

Priority 1 - Increasing Awareness and Understanding of Autism						
<i>Services across different organisations in Reading are "autism-friendly" and responsive to the needs of people with autism through improved knowledge and awareness.</i>						
No.	Action	Lead	Progress	Completed by	Outcomes - what will the difference be?	How will we know we've achieved this?
1.1	Write to the leads for key organisations in Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote the Autism Strategy</li> <li>- Ask what they will do to improve their support for autistic people, with ideas of what they could do</li> <li>- Ask if they will nominate a "champion" to help with this work - providing a brief of the expectations of the role and the support e.g. training offered</li> </ul>	Chair of Partnership Board	Identified organisations/services: Council (Housing, Transport, Leisure, Education, Children's, Adult Social Care, Customer Services), Health services, schools, colleges, Voluntary Sector, employers Brief to be developed by the Partnership Board at October meeting.	December 2015	People with autism can access services that are more autism aware that have champions in place to support the principles of the Autism Strategy	75% of organisations written to have responded and identified their own autism champion and their actions to support people with autism
1.2	Circulate information about current providers offering autism awareness training to leads & make this information available on the Reading Services Guide	RBC Disability Service	Work with Consultation & Engagement Officer to add page to the RSG	December 2015	People can better support autistic people after accessing training to understand their needs and develop knowledge and skills	Information published and number of visits to the site to establish engagement 25% increase on numbers accessing autism training after 6 months on current baseline.
1.3	Increase knowledge among Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) staff of people with learning disabilities and autism through delivering training and sharing best practice.	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service	Underway - staff from ASD Pathway working with staff across CAMHS e.g. sharing ideas of effective interventions. Depression & Anxiety Pathway now more open to autistic children.	Review progress June 2016	Autistic children get effective support from CAMHS staff with better expertise around autism	Increase in the number of CAMHS staff completing training.
1.4	Use Educational Psychology training days with schools to test and measure effectiveness of new ways of supporting autistic children in classrooms (supporting a shift to needs-led rather than diagnosis-led approaches)	Educational Psychology	Training day to be identified and planned in Autumn term Deliver training in Spring term to allow for evaluation	March 2016	Autistic pupils will get effective support from staff with knowledge about the best way to support them	Numbers attending training days, feedback from training attendees on the course and the impact for pupils
1.5	Upskill Adult Social Care teams around assessment and care planning for autistic people, particularly knowledge of the wide range of needs across the spectrum	RBC Adult Disability Team	Promotion of online autism training course to all teams Pilot specialist face-to-face autism training for Adult Disability Team Evaluate feedback on training to consider running more widely	November 2015 December 2015 February 2016	People with autism will get effective support from Adult Social Care teams from staff with expertise	50% of staff in the Adult Disability Team have completed autism training
1.6	Cascade National Autistic Society posters to GP surgeries and other health services	South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit	Plan to attend Practice Manager meetings to promote the Autism Strategy and poster resources	January 2016	GP surgeries are better aware of the needs of autistic people and able to meet their needs	Strategy and posters sent to all GP practices requesting to visit. 50% of practices visited to promote the Autism Strategy.

Priority 2 - Improving Access to Diagnosis & Beyond						
<i>Autism diagnosis services for children and adults are timely and link service users and their families to appropriate support including pre-diagnosis and after a diagnosis service.</i>						
No.	Action	Lead	Progress	Completed by	Outcomes - what will the difference be?	How will we know we've achieved this?
2.1	Review the diagnosis pathways for children and adults including:	South, Central and West Commissioning	Meeting to agree terms of reference Review completed	November 2015 October	People with autism and families have an improved experience of diagnosis	Review recommendations are put in place Diagnosis services meet

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity</li> <li>• Pre-assessment support, and any alternatives to diagnosis offered</li> <li>• Quality and appropriateness of diagnosis</li> <li>• Post-assessment support including follow up or other services offered or signposted</li> <li>• Support offered to families and carers</li> <li>• Support available by linking with partners</li> </ul>	Support Unit		2016	services, with clarity about what they can expect, reduced waiting times and more consistent support	the NICE guidelines for service provision Waiting times for diagnosis reduced - proposed target of 95% of young people on the ASD care pathway will access their service within 12 weeks by March 2016
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**Priority 3 - Supporting Better Life Outcomes for People with Autism**

*Services and support in Reading is effective in helping people with autism to be and stay healthy, to have good well-being and to engage with education, work, social and leisure activities*

No.	Action	Lead	Progress	Completed by	Outcomes - what will the difference be?	How will we know we've achieved this?
3.1	Support autistic people to access health services by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introducing a single referral route for CAMHS and Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies</li> <li>• Explore developing a Reading 'health passport' for autistic people</li> </ul>	CAMHS, South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit, Partnership Board	Progress to be confirmed by next meeting  To review existing health passports by Talkback and NAS at October meeting to see how these could be used/adapted	2016  March 2016	Autistic people have easier access to the health services with reduced duplication and referrals, that supports them to stay healthy	New referral route set up Health passport is launched and 50 people complete this in the first 6 months with feedback to review the Passport.
3.2	Review short breaks commissioned in the voluntary sector for autistic children and young people	RBC Commissioning, Reading Families Forum	Review underway and will inform bidding process for grant funding for 2016-17.	March 2016	Provision is autism friendly and appropriate to meet the needs of children and young people with autism	Feedback from families that short breaks are fully accessible and appropriate for their needs
3.3	Address low attendance at school of autistic pupils through the Emotional Wellbeing Strategy Group and working with the Virtual Head for Children Missing Out on Education	Educational Psychology		Review progress March 2016	Attendance among pupils with autism increases, leading to better educational outcomes	Increase attendance rates for pupils with ASD
3.4	Increase the number of people with autism in employment by promoting the supported employment service among partners as support available to autistic people looking for employment, including raising awareness among employers	Royal Mencap Partnership Board	Achievements and areas for further work to be reviewed one year into service	March 2016	The Supported Employment service provides support to 10 autistic people in their search for employment in 2015-16.	Set a baseline in 2015/16 and set targets based on this to increase by 25% in 2016-17 for the number of people with autism referred to the service, starting and sustaining apprenticeships, and taking up full-time or part-time employment
3.5	Ensure that the Adult Social Care Wellbeing Framework for preventative services funding is aligned with the Autism Strategy with the introduction of new peer support service for autistic people and their families.	RBC Disability Service	Consultation on draft Framework ongoing until Autumn 2015	February 2016	Autistic people and families can access peer support that helps them live well independently	Number of families linked to a peer support worker, Number of families undertaking self-management training

**Priority 4 - Supporting people with autism to live safely and as independently as possible**

*Autistic people in Reading can find somewhere appropriate to live and be confident about being part of their community, even if they have very high levels of need*

**Autism Strategy Action Plan**

(September 2015)

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4.1	Work with the providers on the Supported Living Accreditation Select List (SLASL) to ensure they can offer consistent and good quality support for people with autism	RBC Commissioning	Audit of current training levels completed and to be reviewed by Partnership Board	April 2016	Autistic people who need supported living can get appropriate support from a SLASL provider with the skills to meet their needs	75% of SLASL providers will have core staff trained to work with people with autism so they are skilled to support these people
4.2	Ensure that the Council's Learning Disability, Mental Health and Accommodation with Care strategies highlight the needs of autistic people	RBC Commissioning	Strategies currently being drafted. Learning Disability Partnership Board Housing group is supporting this work and ensuring autism is covered.	February 2016	Future supported living plans ensure there is sufficient appropriate accommodation for people with autism	Council commissioning strategies and plans in place
4.3	Review learning from existing safety schemes (Safe Places, BAS Autism Alert Card) to understand what more needs to be done to highlight safe places in the community to people with autism	Learning Disability Partnership Board - Living and Working group	Use review to consider possible card for sensory issues. Lead to be identified from the Autism Partnership Board to support this work.	August 2016	Safety schemes support more people with autism to feel safe when they are outside their homes	Increase in the number of people with a BAS Autism Alert Card
4.4	Engage with the Berkshire West Joint Commissioning Plan for Services for People with Learning Disabilities, Autism and Challenging Behaviour with partners	RBC, South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit	'Positive living' model developed in Reading in line with the Berkshire West work. Further steps to implement actions are within the separate action plan.	March 2017	Provide specialist community support that reduces the need for inpatient assessment and treatment and where admissions are necessary, reduces the length of time	Principles of the work incorporated in the Learning Disability Strategy Residents of Reading in this cohort can access specialist community support that reduces the use of inpatient assessment
4.6	Review advocacy services for people accessing Adult Social Care to ensure support is available for autistic people who need this from trained staff with knowledge and expertise	RBC Disability Service	To be considered as part of any further review of services or recommissioning.	May 2016	Support from appropriately trained advocates means that people with autism can engage effectively with Adult Social Care services	Review numbers accessing new advocacy services to engage with Adult Social Care services. Service users give positive feedback on advocacy support

<b>Priority 5 - Supporting families and carers of people with autism</b>						
<i>Families and carers of autistic people are made aware of and can access appropriate support for their needs that enables them to stay well and continue to provide support</i>						
No.	Action	Lead	Progress	Completed by	Outcomes - what will the difference be?	How will we know we've achieved this?
5.1	Ensure that the recommissioning of carers support as part of the Adult Social Care Wellbeing Framework is aligned with the Autism Strategy	RBC Disability Service	Consultation on draft Framework ongoing until Autumn 2015	May 2016	Carers of autistic people can take planned breaks to enjoy a life outside of caring and support their wellbeing	Number of carers of receiving planned breaks from caring
5.2	Promote the rights of carers to assessment and support among carers of autistic children, young people and adults with consistent messages	Reading Borough Council	Ensuring information and advice from the Council promotes support for carers	March 2016	Carers of people with autism are aware of what support they are entitled	Increasing number of carers of people with autism known to the

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Priority 6 - Improving how we plan and manage support						
<i>Data and other information is used to understand the level of need in Reading and to deliver the Autism Strategy in the most effective way through work with a wide range of partners</i>						
No.	Action	Lead	Progress	Completed by	Outcomes - what will the difference be?	How will we know we've achieved this?
6.1	Work with Public Health to refresh the information available in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)	RBC Disability Service	Work underway on areas where data is required within the JSNA to better understand needs	March 2016	More detailed and robust information on the needs of people of autism in Reading is available to inform service development and commissioning	Publish more detailed autism information in Reading's JSNA JSNA information on autism used in all plans and strategies
6.2	Establish the Autism Partnership Board with appropriate membership to oversee the delivery of the Autism Strategy and review the effectiveness of the Action Plan on improving outcomes	RBC Disability Service	First Autism Partnership Board meeting July 2015. Terms of Reference for the group agreed.	July 2015 - Completed	A wide range of partners, including the people with autism and their families/carers support the delivery of the Strategy in an effective way	More than 10 organisations represented at the Partnership Board across different sectors attending at least four meetings each year