Institute for Clinical Excellence
- NY – North Yorkshire
- SENCO – Special Educational Needs Coordinator
- SEND – Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
- SLCN – Speech, Language and Communication Needs
- SRE – Sexual related Education

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## Acknowledgements

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