

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda  
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for People  
to  
**Cabinet**

on  
**18<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

Report prepared by: Michelle Hill, Group Manager Vulnerable  
Adults and Workforce Planning

---

## Draft Commissioning Strategy: Autism Spectrum Conditions

Executive Councillor: Councillor Lesley Salter  
*A Part 1 Public Agenda Item*

---

### 1. Purpose of Report

This report outlines the key principles of the Southend-on-Sea Autism Spectrum Conditions Strategy.

### 2. Recommendation

#### 2.1 That Cabinet endorses the Autism Strategy and Action Plan for formal public consultation and subsequent implementation

### 3. Background

#### 3.1 The Draft Autism Spectrum Conditions Strategy (**Appendix 1**) explains how Southend-on-Sea Borough Council intends to work with partners between 2014 and 2019 to improve the lives of adults with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC). This includes people with both Autism and Learning Disabilities and also those with 'higher functioning' Autism like Asperger's.

The development of the strategy is in line with the Government's Autism Strategy 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives'.

#### 3.2 The strategic priorities in the strategy are:

- Increasing staff awareness and understanding of Autism
- Developing care pathways and needs assessment for people living with Autism
- Getting the right housing and housing related support.
- Helping people with Autism into employment and training
- Service planning and personalisation
- Supporting families and carers of people with Autism
- Appropriate support for adults with Autistic Spectrum Condition in the criminal justice system
- Transition from Children's to Adults

- 3.3 The Autism Strategy forms part of a wider strategic framework within the context of the Health & Well-being Strategy.
- 3.4 To deliver the strategy priorities the strategy includes an action plan which highlights the actions that are required in order to achieve the aims, who is responsible for delivery and how success will be measured.
- 3.5 Achievement of the outcomes in the strategy will improve the health and wellbeing of people with Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- 3.6 Although this strategy deals with adults specifically, a review of the strategy will be made to include children.

#### **4. Other Options**

There are no other options. It is a requirement for an Autism Strategy to be written by the Local Authority.

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendations**

There is a legal requirement on each local area for the development of a commissioning plan for services for adults with autism that reflects the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and other relevant data around prevalence. (Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives. Para 6.9). This strategy addresses that requirement. This follows the Autism Act (2009).

The Cabinet should take a view as to whether the strategy is appropriately focused. It is planned that the strategy go to the Health and Wellbeing Board during the period of formal consultation after Cabinet has commented.

#### **6. Corporate Implications**

##### **6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities**

Healthy – Support Southend to be active and alive with sport and culture:

- People with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) have increase opportunities for social inclusion and community participation.

Healthy – Reduce inequalities and increase life chances of people living in Southend:

- People with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) have increased opportunities to be involved in work, education and learning.

Healthy – Continue to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and adults:

- People with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) have greater choice and control.

- People with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) experience better mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Prosperous – Encourage the prosperity of Southend and its residents:

- People with Autism Spectrum Conditions have increased opportunities to be involved in work, education and learning.

Excellent – Deliver strong, relevant and targeted services that meet the needs of our community:

- People with Autism Spectrum Conditions are able to achieve their goals through the development of relevant services.

## 6.2 Financial Implications

Targets from the action plan will be met using existing resources where possible and where additional funding is required a request will be made through the Council's budget and policy setting process.

## 6.3 Legal Implications

None

## 6.4 People Implications

The strategy aims to improve the lives of adults with Autism Spectrum Condition

## 6.5 Property Implications

None

## 6.6 Consultation

This strategy has been shaped through consultation exercises with people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions and with organisations. Many of the ideas were developed at a well attended event which was hosted in October 2012. This is discussed in Section 4.3 of the strategy.

A number of discussions have taken place with other organisations like SAFE that has a focus on people with Asperger's.

Cabinet is asked to approve the strategy for formal consultation.

The Strategy will be reviewed by the Health & Well-being Board and CCG during the formal consultation period.

## 6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

There is one specific implication that will require consideration during implementation. The Autism Spectrum Conditions Strategy is focused on all adults with Autism Spectrum Conditions, young and old. The numbers of people with diagnosed Autism has increased substantially perhaps because it is increasingly recognised. There is a risk that given this, older people will be overlooked. It is important that interventions address this particularly as age is a 'protected characteristic'.

## 6.8 Risk Assessment

Realising the desired outcomes of the strategy for people with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) requires the achievement of effective joint working with the development of pathways that cross health and social care. Failure to do so would pose a major risk and this will need to be managed through effective joint leadership.

## 6.9 Value for Money

Meeting the needs of people with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) will improve the quality of life for many people and their carer's. It will increasingly enable people to become more independent. Many aspects of the strategy are about the way that things are done, which do not in themselves have additional cost implications.

The success of the strategy will also mean that people with ASC will be able to look after themselves through securing meaningful employment. A system wide approach in which there is a greater awareness of Autism Spectrum Conditions will also lead better help and to less frustration, perhaps reducing behaviour that challenges.

## 6.10 Community Safety Implications

None

## 6.11 Environmental Impact

None

## 7. Background Papers

None

## 8. Appendices

### 8.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Autism Spectrum Conditions Strategy