



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 3

January 2014



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. It can be accessed via:

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/send>

<http://nyypct.nhs.uk/localservices/children/index.asp>

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

- ◆ HAS are consulting on an interim strategy for adults with autism which dovetails with the strategy for Children and Young People with Autism in North Yorkshire
- ◆ A working group looking at outcomes has been established. This will support the development of a framework for evidencing the impact of the strategy.

What we know / have found

- ◆ The Strategy has raised awareness of autism across the wider workforce and created an increase in requests for training.
- ◆ Consideration needs to be given to the wording in the Highlight reports to ensure they truly reflect the 'joint' approach.

Challenges

- ◆ Ensuring universal services are able to meet the needs of children and young people with autism effectively.
- ◆ Capacity to meet the needs of increasing numbers of children and young people being diagnosed with autism.

Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ To develop a clear outcome framework for measuring both output and outcomes of the strategy on children and families.
- ◆ To discuss the possibility of jointly commissioning services for autism across health, education and social care.
- ◆ 6 Consultation events to take place in January 2014 re: draft interim strategy for meeting the needs of adults with autism 2014-15.
- ◆ Continue to work with CCGs to progress business cases for increasing capacity for autism diagnostic assessments.
- ◆ Joint all-age strategy to be developed for 2015.

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

- ◆ The North Yorkshire and York Strategic Partnership Group have undertaken a review of the implementation plan
- ◆ Highlights of the review have been shared with the CYPS extended leadership team and the Children's Trust Board.
- ◆ The Partnership Commissioning Unit has achieved CCG endorsement for the strategy. CCG endorsement is pending for the implementation plan.

What we know / have found

- ◆ Formal endorsement of the Implementation Plan is still awaited from CCGs.
- ◆ The Royal College of General Practitioners has made autism a clinical priority for 2014-17. A clinical champion will be appointed to develop the programme

Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ The wider CYPS workforce are more aware than ever of the support and services available for children and young people with autism but still more work is required to ensure that all of the workforce is aware of the strategy and the services available across Children's Social Care.

Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ Meeting scheduled for 24.01.14 for Task Group looking at 'Outcomes'.
- ◆ Ensure CSC become partners in the development of the all age autism strategy planned for 2015.
- ◆ Collate output, activity and outcome data relevant to the autism strategy in one document.

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

- ◆ Joint planning at a local level across the assessment and diagnostic teams, education and the disabled children's social care team in Harrogate, Selby and Northallerton.
- ◆ Published a joint interim strategy for meeting the needs of adults across HAS and Health. <http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk>
<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/autismconsultation>
- ◆ Presented to CCGs a paper outlining the implications of the Children and Families Bill and CCG responsibilities for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- ◆ Jayne Hill appointed Head of Children's Commissioning for Children, Young People and Maternity

What we know / have found

- ◆ There is a continuing problem with waiting lists which is acknowledged and the difficulty this has created for families is well understood.
- ◆ SRCCG has plans in place for a waiting list initiative from end of Jan 2014. A capacity service to meet local demand should be in place from end May, following recruitment.
- ◆ HRWCCG and HaRD CCG are in negotiations with Harrogate District Foundation Trust (HDFT) for waiting lists and a capacity service. A decision should be made early in the New Year.

Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ NY CCGs are in the process of negotiating a contractual solution to the waiting times and for a service that better meets local demand.
- ◆ Joint planning across Health, Education and the disabled children's team at a local level in Scarborough and Craven.
- ◆ Co-ordinate a conference for health and social care professionals to inform them of the local offer.
- ◆ Paper to LA Overview and Scrutiny Committee re arrangements for assessment and diagnosis.
- ◆ Need to review data sources in order to maximise potential to extract the cohort of young people requiring transitional support.

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

- ◆ Autism Training for Junior Doctors at the Friarage Hospital.
- ◆ Joint delivery of Solihull training for health visitors in Harrogate / Scarborough.
- ◆ Cygnet Practitioner accredited programme delivered to 30 of the NYCC workforce and autism awareness training to YSS managers.
- ◆ Delivered autism awareness training to 295 staff across the Scarborough Whitby and Ryedale locality and 101 staff across the Hambleton and Richmond locality.
- ◆ Autism E-learning package for NYCC staff in partnership with Health and Adult Services.
- ◆ Launched the pupil voice DVD 'My Autism: An insight from students in North Yorkshire.
- ◆ Askham Bryan have 20 members of staff trained in supporting learners with autism (level 2).

What we know / have found

- ◆ Colleges and independent settings are keen to purchase specialist training from the local authority specialist support service.

Pupils / parents / professionals' view

- ◆ Parents of young people attending the DVD launch at King James' School gave very positive feedback.
- ◆ Low take-up of EarlyBird parent course in Ham/Rich due to: child care, work commitments and travel.

Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ Deliver the Autism Education Trust school based level 2 & 3 training within NYCC for maintained schools in partnership with Leeds Stars.
- ◆ Pilot the AET Early Years Making Sense of Autism programme with Early Years practitioners.
- ◆ Ensure NYCC is represented at the NAS professional Conference in Harrogate.
- ◆ Provide high quality development days for the autism outreach team and the EMS.
- ◆ Receive NAS training for trainers in supporting families through social care assessments
- ◆ Provide training for Askham Bryan College and Harrogate College.
- ◆ Provide an autism conference for Welburn Hall School.

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

- ◆ Up to 40 parents continue to attend ASCEND group training sessions
- ◆ The North Yorkshire CCGs continue to work with providers on improving access to assessments and waiting times for assessments.
- ◆ HAS have 17 provider units working towards NAS accreditation in cluster groups across NY.

What we know / have found

Vale of York CCG has agreed additional funding to increase capacity to 70 from 01.04.14. This is expected to meet local demand.

Harrogate and Rural District CCG are considering plans to respond to local waiting times and sustainable capacity for children's autism assessments in March 2014.

Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG have agreed a waiting list initiative and are considering a sustainable solution.

Scarborough and Ryedale CCG have commissioned additional capacity and a waiting list initiative.

What we know / have found

- ◆ Referrals are exceeding commissioned service
- ◆ Home support is a big gap for children coping in school.
- ◆ Not all children with autism meet the eligibility criteria for Children's Social Care or Disabled Children's Service

Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ Parents of children waiting for assessment and diagnosis continue to be frustrated by the pace of the process.

Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Consideration needs to be given to the needs of children and young people pre and post diagnosis.

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

- ◆ Trained a further 8 members of staff and 4 "expert parents" to deliver the Cygnet parent programme.
- ◆ Met with four "expert parents" and agreed a framework for co-delivery of Cygnet training to ensure a parent perspective is included in the training.
- ◆ Completed the ASCEND parent programme at the Ghyll with 8 families and evaluated the benefits.
- ◆ Trained and licenced a further three professionals to deliver Early Bird training.
- ◆ Attended the FAST parent support group in Scarborough.

What we know / have found

- ◆ Engagement of parents is positive and proving extremely valuable

Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ Parents (NY PACT) are actively involved in contributing to the NY Local Offer

Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Undertake a stakeholder feedback survey
- ◆ Pilot the seminars for families in the Craven and Northallerton areas.
- ◆ Continue to develop the content of the Local offer site.
- ◆ Pilot the Early Bird programme in Harrogate.
- ◆ Purchase the Cygnet puberty, sexual wellbeing and relationship material and develop an annual schedule of delivery across the county.
- ◆ Meet with parents from the Acorns parent support group.

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

- ◆ Craven Youth Support Service has undertaken a self-evaluation of their service through completing the Autism Quality Audit Standards.
- ◆ The central autism outreach team have registered for NAS accreditation and are currently undertaking a self-evaluation.
- ◆ HAS have 17 provider units working towards NAS accreditation in cluster groups across NY
- ◆ Education, Health and Care Plan has been developed and is being piloted.
- ◆ Piloted the Comprehensive Assessment of Need document across a range of settings.

What we know / have found

- ◆ Children's centres in the Scarborough area are keen to increase their knowledge of autism and self-audit their provision against the NYCC Autism Quality Standards.

Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ Schools have an increased confidence in the autism outreach service as a result of vacancies having been filled in each locality.

Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Complete the initial self-evaluation of autism outreach services for NAS accreditation
- ◆ Trial the use of the SCERTS observation and report form as part of the initial assessment process for pupils recently referred to the autism outreach service.
- ◆ Train practitioners in the use of the Comprehensive assessment of need document
- ◆ NY Conference planned for 7th (professionals) and 8th (parents) February 2014.
- ◆ NICE guidance for the Management and Support of children and Young People on the Autism Spectrum (guideline 170) – is being used to inform developments.
<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/cg170>

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

- ◆ Co-ordinated a post 16 autism working group to consider the needs of pupils with autism leaving school.
- ◆ Piloted the post 16 resource allocation tool across a range of settings for those with the most complex needs.
- ◆ The Post 16 personalised pathways meeting included autism representation.
- ◆ Joint work is being undertaken to ensure that children with autism and special educational needs have a well-planned and managed transition to adult services. The aim is to ensure that services provided by the NHS and Local Authorities are well coordinated in planning services for the future care of young people as they become young adults.

What we know / have found

- ◆ Children with autism that attend mainstream schools need to be considered when developing a transitions service.

Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ Many children who are supported within an EMS at a primary age and then transition to a non-EMS secondary school are finding the transition extremely difficult.

Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Plan the transitions of all pupils leaving school in the summer of 2014 for FE establishments.
- ◆ Provide autism data to inform the development of a transition team that meets the needs of young people with autism including those that are academically able.
- ◆ HAS are undertaking a scoping exercise with the Disabled Children's Team to develop a transitions team.

Recommendations

1. Development of the wider workforce
2. Continue to develop the Local Offer site in relation to autism
3. NAS Accreditation of LA Central services
4. Develop plans for the implementation of the Children and Families Bill and the New Code of Practice
5. Actively promote 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
- CSC – Children’s Social Care
- CYPS – Children & Young People’s Service
- EHCP – Education, Health and Care Plan
- HAS – Health and Adult Services
- NAS – National Autistic Society
- NY – North Yorkshire
- PCU – Partnership Commissioning Unit
- SCERTS – Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support
- SENCO – Special Educational Needs Coordinator
- SEND – Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
- SLCN – Speech, Language and Communication Needs
- SRE – Sexual related Education

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