

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough  
Integrated Care System**

**System Partnership Board Report**

<b>Meeting</b>	System Partnership Board Meeting in Public		
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Wednesday 28 July 2021		
<b>Agenda item:</b>	4		
<b>Title:</b>	All Age Autism Strategy		
<b>Lead:</b>	Carol Anderson, CCG Chief Nurse		
<b>Author:</b>	Jenny Maine, CCG Paediatric Commissioner Emma Grimes, CCG Adult Learning Disabilities & Autism Commissioner		
<b>Report purpose</b> <i>(Please mark one in bold)</i>			
<b>APPROVAL</b>	<b>DECISION</b>	<b>ASSURE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
<b>Committees/groups where this has been presented to before</b> <i>(including date)</i>			
CCG Chief Officer Team CCG Integrated Performance and Assurance Committee (scheduled 27.07.2021)			
<b>Purpose of the paper</b>			
This report is to share the All Age Autism Strategy with the System Partnership Board meeting prior to submission to the CCG Governing Body for approval to go out to formal consultation with stakeholders. This is planned to start beginning of September for 6 weeks.			
<b>Recommendation</b>			
The System Partnership Board is asked to comment and support the All Age Autism Strategy prior to presentation to the CCG Governing Body for approval to go out to formal consultation commencing 7 September 2021.			

**TITLE: ALL AGE AUTISM STRATEGY**

**FROM: CAROL ANDERSON, CCG CHIEF NURSE  
KARLENE ALLEN, CCG DEPUTY DIRECTOR MATERNITY  
AND CHILDRENS COMMISSIONING /DEPUTY CHIEF  
NURSE, AND CCG MAREK ZAMBORSKY, SRO FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITIES  
SERVICES**

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## **1 ISSUE**

- 1.1 This paper is to share the All Age Autism Strategy prior to consultation commencing on the 7 September 2021.
- 1.2 The national guidance "[Implementing Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives](#)"<sup>1</sup> and "[Think Autism](#)"<sup>2</sup> puts a statutory duty on local authorities and health services to have in place plans in relation to the provision of service for autistic people. While the guidance was initially just for adults in 2017 the government stated it was extending this to cover children and young people.
- 1.3 The guidance sets out requirements for local authorities and NHS organisations to work together with partners to develop a strategy for autistic people and gives a framework of what this should include, for example:
  - A clear assessment of need for people with autism
  - clear diagnostic pathways with good pre and post support
  - Joint commissioning
  - clarity about what needs to be developed to meet the needs of autistic people, including preventative support, and safeguarding.
- 1.4 It is vital that this is a coordinated system approach, with all partners, to provide a range of support that autistic people may need at different times in their life. This may include Health services, Education, colleges, local businesses, housing, independent or supported living and support within the justice system.

## **2 KEY POINTS**

- 2.1 This five-year (2021-2026) All Age Autism Strategy supports the aim for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to be an autism friendly place where autistic children and adults can live full and rewarding lives, within a society that accepts and understands them.
- 2.2 It has been co-produced in partnership with autistic people and their families across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/216129/dh\\_122908.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216129/dh_122908.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/299866/Autism\\_Strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299866/Autism_Strategy.pdf)

- 2.3 The foundation of this strategy is the Autism Needs Assessment collated by Public Health which provided a comprehensive overview of the prevalence of autism across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It highlighted some of the gaps in current services and made recommendations that have been explored with all partners and through focus groups.
- 2.4 A countywide all age autism strategy group has been developing this strategy for the past eight months with all key partners including:
- Family Voice
  - Pinpoint
  - VoiceAbility
  - Healthwatch, Cambridgeshire
  - National Autistic Society, Cambridge Branch
  - Speak Out Council
  - Cambridgeshire Constabulary
  - Autism Centre of Excellence
  - Peterborough City Council
  - Cambridgeshire County Council
  - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG
- 2.5 The priorities and recommendations being taken forward through the working groups of the all age autism strategy are:
- Having clear diagnostic pathways for children and adults with good support throughout the process, combined with good pre and post diagnosis support.
  - Training and raising awareness for all areas that helps services and professionals understand the needs of autistic people within our local communities and services and recognises that autism affects different people in different ways.
  - Services that take a lifelong approach and supports autistic people in school, colleges, and universities, to be able to live independently and have meaningful employment opportunities.
  - For Health and social care to work together to commission integrated services that make the best of the resources available.
  - For services to understand what reasonable adjustments are and how they can improve settings so autistic people can have positive experiences when they go into healthcare settings such as primary care hospitals etc.

### **3 CONSULTATION**

It is a national requirement that all Autism Strategies go through a process of formal consultation. This strategy has been co-produced with a wide range of stakeholders over the past eight months. It is now proposed that the CCG and the Local Authority jointly consult on the strategy for a period of six weeks starting on 7 September with public approval from the CCG Governing Body at its public meeting and running until 19 October. This consultation will be conducted in line with the CCG consultation processes and legal duties for consultation.

This consultation period will give those involved in the coproduction as well as the wider public to comment on the draft strategy. A consultation process plan has been developed and is attached as appendix 1. We also include a summary

document that will be used for consultation as appendix 2, and the questions that will form the consultation survey for feedback as appendix 3.

## 4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The System Partnership Board is asked to comment and support the All Age Autism Strategy prior to submission to the CCG Governing Body ahead of formal consultation commencing on 7 September 2021 for six weeks.

## 5 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended that IPAC approves the All Age Autism Strategy prior to the launch of the consultation to meet the organisation's statutory duty in accordance with the national guidance "[Implementing Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives](#)"<sup>3</sup> and "[Think Autism](#)"<sup>4</sup> which requires local authorities and health services to have in place plans in relation to the provision of service for autistic people. While the guidance was initially just for adults in 2017 the government stated it was extending this to cover children and young people. There are a range of funding streams that will be used to deliver an operational plan based on the finalised strategy.
- 5.2 The principle of the strategy is to jointly develop plans to review our autism pathways and ensure they are managed effectively. The work that sits underneath the strategy will identify efficiencies in pathways and will enable financial planning for the future.

## 6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This co-produced All Age Autism Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been developed over the past 8 months with all key partners and is set to go out for consultation on 7 September until 19 October and the implementation of the final strategy will enable the CCG to meet the statutory duty placed on health and local authorities and to have in place plans for the provision of services for autistic people.

## 7. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Consultation Process Plan  
Appendix 2 Consultation Summary Document  
Appendix 3 Questions for the consultation

***Author/s: Jenny Maine, CCG Paediatric Commissioner, Emma Grimes, CCG Adult Learning Disabilities and Autism Commissioner***

**Updated 21 July 2021**

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<sup>3</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/216129/dh\\_122908.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216129/dh_122908.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/299866/Autism\\_Strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299866/Autism_Strategy.pdf)

System Partnership Board in Public – 28 July 2021

Agenda Item