



## Report to Policy Committee

**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Christine Anderson, Strategic Commissioning Manager

**Tel:** 0114 2057135

**Report of:** Alexis Chappell, Strategic Director of Adult Care and Wellbeing

Dr Steve Thomas, Clinical Director – Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, Dementia and Autism, NHS South Yorkshire ICB (Sheffield)

**Report to:** Strategy and Resources Policy Committee

**Date of Decision:** 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

**Subject:** Approval of Sheffield All Age Autism Strategy

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 1458				
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Purpose of Report:

Sheffield's All-Age Autism Strategy sets the scene for supporting Sheffield to become an Autism friendly city. It is positive, ambitious, and focussed on delivering change in partnership and collaboration.

The Strategy will be underpinned by an annually updated delivery plan which will have clear objectives and outcomes anticipated. This will be a partnership document, and a range of organisations will continue together to the delivery of the Strategy's objectives.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:

- Approve the All-Age Autism Strategy.
- Request that an update is brought to the Adults and Education, Children & Families Policy Committees in six months' time, along with an update of progress made on delivery actions.

**Background Papers:**

Appendix 1 – All Age Sheffield Autism Strategy

Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: Liz Gough
		Legal: Patrick Chisholm
		Equalities & Consultation: Ed Sexton
		Climate: Jessica Rick
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	<b>SLB member who approved submission:</b>	Alexis Chappell
3	<b>Committee Chair consulted:</b>	Angela Argenzio
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> Christine Anderson	<b>Job Title:</b> Strategic Commissioning Manager
	<b>Date:</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	

## 1. **PROPOSAL**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Sheffield All Age Autism Strategy, attached at Appendix 1.

1.2 The Sheffield's All-Age Autism Strategy sets the scene for developing an Autism friendly city through:

- Ensuring the views of autistic people and their families and carers drive change and contribute directly to planning.
- Raising the profile of autism in Sheffield
- Improving the experience and life chances of autistic people

1.3 It promotes and enables partnership working to create the foundations and conditions for delivering upon our vision.

1.4 The Autism Strategy describes how we will focus on a set of priorities, agreed in collaboration with the autistic community, to deliver better outcomes for people living with autism in Sheffield. It also summaries the responsibilities of the Council under the [Autism Act \(2009\)](#) and the activities the Council plans to carry out to ensure these responsibilities are met.

1.5 The delivery priorities align with the themes in the [National Autism Strategy](#) and are as follows:

- Helping people to understand autism.
- Helping autistic children and young people at school
- Helping autistic people to find jobs.
- Making health and care service equal for autistic people
- Making sure autistic people get help in their communities.
- Help for autistic people in the justice system.

1.6 The strategy outlines Sheffield's commitment to strengthen Autistic individuals voice in the city, family member and carers voices and continue to reach out to the seldom heard. It also describes our approach to work in partnership with individuals, carers, and other stakeholders in co-design and co-production.

1.7 The Strategy has been particularly based on feedback from autistic people, parent carers and unpaid to ensure that in becoming an autism friendly city. The feedback and outcome of workshops which informed the Strategy is summarised at Appendix 2 and underpins both the strategic priorities in the strategy and the governance of the Autism Partnership Board, so that people are at the Core of what we do.

- 1.8 It's aimed that the Strategy delivers upon the feedback provided and provides a foundation for continually improving the experiences and life opportunities for autistic people.

### **Delivery on the Vision and Strategy**

- 1.9 It's recognised that our vision will take time to achieve.

- 1.9.1 To that end arrangements have been implemented as follows to enable a continued focus on delivery of the Strategy:

- 1.9.2
- **Delivery** – An annual report setting out progress against commitments, impact on people and achievements.
  - **Priorities** - An annual review by the Autism Partnership Board of the Strategy priorities for the next year. As part of this annual review, we will set key priorities in relation to each theme for the upcoming year, in consultation with local people.
  - **Support** - Dedicated support to the Autism Partnership Board to deliver on the strategy through a dedicated involvement worker and support from Adult Commissioning Team and Integrated Care Board.
  - **Governance** - A review of the Board governance. This will enable a shift towards the Board being co-chaired by Strategic Director Adult Care and an Autistic individual. In addition, dedicated delivery groups around each of the themes in the Strategy.

## **2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?**

- 2.1 The strategy aligns with several other strategies, including:

- Sheffield's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Sheffield's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Sheffield's Adult Health and Social Care Strategy, Future Design and Market Position Statement
- Sheffield's Race Equality Commission
- South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System Plan
- Inclusion Strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)
- All-Age Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Learning Disability Strategy (pending)
- Compassionate Sheffield
- Improving Physical Health for People with Learning Disabilities, Autistic People, and People with Severe Mental Illness Strategy
- All Age Sheffield Unpaid Carers Strategy
- All Age Sheffield Direct Payments and Personalisation Strategy

2.2 All the above commitments are featured in the proposed Autism Strategy with the overarching aim of improving the quality of life and health outcomes for autistic people in Sheffield.

### **3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

3.1 The Autism Strategy has been developed by engaging with the Autism Partnership Board, Sheffield Voices, and SAPAN over the past 6 -12 months.

3.2 It has been developed through engaging with a range of people with lived experience and those working with autistic people across voluntary, health, probation and housing to identify the key issues and concerns.

3.3 It has also been developed through a partnership with health colleagues to share information and feedback from autistic people about their health care experiences and considered an engagement exercise completed by Disability Sheffield in summer 2022.

3.4 Workshops were held on November 2022 where participants discussed local strategic aims that reflected the 6 themes in the national strategy:

- Helping people to understand autism.
- Helping autistic children and young people at school
- Helping autistic people to find jobs.
- Making health and care service equal for autistic people
- Making sure autistic people get help in their communities.
- Help for autistic people in the justice system.

3.5 A workshop and engagement session were also held in March 2023 in partnership with the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum, children and families and education and unpaid carers. This in particular informed priorities relating children and family's theme.

3.6 The local priorities and our actions for the next 3 years have been included in the proposed strategy and endorsed by the Autism Partnership Board.

3.7 The intention is that we will continue to engage with the Board and sub-groups, measuring progress against the 6 themes and agreed priorities.

### **4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

#### **4.1 Equality Implications**

4.1.1 The proposal is fully consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

- 4.1.2 In Equality Act terms, the proposal will have a significant direct, positive impact for people with the protected characteristic of disability – i.e. most beneficiaries. The proposal outlines strategic priorities that will continue to make universal services more accessible to autistic people, aiming to improve health & well-being and redress the current imbalance in health inequalities. Good quality health and social care services with staff trained in autism and with the correct reasonable adjustments will have a positive outcome for both autistic people and staff.
- 4.1.3 The strategy also focuses on the wider social determinants of health and well-being to improve accessibility in different aspects of people's lives e.g., housing, transport, the criminal justice system.
- 4.1.4 The strategy aims to involve and listen to autistic people from the seldom heard communities to better reflect the diversity of the city and tackle inequalities in social care provision. This will include people from ethnic minority groups and the LGBTQ community.

## 4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 The Autism Strategy is aiming for Sheffield to become an 'Autism Friendly' city where individuals' needs are met by improving efficiency, joint working arrangements, and creative thinking with a focus on prevention.
- 4.2.2 There are no short term financial and commercial implications associated with approving this strategy. All individual projects will be assessed for their affordability and viability, and financial and commercial implications will be reported and recorded as part of the approval process.

## 4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 The Autism Act (2009) required the government to have an autism strategy and placed duties on councils and the NHS to take action to implement the legislation.
- 4.3.2 'Think Autism' was replaced by the new 5-year national strategy for autistic children, young people and adults was published in 2021. It extends the scope of the strategy to children and young people for the first time.
- 4.3.3
- 4.3.4 The new strategy aligns with the existing statutory guidance on implementing the Autism Act. This sets out the local authority's duty to support autistic adults and have an active Autism Partnership Board.

For children and young people, the SEND Code of Practice (2015) continues to place duties on local authorities, NHS organisations and schools.

#### 4.4 Climate Implications

4.4.1 There are no direct climate implications associated with approving the strategy as set out in this report and there is no requirement to complete a full climate impact assessment. However, Sheffield City Council and its 10 Point Plan for Climate Action is a partner on the Autism Partnership Board which oversees this Strategy.

4.4.2 Many other partner organisations on the board will also have their own climate strategies. The role of large organisations – who form a big plank of the delivery of this strategy – is important in Sheffield tackling the effects of climate change. Climate change impacts will have a significant impact on individuals health and wellbeing and any services provided under this strategy will need to ensure they are future proofed to provide any additional support that may be required to help people deal with these impacts.

4.4.3

Where specific commissions are made as a result of this strategy, climate impacts of delivery will be assessed using the CIA tool and this will be able to inform any tender process. Partners delivering services as part of this strategy will create impacts in terms of building use, transport, energy use, water and resource use, production of waste and so on and we will look to work with partners whose climate ambitions are aligned with our own, as set out in the 10 point plan for Climate Action.

#### 4.4 Other Implications

4.4.1 There are no other implications.

### 5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 **Do Nothing:** No alternative options have been considered as the Autism Strategy is a statutory requirement set out in the Autism Act 2009.

### 6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 The strategy is a positive development for the city and will enable partner organisations to work together to develop an Autism friendly city.

6.2 Approving the strategy demonstrates the Committee's commitment to partnership working across the City to improve citizens outcomes and experiences.

6.3 Approving the strategy also ensures the Council is fully compliant in its duties and responsibilities around Autism and is making a commitment to fulfil the priorities co-produced with local people to develop our approach to improving the quality of life and health outcomes for autistic people in Sheffield.

This page is intentionally left blank