



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 6

April 15



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

- ◆ The draft strategy for children, young people and adults with autism and their family has been approved for consultation.
- ◆ We now have good data relating to diagnosis and assessment
- ◆ NYCC education services for SEN have become one service The Inclusive Education Service

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

- ◆ Improved tracking systems for children transitioning to Post 16
- ◆ Completed a draft Strategy for children, young people and adults with autism and their families in preparation for a consultation period to be held in July 15.
- ◆ Devised a consultation plan for engaging with key stake holders in the development of the new strategy.
- ◆ Engaged with District Councils to support the delivery of the Strategy for meeting the needs of children, young people and adults with autism and their

What we know / have found

- ◆ How autism services will link with the newly commissioned healthy child programme and Compass Reach.
- ◆ The objectives within the implementation plan have mostly been achieved.

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 and adults with a diagnosis of autism.

Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ All age Strategy Consultation documents to be added to the NYCC website
- ◆ Co-ordinate the face to face consultation events for the strategy for meeting the needs of children, young people and adults with autism and their families
- ◆ Communicate the consultation with keystakeholders .

What we know / have found

- ◆ That families of children, young people and adults with autism would like engagement from the district councils, Job Centre Plus, NYP and the CJS to implement the all age strategy for autism

Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ Professionals from CSC are keen to develop their skills and knowledge relating to autism and have committed to developing autism champions within the CSC service.
- ◆ Professionals across the NHS and NYCC are positive about the online learning module on autism

Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ Undertake a final review of the implementation plan and ensure all actions within it are progressing.
- ◆ Develop key priorities for the new strategy in partnership with HAS.

Integrated, collaborative working

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

- ◆ Engagement with the District Councils and North Yorkshire police in developing the all age strategy.
- ◆ Provided information for the Joint commissioning of SLCN project to inform future planning
- ◆ Delivered Intensive interaction training for Education and Social care staff

What we know / have found

- ◆ District Councils are keen to work with NYCC and the NHS to implement some of the priorities identified, particularly in relation to housing, leisure and people with autism being active members of their community.
- ◆ Children's Social Care are keen to develop autism champions across teams.

Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ Continue engagement with the CPS, NYP, Job centre plus and other agencies in developing and implementing the all age strategy.
- ◆ Quality review of autism provision across NYCC and the NHS.
- ◆ Consultation for the All age autism strategy.

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

- ◆ Continued to deliver Cygnet practitioner training to the wider CYPS workforce.
- ◆ Provided Intensive interaction training for Education and Social Care staff
- ◆ NYCC became the AET Post 16 training hub
- ◆ Delivered AET training across Early Years, schools and post 16 settings
- ◆ Celebrated World autism week through promoting the online learning across the NHS and CYPS workforce

What we know / have found

- ◆ Colleges have expressed an interest in the AET training programme, and implementation of the autism standards and competency framework.

Pupils / parents / professionals' view

- ◆ Many family support workers wish to extend their knowledge of autism and how best to support families.

Next steps / Recommendations

- ◆ Develop an autism outreach service training offer for schools and settings and the wider workforce for the forthcoming year.
- ◆ Deliver a workshop at the annual NYPACT conference.
- ◆ Continue to deliver the AET training for schools and settings across the county.
- ◆ Introduce autism champions within Children's Social Care.

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

- ◆ Refreshing autism service specification
- ◆ Autism assessment quality review now planned with a phased programme. The first session phase will commence in the summer 2015
- ◆ Continued monitoring of autism assessment activity and performance management of providers
- ◆ ADOS peer review group established to ensure quality standards in assessment are maintained across NYCC.

What we know / have found

- ◆ We now have a full year of baseline data to support commissioning decisions and planning.

Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ .Early indications from parental questionnaires suggest that the recent waiting list initiative was a positive experience despite being out of the local area.

Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Providers across NYCC will train additional staff in ADOS2 and ADI
- ◆ Systems for gathering feedback in relation to the experience of service users are being developed.

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

- ◆ Developed a communication plan for the Strategy for meeting the needs of Children, young people and adults with autism and their families.
- ◆ Developed a plan for consulting with parents of children and young people with autism in relation to the all age strategy.
- ◆ Engaged with families in relation to the Sensory integration documentation developed
- ◆ Modify process of informing families and professionals of a diagnosis following feedback from parents

What we know / have found

- ◆ Parents value the involvement of education professionals within the assessment and diagnostic process but are eager to ensure they are the first to receive their child's diagnosis

Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ The consultation events should be meaningful and purposeful for people with autism of all ages and their families

Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Undertake the consultation and engagement events for the strategy for meeting the needs of children, young people and adults with autism and their families.
- ◆ Continue to use the Virtual reference group to gather information on autism related topics.

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

- ◆ Integrated SEN services and created an Inclusive Education Service
- ◆ Improved dialogue and links with the District Councils.
- ◆ Services are working towards the completion of the NAS autism accreditation
- ◆ Considered the implications of the SEND accountability framework on service provision

What we know / have found

- ◆ School's find the multiple referral routes confusing and unhelpful

Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ A single point of referral for educational support would be welcomed

Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ NAS observation of practice scheduled
- ◆ Audit of Autism outreach team practice
- ◆ Mid-term review of autism outreach service quality by the NAS
- ◆ Improved referral system for educational support
- ◆ Development of a clear eligibility criteria for LA SEND services.

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

- ◆ NYCC have become an AET Post 16 training hub
- ◆ Interrogate the 15 – 16 transition data and arrange transition support for CYP with autism where appropriate
- ◆ Developed drop in sessions at colleges across NYCC

What we know / have found

- ◆ .Transition within health services for young people between 16 – 18 is difficult.

Parents / professionals' view

- ◆ Mainstream college provision is keen to increase their knowledge of autism and how it impacts on those young adults with HFA.

Next Steps /Recommendations

- ◆ Roll out the AET training across NY colleges.
- ◆ Follow up all young people who have transferred to a mainstream college setting in the autumn term.
- ◆ Ensure that professionals involved in supporting CYP with autism across health and education are familiar with the services provided by the new preventative service.

Recommendations

1. Development of the wider workforce
2. Continue with the implementation of the Children and Families Bill and the New Code of Practice
3. Actively promote the AET Competency-based standards for Specialist Teachers
4. Develop a proposal for AET training for secondary schools across the Scarborough area.

Glossary of abbreviations

- AET – Autism Education Trust
- CAMHS – Community and Mental Health Service
- CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group
- CYPS – Children & Young People's Service
- EHCP – Education Health Care Plan
- FE – Further Education
- HAS – Health and Adult Services
- HFA – High functioning autism
- NAS – National Autistic Society
- PCU – Primary commissioning Unit
- SEN – Special Educational Needs
- SENCO – Special Educational Needs Coordinator
- SLCN – Speech Language Communication Needs

Acknowledgements

Cerys Townend, Lead for Autism, Inclusive Education Service

Amber Burton, Head of Inclusive Education Service

Jayne Hill, Head Children, Young People and Maternity

Helen Billson, Senior Commissioning Specialist (Children and Young People, incl. Maternity)

Amanda Thompson, Assistant Commissioning Specialist