HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD BRIEFING NOTE

Oldham’s Autism Strategy – a year on

Report Author: Claire Hooley, Service Manager (OMBC)
Date: 27th March 2018

Summary

This briefing note provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with:

- An overview of the Oldham Autism Strategy (2017 – 2020)
- An overview of the Autism Way Forward and the Autism Strategy sub groups
- An update on what has been achieved in the first year of the Autism Strategy
- Recommendations for areas of focus in the second year of the strategy

An overview of the Oldham Autism Strategy

Since 2014 the Autism Way Forward Partnership Board has been working to develop an autism strategy for Oldham. Partners involved in developing the strategy have included partner and provider organisations, individuals with autism and their family members, as well as professionals from education, health and social care. The culmination of this work was that Oldham’s Autism Strategy was officially published in January 2017.

The three year strategy is all age and joint between Oldham Council and NHS Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group. A key objective of the strategy is to increase awareness and understanding of autism across the borough, including services, organisations and the general public; with the ambition for Oldham to be acknowledged as an Autism Friendly Town.

The priorities of the strategy are articulated in the Vision for Oldham:

The Oldham Vision is that all people with autism, whatever their age, have the same opportunities as anyone else to live rewarding and fulfilling lives. This Vision is shared by all public, voluntary and independent organisations that have been working collaboratively with the aim of improving services for people with autism, their families and carers.

We have four ambitions for children, young people and adults in Oldham; for people to:

1. receive seamless support with all agencies working together commissioning effective services
2. have a clear diagnosis pathway
3. get the right support at the right time during their lifetime
4. have better information and awareness of autism
Prior to the strategy being published it went through a thorough public consultation process. The consultation was open for one calendar month and enabled the public to complete a web-based consultation as well as the opportunity to attend two consultation sessions. Over 20 people attended the sessions and 40 people provided feedback via the web-based application.

**SEND Inspection and the Autism Strategy**

In October 2017 OFSTED and the CQC (Care Quality Commission) undertook the SEND inspection in Oldham. Although there were areas of good practice identified, there were also many areas highlighted that required improvement to ensure good outcomes for children and young people.

As a result of the inspection, Oldham has been required to write a written statement of action that included an action plan and was submitted to OFSTED on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} March 2018 and we are awaiting official sign off of the action plan. Alongside the written statement will be a wider action plan to drive improvement across Oldham for children and young people with SEND.

A revised governance structure has been developed to ensure this work is delivered to a high standard and to provide support and challenge. The SEND Partnership Board will report to the Best Start in Life Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Sitting under the Partnership Board will be a range of Task and Finish Groups which will have a clear and focussed action plan. Examples of these will include: Preparation for Adulthood, Joint Commissioning and Education, Health and Care Plans.

There are many areas that the Autism Strategy and the SEND action plan programme are working to and this will be done in conjunction. These areas will include:

- **Preparation for Adulthood** – working in partnership with schools, health and social care to coordinate the transitions programme of work.
- **Joint Commissioning** – ensuring that health and social care services commissioned consider education needs and impact on individuals.

**An overview of the Autism Way Forward and the Autism Strategy sub groups**

The Autism Partnership Board, also known as Autism Way Forward (or ‘AWF’) takes place once every two months for two hours on a Wednesday morning (between 10am and 12pm). The original purpose of AWF was to develop an Autism Strategy in Oldham and subsequently to meet and drive this strategy. Members of AWF range from health, social care, education support services, provider organisations, self-advocates and parent/carers. It should be noted that a great proportion of the members of AWF are silent and do not attend the meetings.

There are four sub groups that also take place once every two months for two hours, again, these meetings take place during the morning and usually between 10am and 12pm. The purpose of the sub groups are to drive the four areas of the Autism Strategy and each group has a defined action plan reviewed each meeting:

1. **Joined Up Commissioning** – ensuring that education, health and social care services work together for people with autism to receive effective and joined up services
2. **Diagnosis and Post-Diagnosis Support** – improving access to autism diagnosis services by developing a clear, consistent pathway for diagnosis and post-diagnosis support
3. **Getting the Right Support at the Right Time** – ensuring people with autism know how to access and receive support appropriate to their needs

4. **Better Information and Awareness** – increasing awareness and understanding of autism across the borough

The intention of the sub groups was that members of Autism Way Forward were to also attend at least one of the sub group meetings in order to support the development and completion of the actions. Unfortunately as time has progressed with the strategy and partnership board and likelihood of staff moving on there has been a significant decline in the attendance at both the AWF and strategy theme group meetings. In particular, the meetings struggle to have representation from housing, education and mental health (both health and social care services as well as commissioned providers).

It is recognised that a reason why services have not been able to send representatives to the meetings is may be due to the time and day of the meetings. It is therefore acknowledged that we need to understand the most appropriate time for these meetings to be held in order to gain a full representation.

**An update on what has been achieved in the first year of the Autism Strategy**

Since the Autism Strategy was published in January 2017 a lot has been achieved but there is still a considerable amount to do before Oldham can fulfil its ambition of being autism friendly. Below provides details of what has been achieved by each of the strategy groups.

**Joined Up Commissioning strategy group:**

1. Governance structure agreed ensuring that there is a pathway for people to be represented at the Autism Way Forward partnership board and strategy groups
2. An Autism Lead has been identified for Oldham; Susannah Meakin, Head of Service for Adult Social Care Learning Disabilities, Autism and Mental Health (OMBC)
3. A Joint Strategic Needs Analysis has been completed however, it is recognised that this now needs to be refreshed
4. Oldham Council and partners including NHS Oldham CCG complies with the accessible standard\(^1\)
5. The terms and conditions of the Council’s and CCG’s adult health and social care contracts’ terms and conditions have been reviewed to ensure they comply with NICE guidelines
6. As part of the work to establish the Integrated Care Organisation (ICO) and its Single Commissioning Function (SCF) the Council and CCG are working together to identify areas to jointly commission. This will be further progressed from April 2018

A copy of the action plan for Joined Up Commissioning is provided at Appendix 1.

**Diagnosis and Post Diagnosis strategy group:**

1. Diagnosis service in place for Oldham and provided by LANC

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\(^1\) From 1st August 2016 onwards, all organisations that provide NHS care and / or publicly-funded adult social care are legally required to follow the Accessible Information Standard.
2. An exhaustive diagnosis and post diagnosis pathway mapping exercise has been completed
3. The pathway map has identified gaps which are now being reviewed for further development and improvement
4. Some identified gaps and process errors have already been changed, such as a complexity measure being agreed between two organisations that support children and young people
5. As part of the identified gaps, there is also work underway to meet NICE guidelines with services that or available in Oldham, such as educational psychiatry posts being funded
6. The pathway map is being further developed to be available for service users, parents and carers, as well as professionals. This will also adopt the easy read character so it can be easily used to support a patient's journey.

A copy of the action plan for Diagnosis and Post Diagnosis is provided at Appendix 2.

Getting the Right Support at the Right Time strategy group:

1. Needs assessment mapping exercise undertaken across health and social care. Need to include education
2. We need to further understand what is in place within schools and colleges that aims to prepare children and young people with autism for employment.
   As per the Code of Practice, all schools are expected to discuss 'Preparation for Adulthood' themes from year 9 onwards, these themes are around employment, independence, friendships, community and good health. As part of SEND inspection preparation, it was identified that we did not know the quality of this conversation so after consultation with secondary SENCOs, a task and finish group has been set up to develop an easy to use resource and accompanying paperwork for the annual review conversation as well as fact sheets around Care Act and Transport eligibility, all topics which SENCOs should have a good level of knowledge about.
3. A supported employment service is currently being developed via investment from Adult Social Care and working alongside partners such as Get Oldham Working, Job Centre Plus, education and housing services for a holistic approach to supporting people with autism into employment. The new service will be live in 2018.
4. The Job Centre Plus has recently recruited specialist workers for people with autism and/or learning disabilities and supporting them into work opportunities. These workers have engaged with the AWF and this particular strategy group.
5. A webpage has been developed on the Council’s website providing details about the Autism Partnership Board, its strategy groups and how to engage with them if anyone would like to. Discussions are currently being held as to whether the council is best placed to host and manage a service directory and/or whether the Local Offer is best placed to signpost people to.
6. Housing providers in Oldham have been asked to provide information on their practice of supporting the residents they know to have autism and what reasonable adjustments are made when they are required. Further work on providing advice on reasonable adjustments is planned in this area when a housing representative lead has been identified.
7. It is recognised that there needs to be a clear focus around transitions for young people with disabilities, including autism, particularly from children’s services to adults services, where they have eligible needs. Work has been undertaken with schools to develop a resource to support early conversations with young people facilitated by schools around aspirations and a focus on destinations post school. As part of the work currently being developed post SEND
inspection, a preparation for adulthood task and finish group has been established. This group will have a clear work plan which will encompass transitions. The group will report to the SEND Partnership Board which will report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The adult’s integrated community learning disability team (integrated with Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust) has a dedicated resource for Transitions which will be further increased following the recent adult social care workforce review.

A copy of the action plan for Getting the Right Support at the Right Time is provided at Appendix 3.

**Better Information and Awareness:**

1. Training packages have been developed and provided to members and partners of the Autism Strategy. Six Autism Awareness training sessions have been provided via the Additional and Complex Needs Service (QEST). The team have been licensed for the past six years to deliver the Autism Education Trusts (AET) autism training for schools and have delivered across Oldham and in other locations across the North West. It was felt that this training package, although designed for schools would be suitable for the proposed audience as the content related to children and adults in the wider community and not just that of schools. It therefore provides participants with foundation training in ‘Making Sense of Autism’. Through the six sessions delivered 105 people have attended. The awareness session reached a cross section of frontline staff and support staff across different agencies ranging from Health and Safety Advisors, Transport Support, Career Advisors; Neighbourhood Teams; Housing; Princes Trust, Adult Mental Health, Student Nurses; Groundwork, Point, and Health and Social Care Practitioners.

2. The National Autistic Society has an awards system in place that we will promote due to the resources required to develop and maintain an autism awards system

3. Advice has been sought from the organisations in Liverpool that have announced they are autism friendly and how this can translate to Oldham.

4. Work has begun with the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium (GMAC) on how Greater Manchester can be autism friendly and what Oldham would need to do to meet this. This includes a service stocktake whereby each locality is being asked to respond.\(^2\)

5. A multi-agency Autism Awareness day was held in 2017 as part of the International Autism Awareness week.

A copy of the action plan for Better Information and Awareness is provided at Appendix 4.

**Recommendations for areas of focus in the second and third year of the strategy**

**Joined Up Commissioning**

1. Undertake a new Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) on people of all age with autism in Oldham. This will help us to meet existing requirement for statutory services but also to plan ahead and work across health, education and social care to forecast future demand for services.

\(^2\) Oldham Council hosts the contract with the National Autistic Society (NAS) to deliver the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium (GMAC) service.
2. It is also envisaged that the work on the JSNA is work would also support a gap analysis of services that are currently commissioned and need to be revised as the demand has changed. This work would need to be considered as part of the ICO and SCF and be joint between education, health and social care commissioners.

3. Develop a co-production strategy for involving self-advocates, family members and carers in commissioning of services for people with autism.

*Diagnosis and Post Diagnosis*

1. Publish the diagnosis flow chart in an accessible format.
2. Develop a step-care model for early and post-diagnostic support
3. Develop a better understanding of psychiatry input needed in the diagnostic pathway
4. Develop school autism champions in schools across the borough.

*Getting the Right Support at the Right Time*

1. Supported Employment service with adult social care investment to commence
2. Further engagement with schools required, in particular to understand what is in place to prepare children and young people with autism for adulthood (employment, further education, other).
3. Further engagement with housing is required to better support people with autism via reasonable adjustments.
4. The increased transitions provision in the integrated team will support early identification of young people in Transition but needs to be progressed and further developed. Work has been undertaken with schools to develop a resource to support early conversations with young people facilitated by schools around aspirations and a focus on destination post school.
5. A focus on the SEND work programme following the SEND inspection. This includes the ‘Preparation for Adulthood’ and ‘Joint Commissioning’ workstreams.

*Better Information and Awareness*

1. Building on what has been achieved continue to organise and deliver autism awareness training across Oldham and reaching wider audiences through the Council’s Development Academy with QEST delivering.
2. Develop more advanced training looking at the more complex end of working with and supporting someone with autism.
3. Following the Greater Manchester Autism Friendly Strategy work to be undertaken on what Oldham’s response.
4. Work with Oldham’s Town Centre Manager on how we engage with private businesses on how they can make reasonable adjustments and be autism friendly.
5. Consideration on options for investment required for how we make Oldham Autism Friendly.

*Recommendations*

1. Refresh the membership of AWF and strategy groups with Oldham’s senior leaders backing and support with the implementation
2. Understand the most appropriate time for the meetings to take place for all partners to be able to attend – a focus on how to engage schools in the actions of the strategy is crucial for it to be a success.

3. Continue to review the services provided by the Co-located Learning Disability teams. The social care team is able to work with people with eligible social care needs if they have a learning disability and/or autism but currently the health funded learning disability team is not funded to support autistic people if they do not also have a learning disability.

4. In the new financial year, the recommendation is that due to the actions having been completed the Diagnosis and Post Diagnosis sub group is suspended until further notice. Once the JSNA has been completed it is suggested that the Diagnosis and Post Diagnosis group is resurrected in order to review the data against the diagnosis pathway.

5. It is acknowledge that a focus is required on the Getting the Right Support at the Right Time strategy group as it is recognised that there is a lot of work to be done in this area. For example, housing, education, employment and transition all falls under this group. Support from senior leaders across Oldham in providing representation from these service areas is required.

6. Support and direct the relevant areas to undertake a joint strategic needs analysis for people in Oldham with autism to support integrated commissioning action across education, health and social care.

7. One it has been published, support the dissemination of the diagnosis flow chart; to enable the public to be aware and understand the process of autism diagnosis.

8. Support to identify schools across Oldham who can contribute to the development of the autism strategy and its ambitions

9. Support to identify representatives from housing providers and partners to further develop the support that is available to people living in rented accommodation

10. Support the establishment of a formal working arrangement between the Autism Strategy Joined Up Commissioning and the SEND Joint Commissioning work streams to prevent duplication and promote working together.

11. The continuation of providing autism awareness training to partners across Oldham with the aim of making Oldham more Autism Friendly.

12. Develop more advanced autism training that focuses on practitioners working with people at the complex end of autism.

13. Engage with businesses and organisations and provide support to them on how they can make reasonable adjustments and become autism friendly.

14. Consideration of options for infrastructure investment required for ensuring Oldham is more Autism Friendly by 2020 thus fulfilling the ambition of Oldham’s Autism Strategy. This includes the identification of a replacement lead to drive the strategy.
Appendix one – Action plan for Joined Up Commissioning

The table below identifies the priorities, the planned action against the priority and the status of the actions for this strategy group.

What is this theme about?

- Making sure that **both health and social care services work together better** and are working to identify areas of health and social care service delivery that can be integrated so that people with autism experience more joined up, effective care and support
- Getting a better understanding of **the current and future needs** of people with autism and the demand on services
- Developing a better understanding of the **services that are currently delivered** and what the gaps are
- Getting a better understanding of the **suitability of the care provider market** to respond to current and future needs of people with autism in Oldham
- Making sure that services **are sustainable and value for money**
- Supporting people with autism to have better **health and wellbeing**, including the prevention of ill health, having good mental health and getting the right support to get better when they become ill.
- Making sure that **meaningful engagement and consultation** is carried out by;
  - increasing the involvement of parents / carers and people with autism in service planning and delivery
  - increasing the involvement of people with autism in making decisions that they are affected by
  - ensuring consultation is meaningful and done in an accessible way

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<tr>
<th>Key Priority</th>
<th>Planned action</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish a robust governance structure for the strategy and a way of making sure people with autism can be represented.</td>
<td>Governance structure in place via the Autism Way Forward Partnership Board</td>
<td>March 2016 – complete, annually reviewed</td>
<td>Autism Way Forward, Oldham Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officially identify the Autism Lead for Oldham</td>
<td>Identify the Autism Lead for Oldham</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and publish a local joint strategic needs assessment to better understand current and future needs and demand on services</td>
<td>Liaise with the Public Health Oldham to schedule a future JSNA for people with autism in Oldham</td>
<td>July 2016</td>
<td>Complete – refreshed required in 2018/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have accessible information on the website on ways people can get involved in decision making</td>
<td>Cross reference with Accessible Information standards (a work stream of the Care Act implementation)</td>
<td>December 2016 – complete (ongoing)</td>
<td>Oldham Council and CCG, Pennine Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure that service delivery and design adheres to NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) guidance</td>
<td>Review all existing contracts for adherence to NICE guidelines</td>
<td>April 2017</td>
<td>Complete 2017</td>
</tr>
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Identify areas for joint commissioning work to simplify and strengthen service delivery and effective processes

Undertake a service mapping exercise

To commence April 2018

To coincide with the integration of HSC commissioners and the ICO

Develop an agreement/set of principles on how to meaningfully engage people with autism in developing services and plans.

Ensure co-production

To commence June 2018

In progress

Appendix two – Action plan for Diagnosis and post Diagnosis Support

What is this theme about?

- **Improving access** to autism diagnosis services by **developing a clear, consistent pathway** for diagnosis and post-diagnostic support for both adults and children, early years right through to adulthood.
- Strengthening the role of **education settings** in the early detection and intervention of autism, and making sure that schools are providing children and young people with autism with the right support
- Developing **awareness, support and training** for people who might have a role in the early detection and intervention of people who might have autism

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop a clear picture of current diagnostic and post-diagnostic pathways, and understand the actions required to improve the way it works</td>
<td>Pathway has been scribed and analysed to assist identifying gaps. A gap analysis document has been submitted to the AWF board and the Joined Up Commissioning subgroup for development of suggested changes</td>
<td>January 2018</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a better understanding of psychiatry input needed in the diagnostic pathway</td>
<td>This will be further developed and supported following development of the step-care model</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>On hold as dependant on other action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop a step-care model for early and post-diagnostic support – e.g. websites, workshops, individual/family support</td>
<td>Gaps identified within the pathway exercise have been highlighted</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop school autism champions in schools across the borough</td>
<td>Identified within the pathway exercise and has been submitted to the Joined Up Commissioning subgroup. This will be further developed and supported within</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>On hold as dependant on other action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnosis and post Diagnosis Support subgroup following development of the step-care model</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop an awareness, support and training plan / package for people who have a role in early detection and intervention</td>
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<td>Gaps identified within the pathway exercise have been highlighted. Also work is underway with NAS and GMAC to support this package</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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Appendix three – Action plan for Getting the Right Support at the Right Time

What is this theme about?

- Developing better support for people with autism to get into volunteering, training, further education or employment
- Developing ways to support people with autism to become more financially independent and to understand the benefits they are entitled to.
- Supporting people with autism to develop meaningful (and safe) relationships
- Helping people with autism to maintain their own independence as much as possible by having housing that they want and that is suited to their needs
- Providing the right support for young people to help them make the changes from childhood to adulthood and to ensure a smoother transition for young people with autism into adult services
- Developing support for transitional stages of life for adults with autism, such as getting older
- Ensuring parents and carers have better support, and can have short breaks away from caring responsibilities when they need it

What are we going to achieve and by when?

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Needs Assessments</td>
<td>Understand what needs assessments and tools are in place for people with autism and who is using them (social workers/health care/education)</td>
<td>Undertake a mapping exercise</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Following the mapping exercise, further understand the gaps of people with autism requiring support</td>
<td>Joint Strategic Needs Analysis</td>
<td>2018/19</td>
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<td>Develop a consistent approach to integrated needs assessments and support planning</td>
<td>Ensure multi-agency approach with relevant teams</td>
<td>2019/2020</td>
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<td>Financially independent</td>
<td>Understand what is currently in place within schools and colleges that aims to prepare children and young people with autism for employment</td>
<td>Liaise with schools across the borough on the programmes available</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Work with employers and employment support services to ensure that people with autism can participate in society fully, and are provided with tailored employment advice (linking in with the get Oldham Working initiative) [seeking, gaining and sustaining employment]</td>
<td>Engage with officers from Job Centre Plus and DWP</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>Engage with local businesses via the Town Centre Manager and provide advice on how they can make reasonable adjustments</td>
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| Information and support | Develop information on the Council's website that helps people with autism understand the support services available to them and their families/carers | Another action plan’s priority area: Develop a website/webpage (a one-stop information shop) for Oldham, including:  
- Basic information on autism and awareness  
- The range of services and support available  
- Key contact information  
- Other information and advice for people with autism, families, carers and professionals  
- A section which identifies the range of training providers and training packages that are available for people with autism, families, carers and professionals  
- Positive stories and case studies  
How to access or set up self-help groups | 2019 | Discussions being held whether Oldham Council’s website and the Autism web page is able to hold this information, or that we can sign post to others. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Develop accessible information for people with autism on support groups, social clubs, groups and activities | Establish what information would be useful to people with autism  
Establish a task and finish group | 2019 | Planned action |
| If gaps in support groups are identified work with partners to support the establishment of specialist support groups and services for people with autism, and parents of children with autism | To be taken to the Joined Up Commissioning working group | 2019 | Planned action following the review of education, health and social care services |
| Understand how housing providers currently work with people with autism | Mapping exercise to be undertaken | 2017 | Complete |
| Work with housing providers to ensure there is an awareness of the needs of people with autism, and that reasonable adjustments are made where required | Develop reasonable adjustment guidance for housing providers | 2018 | Planned action |
| Work with housing providers to develop accessible housing information and advice for people with autism | Establish a task and finish group with housing providers across Oldham | 2019 | Planned action |
| Work with housing providers to develop a better understanding of current and future housing needs of people with autism and alternative housing support models | JSNA | 2019 | Planned action |
| Ensure that aspirations for future accommodation needs are captured consistently in support plans | JSNA | 2019 | Planned action |
Appendix four – Strategy plan for Better Information and Awareness

What is this theme about?

- Developing a range of training packages for carers, families, provider services and professionals, making sure service users and carers are involved in developing training packages
- Encouraging communities and the general public in Oldham to develop a better awareness and acceptance of autism – working together with partners to make Oldham an ‘Autism Friendly Town’
- Ensuring people with autism are safe in the community and free from the risk of discrimination, hate crime and abuse
- Increasing awareness and understanding of autism across all services and professionals, for both adult and children’s services and in wider support services
- Developing better information, signposting, advice, advocacy and support for people with autism and their families and carers

## 4. Better information and support

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<th>Key Priority</th>
<th>Planned actions</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop training packages for frontline professionals including:</td>
<td>Ensure that Autism awareness training is included in standard equality and diversity training for all staff</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Discussions taking place with Organisational Development (OD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Health and Social Care staff</td>
<td>Ensure that training meets relevant frameworks such as Skills for Health/Care and Ofsted/CQC and other relevant bodies</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Complete</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Healthcare staff in general medicine (including A&amp;E), mental health</td>
<td>Produce an ongoing programme of staff training for all education, health and social care staff to ensure all staff can recognise signs of autism and refer people to the diagnostic pathway and support that meets their needs</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Training currently being revised – discussions with OD</td>
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<tr>
<td>- GPs and Practices</td>
<td>Develop specialist autism training and ensure it is provided for key staff such as Teachers, GPs and care and support needs assessors</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Initial training has been delivered and members of the autism way forward meeting have been invited to attend. More training</td>
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<td>Oldham (i.e. shops)</td>
<td>Arts, Leisure staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness training/information sessions to be provided to frontline professionals including, leisure centre, job centre plus, retail staff to increase awareness and understanding of the needs of people with autism</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>As above.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Oldham being recognised as an Autism Friendly Town (using the National Autistic Society’s framework)</th>
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<td>Develop an “autism friendly” awards scheme for mainstream services in Oldham – which promotes good practice when services deal with people who have autism</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>Develop a communication strategy for increasing wider public awareness and work towards becoming an “Autism Friendly Town”</td>
<td>2019</td>
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<td>Implement a safety scheme/ safe places scheme to get local businesses / organisations signed up to being a place of safety for people with autism</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<th>Increasing awareness and understanding of autism across all services and professionals, for both adult and children’s services and in wider support services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host annual autism awareness event</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish an autism champion scheme in frontline services</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developing better information, signposting, advice, advocacy and support for people with autism and their families and carers</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop a website/webpage (a one-stop information shop) for Oldham, including:</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Basic information on autism and awareness</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• The range of services and support available</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Key contact information</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other information and advice for people with autism, families, carers and professionals</td>
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<tr>
<td>• A section which identifies the range of training providers and training packages that are available for people with autism, families, carers and professionals</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Positive stories and case studies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• How to access or set up self-help groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop the information, signposting and advice available for people who do not use the internet</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>