



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 2

September 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>
- ◆ HAS have consulted on a draft (interim) strategy for autism which dovetails with the strategy for Children and Young People with Autism in North Yorkshire

### What we know / have found

- ◆ Significant developments have taken place in respect of autism since the Strategy for Children and Young People with Autism in North Yorkshire has been published.
- ◆ Other Local Authorities are considering NYCC strategy to inform the development of strategies within their own county.

### Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ Parents would like the highlight reports published

### Challenges

- ◆ Consideration needs to be given as to how we propose to evidence the impact of the strategy on children and young people with autism.
- ◆ Identifying where autism should fit into local social care and health structures.
- ◆ Access to community mental health services (CAMHS)

### 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 continue to monitor delivery of the strategy implementation plan
- ◆ The Terms of Reference for the above group have been ratified
- ◆ The CCGs are in consultation with regards signing off the implementation plan

### What we know / have found

- ◆ Progress is being made in addressing all the focus areas set out in the implementation plan.

### Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ Parents like the format of the highlight report and are keen to receive regular feedback on progress made.
- ◆ Implementation Plan Highlight reports will be shared with the LA SEND Steering Group which also has representation from parents and young people through the Flying High Group

### Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ HB to obtain CCG endorsement as soon as possible
- ◆ Early plans in progress to merge the strategy for CYP with Autism and the HAS Autism strategy into a single NYCC strategy across children and adults with autism by 2015.
- ◆ Further development of an outcomes framework
- ◆ Continue to work collaboratively to meet our obligations in the strategy.
- ◆ Circulate copies of the Highlight report 2 weeks before the strategy meetings, to enable opportunity to read/comment.

## 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.

### What we have achieved in this period

- ◆ The Partnership Commissioning Unit will function as a conduit for children's commissioners to execute the CCGs' commissioning intentions in partnership with all stakeholders and partners.
- ◆ The Partnership Commissioning Unit have recruited a Director, Deputy Director and a Head of Children and Maternity.
- ◆ Termly strategic planning meetings are scheduled for the forthcoming year.
- ◆ A Task and Finish Group, which included HAS, Health practitioners and CYPS will consider an outcome framework for the strategy.
- ◆ A paper is being drafted outlining the statutory requirements of the Children and Families Bill on CCGs, and the implications for 'health.' The paper will proceed through the appropriate governing bodies.

### What we know / have found

- ◆ Health and Education are communicating more effectively at a local level.
- ◆ There is effective joint delivery of parent programmes in some areas of the county.
- ◆ The Integrated commissioning board are considering how the Children and Families Bill can be implemented.

### Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ Professionals across both health and education have a better understanding of the others model of support and are signposting more effectively.
- ◆ Parents appreciate a joint approach to training and the signposting between services that now takes place.

### Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ Update the CYPS/ Health websites
- ◆ Regular locality meetings between diagnostic and assessment teams and the autism outreach service.
- ◆ Support the implementation of a joint strategy within Health and Adult Services.

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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

- ◆ Created an NYCC autism film with a group of children and young people with autism: 'My Autism: An Insight from Students in North Yorkshire'.
- ◆ Co-ordinated the delivery of autism awareness training for the NYCC transport department.
- ◆ Developed an online autism awareness training package for NYCC staff alongside Health and Adult Services. To be launched in December.
- ◆ Liaised with the Yorkshire and Humberside AET training hub to offer training across North Yorkshire.
- ◆ Applied to become an Autism Education Trust hub for Early Years training.
- ◆ Published the autism training offer for schools
- ◆ Developed a 'Passport' to autism to support the recording and monitoring of training.

### What we know / have found

- ◆ Considerable interest in undertaking the Cygnet for Practitioners training programme
- ◆ The students thoroughly enjoyed their role in making a film about young people with autism.

### Pupils / parents / professionals' view

Following the filming day at King James' School, one student was overheard as they left the room saying,

*"Wow that was awesome!"* another commented *"I can't wait to tell my parents I have been filmed today!"*

### Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ Deliver training across the Youth Support Service
- ◆ Co-deliver training for Health visitors alongside the Harrogate Autism Diagnostic team.
- ◆ Co-deliver training to the Adult Learning and Skills service alongside HAS
- ◆ Deliver a Cygnet Practitioner accredited training programme to 30 of the NYCC workforce.
- ◆ Premier launch of the young people's film on Autism at King James School on 23.10.13.

## 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

- ◆ Developed a provider report format which is circulated for discussion at the strategic meetings.
- ◆ PCU are supporting CCGs where required to develop high quality and sustainable local diagnostic services in line with prevalence
- ◆ Vale of York CCG have invested recurrent funding for an additional 35 assessments per annum
- ◆ Harrogate and Rural District CCG are reviewing a business case for additional assessments.
- ◆ Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven are considering commissioning possibilities as part of the Joint Assessment Team as part of the Child Development Centre Review.
- ◆ Hambleton and Richmond have trained two additional staff to undertake the ADI assessment.

### What we know / have found

- ◆ Commissioned assessments were modelled on a prevalence of 1%. Local, and national experience indicates that prevalence is more like 1.6%
- ◆ Post diagnosis support needs to be part of the consideration when spot purchasing external assessments from outside the area.,
- ◆ PCU are supporting CCGs where required to develop high quality and sustainable local diagnostic services in line with prevalence
- ◆ NICE Guidance recommends 'watchful waiting' for some c/yp where diagnosis is not certain

### Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ Parents need to fully understand the complexity of the autism assessment pathway and the likely timescales.
- ◆ Communication with the family across the whole pathway is valued (pathway co-ordinator role).

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

This section concentrates on our partnership with parents and development of 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

- ◆ Commenced the ASCEND parent programme pilot at the Ghyll and Morton on Swale Children's resource centres.
- ◆ Increased the number of parents receiving an autism specific parent training programme by 50%.
- ◆ Supported the development of two parent support groups at Graham School and Ryedale/Lady Lumley's school.
- ◆ Evaluated the Cygnet puberty, sexual wellbeing and relationships pilot.
- ◆ Published the autism parent programme offer.

### 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

- ◆ "I can't pinpoint what I found most helpful as there was so much, but I thought after my daughter's diagnosis I knew all of what I needed, but learnt so much on this course that I use in everyday life with my daughter."

### Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Train 'Expert parents' to co-deliver the Cygnet parent programme.
- ◆ Undertake a stakeholder feedback survey.
- ◆ Pilot one of the seminars for families in the Craven area.
- ◆ The Children and Families Bill is due to be implemented in September 2014 – we will be considering the implications of this.
- ◆ Review and update NY Website.
- ◆ Commence development of content for the Local Offer site.

## 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 across North Yorkshire County Council.

### What we have achieved in this period

- ◆ Introduced the Autism Quality Audit Standards across the Youth Support Service.
- ◆ Registered the Central Autism Outreach team for Accreditation
- ◆ Undertaken a quality audit of the Autism Outreach Service.
- ◆ Offered a Disabled Children's Service Open day to gather feedback relating to the support received by children and young people with autism and their families.
- ◆ Produced an information document relating to evidence-based educational interventions for autism within NYCC
- ◆ Development of a comprehensive assessment of need document to sit alongside the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

### What we know / have found

- ◆ Consideration needs to be given to how families are supported after hours, at weekends and during the school holidays

### Parents / professionals' view

"Address the problem children like ours (i.e. with autism) who fall into a middle band not necessarily physically disabled and/or with learning difficulties but who never the less are complex and need very high level of support. They cannot access mainstream activities but there is very little suitable for them"

### Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Familiarise the autism outreach team with the process of accreditation alongside allied partners from the NAS.
- ◆ Baseline Youth Centres against the Autism Quality Audit Standards
- ◆ Introduce the SCERTS framework with Early Years providers across the county.
- ◆ Introduce the Autism Education Trust Competency Based document for specialist teachers as part of their performance management.

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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

- ◆ Askham Bryan College and Forest School have secured a grant from Ambitious about Autism to develop new and innovative models of support to enable young people with autism to access education beyond school.
- ◆ Established regular strategic meetings with Health and Adult Services.
- ◆ Jointly developed an autism E-learning package for NYCC staff.
- ◆ Planned training for the Adult Learning and Skills Service.
- ◆ Developed a Post 16 Resource Allocation Tool

### What we know / have found

- ◆ The level of support received by families for young people with autism transitioning from Secondary school to FE college or Employment varies significantly across the county.
- ◆ The new EHCP will extend the offer of support to age 25 to ensure more streamlined transition from secondary to FE.

### Parents / professionals' view

Families would benefit from one key worker to lead and co-ordinate services and support during times of transition.

### Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Develop a life skills programme for use with young people that have high functioning autism and pilot it with individual cases.
- ◆ Apply to become a post 16 training Hub for the Autism Education Trust.
- ◆ Develop a post 16 offer for Further Education Establishments and explore trading this service.

## Recommendations

1. Development of the wider workforce
2. Develop the Local Offer site in relation to autism
3. NAS Accreditation of LA Central services
4. Consider implications of the Children and Families Bill and the New Code of Practice
5. Introduce the AET Competency-based standards for Specialist Teachers

## Glossary of abbreviations

- ASCEND – Autism Spectrum Condition Enhancing and Nurturing Development
- CAMHS – Community and Mental Health Service
- CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group
- CYPS – Children & Young People's Service
- EHCP – Education, Health and Care Plan
- HAS – Health and Adult Services
- NAS – National Autistic Society
- NY – North Yorkshire
- SCERTS – Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support
- SENCO – Special Educational Needs Coordinator
- SEND – Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
- SLCN – Speech, Language and Communication Needs

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