Darlington Borough Council and Durham and Darlington NHS Action Plan:

To Deliver the Autism Strategy in Darlington: At 15th March 2012

Outcome	Action	Lead	Date to be Completed	Progress
Diagnosis and support			•	
There will be a clear route for people to receive a diagnosis of Autism. People will know about this route and it is a simple and straightforward process. Following diagnosis people will know what their options are for support.	There is a specific commissioning intention from the PCT linked to developing a published and accessible pathway. The work is being developed across Durham and Darlington	Catherine Parker	April 2012	Diagnosis continues as part of a spot purchase agreement with Tees and Esk Wear Valley Foundation Trust. Following a workshop a specification for the service has been drafted based on the current specification for Durham. The start date for this is imminent. The specification includes the inclusion of a support role, who will link those with a diagnosis into local support.
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			Completed	The proposal is a joint service across Durham Darlington and Tees which will enable greater flexibility and get us a better value service. In terms of social care interface all service users will be allocated a care coordinator in the appropriate care team.
Training				
Staff who provide services and support to people with Autism will be well trained. Staff who work within the social care sector will have an understanding of Autism Staff who work in universal services will have an understanding of autism and its impacts.	Develop local training in line with the Skills for Care, "Autism skills and knowledge list for workers" The Local Authority organise and run three training sessions a year linked to raising awareness	Donna Marie Jones	July 2012	The Local Authority runs three Autism Awareness sessions a year which are open to carers and the wider social and health care sector. The workforce lead is working in partnership with regional leads to deliver a range of training.

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Transition				
Young people with Autism will experience the transfer from Child Adolescence Mental Health Services to Adult Mental Health Services as seamless.	Local Protocol for transfer has been agreed between the PCT and TEWV. Transfer is a subject of SEQUIN programme. Linking this work to financial incentive.	Lorrae Rose	September 2012	A Transition process agreed and in place.
Young people with Autism will experience transition from Children's Social Care Services to Adult Social Care Services as seamless.	A process to be developed as part of the new life stages model service.	Ian Walker		IW asked to update at the next meeting needs to be a key element of the new life stages service
Local Planning & Leadership				
Darlington will have a nominated commissioning lead for Autism.	Currently a lead for Health and one for Social Care	Mark Humble Catherine Parker	Complete	Two local leads in place at the moment.
Darlington will have the information it needs to plan effectively for people with Autism and their families.	The Councils Carefirst data system will be used to collate data on people with Autism.	Kevin Kelly	October 2012	Carefirst recently changed to allow recording of Autism easily. Team working to collate this info as part of the current reviewing process.

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				Action: Lisa Holdsworth collated some info from 0-25 team, to put on CareFirst. LH also asked 26+ team for the information they have.
Both the Local Authority and the National Health Service are aware of and have taken steps to meet the requirements of the statutory guidance.	The "refreshed" Joint Strategic Needs Assessment will include a section on the needs of people with Autism and their carers.	Mark Humble	On-going	Darlington Council has been involved in the regional development of JSNA. JSNA being refreshed rather than renewed can influence from next year. Contact made with the SNA lead. Action: MH meeting with SNA Lead to progress this
Other Key Outcomes				
There will be a clear local pathway that supports people with Autism into employment.	Existing support for employment to be mapped and a Pathway to be developed and agreed locally.	Mark Humble	January 2013	Pathway is being developed as part of ongoing work to develop a pathway for people with a learning disability.

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People with Autism will have their needs identified and met through key local plans and strategies, including the Strategic Needs Assessment and the work of the Health and Wellbeing Boards.	The "refreshed" Joint Strategic Needs Assessment will include a section on the needs of people with Autism and their carers.		•	Linked to JSNA/SNA refresh
There is an integrated and joined up commissioning plan for services and support for people with Autism.	Discussion to take place between NHS and Local Authority in relation to a specific commissioning plan or ensuring needs of people with Autism are embedded with other commissioning plans	Mark Humble Catherine Parker	April 2013	Work in relation to identifying need is required before commissioning plan is agreed/ developed.
People with Autism will know what local services and support exists that can meet their	Information sheets/Web access to be developed	Mark Humble		
needs.	Autism Support Directory to be developed Market event for providers who support people with Autism to be arranged		April 2013	Support Directory and Market event to be discussed at the Carers meeting planned for 18 th April 2012

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	Mapping needed in relation to current forums/opportunities to include people with Autism and their carers in service development. Once local need is		Complete	
	identified a training audit and plan can be undertaken and delivered.			
People with Autism and their families play a key role in service design and planning.				MH discussed with DAD and they have identified a number of individuals and
The Council and PCT will know how much support its staff need in delivering services and support to people with Autism.	Darlington is represented within the regional forums to deliver change, including the Regional Group, the Provider Forum and the local Service development Group, which is across Darlington and Durham Group.			carers who want to contribute to the agenda. Lisa Holdsworth has supported the development of a Carers Meeting for those who support someone with Autism. At the next meeting on the 18 th April this action plan will be shared
Darlington is up to speed with national good practice in relation to Autism and uses it to				and amended.

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develop and remodel how it supports people with Autism.				
There are increasing numbers of people with Autism using personal budgets to meet their social care needs.	A system needs to be in place to record those with Autism and those with personal budgets		Complete	The current work in relation to data collection will support this process.
Other Key Actions:				
Need to engage with wider partners re their input into the self assessment.	Engage with criminal justice			
Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee have expressed their interest in this topic	A report on Autism to be presented to Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee	Mark Humble	April 2012	
People with Autism and their carers will have had the opportunity to comment on this action plan	Further consultation needed on this action plan	Mark Humble	April 2012	Meeting with carers planned Autism summit to be arranged