

North Tyneside Health & Wellbeing Board Report

Date: 16 September 2021

Title: North Tyneside
All Age Autism
Strategy 2021-2026

Report from: Director of Children's and Adult Services, North Tyneside Council

Report Author: Scott Woodhouse Strategic (Tel: 0191 6437082)
Commissioning Manager and Julie Young
Commissioning Manager

Relevant Partnership Board: Learning Disability Integration Board.

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present the North Tyneside Autism Strategy to the Board for consideration and approval, and also to agree future reporting arrangements for updates on progress back to the Board.

The five year strategy will move North Tyneside to a position that positively supports autistic people and their family members with an ultimate aim that North Tyneside is "autism friendly". This is something that underpins the priorities in the strategy and encompasses the work required from a range of partner organisations.

The Board should also note that the strategy is also being presented to the North Tyneside Children's Board on 20 September 2021, as the strategy covers all age groups.

2. Recommendation(s):

The Board is recommended to: -

- a) Agree the North Tyneside Autism Strategy 2021-2026, as set out in the appendix to this report;
- b) Take account of the National Autism Strategy priorities for 2021 to 2026 as outlined in our local plan;
- c) Agree that the scope and work of the Learning Disability Integration Board is extended to include Autism and that an Autism Strategy Steering Group is established to formulate and agree a detailed delivery plan;
- d) Monitor progress of the priorities and to agree a timeframe for receiving future updates; and
- e) Ensure the priorities identified in the Autism Strategy are linked into and aligned with updated priorities from the upcoming refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

3. Policy Framework

This item relates to the following priorities as identified in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-23.

- Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Families
 - We will provide a whole family approach to identify and address difficulties early
 - We will further develop our multi agency approach to supporting families with complex needs and long-term disadvantage
- Improving Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
 - We will work to connect people with local activities to reduce loneliness and isolation
- Addressing Premature Mortality to Reduce the Life Expectancy Gap
 - We will provide targeted healthy living support to our populations most in need and will work to empower local people to ensure approaches are sustainable and build skills and capacity
- Improving Life Expectancy
 - We will work with GP Practices and hospitals to improve access to health screening and Annual Health Checks and from learning from the LeDer reviews on early death with Autistic people.

4. Information:

The Autism Act 2009 says we need to make services better for autistic people and their carers and that not all people get the support they need, we have also heard this from local organisations and from the conversations we have had with local autistic people and their families.

The strategy we have developed as set out in this report will help to give us direction, but more importantly, that we have listened to local people, so we know what is important to them and what needs to change for North Tyneside residents.

We have worked in partnership over the last two years to ensure we had a strategy in place that was fully aligned to the requirements of local people but also was achievable and within the abilities of partner organisations that will deliver on the identified and agreed priorities.

We want autistic people and their families to be at the heart of the strategy and the priorities and everything we do. The six priority areas come from people and family members.

The working and reference groups have been meeting regularly to develop those six key priorities

- Being Listened to
- Awareness Raising
- Inclusive Communities
- Good Support
- Support through Life Changes
- Understanding yourself

This report presents a summary of the key areas that will be developed in North Tyneside to enable our Autistic residents and their families “to live their best lives”.

It is timely that the Government has published an update to the National Autism Strategy in July 2021 and we have been able to consider the work we had undertaken in North Tyneside to ensure that our strategy was aligned to and in keeping with the new national strategy. The six priority areas in the national strategy are:

- Helping people understand autism
- Helping autistic children and young people at school
- Helping autistic people find jobs and get the skills and training they need
- Making health and care services equal for autistic people
- Making sure autistic people get help in their communities
- Help autistic people in the justice system

The Learning Disability Integration Board will take the lead on the delivery of the strategy and the work plan to ensure the priority areas are developed and outcomes achieved. This is a multi-agency Board and an Autism Delivery Working Group will be put in place to undertake this work, this group will largely be those individuals and organisations that were included in the development of the strategy.

5. Decision options:

The Board is recommended to agree the recommendations as set out in this report.

The Board may wish to consider deferring agreement pending further work to be completed if it does not consider the strategy or the approach as appropriate.

6. Reasons for recommended option:

It is important that there is a strategy in place to ensure we are compliant with expectations as set out in the Autism Act and that we have an agreed multi-agency partnership approach to meeting the requirements of the National Autism Strategy.

7. Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Draft All Age Autism Strategy 2021-26

8. Contact officers:

Scott Woodhouse, Strategic Commissioning Manager Adults, North Tyneside Council,
0191 643 7082

Julie Young, Commissioning Manager, North Tyneside Council, 0191 643 7561

9. Background information:

The following background documents have been used in the compilation of this report and are available from the author: -

National Autism Strategy 2021-2026 issued 21st July 2021

10 Finance and other resources

Any financial or resource implications arising out of the delivery of the strategy will be met by respective organisations and the funding they have identified. Where additional funding / grant is available to the Local Authority or the NHS this will be identified and allocated against the requirements set out in the delivery plan. The Learning Disability Integration Board will consider this in line with any conditions that are applied.

11 Legal

There are no known legal implications of the Strategy. The Authority and the partners to this strategy are meeting their obligations to have a strategy in place.

12 Consultation/community engagement

Consultation has taken place over a 2-year period both in person, through questionnaires and through virtual sessions and one to one's, led by Inclusion North and the North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum, the Carers centre with several reference groups that have included:

- Parent carers
- Members of the Parent Carer Forum
- Youth Forum
- Children in Care Forum

We are retaining support with confirm and challenge from these groups during the delivery of the 5-year plan. All comments have influenced and directed the compilation of the Strategy and particularly the 6 key priorities which have come from families as what matters most to them.

13 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this Strategy

14 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications directly arising from this Strategy

15 Risk management

There are no specific risks identified in this Strategy

16 Crime and disorder

The North Tyneside All Age Autism Strategy takes account of the National Autism Strategy 2021-26 to support “Adults and Children who are autistic in the criminal justice system”, whether that be as an offender or as a victim of an offence.

SIGN OFF

Chair/Deputy Chair of the Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Director of Public Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Director of Children’s and Adult Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Director of Healthwatch North Tyneside	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CCG Chief Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chief Finance Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Head of Law & Governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>