

[Return to contents](#)

Details

Name

Mark Humble

Email address

mark.humble@darlington.gov.uk

Local Authority

Darlington

Introduction

How many Clinical Commissioning Groups do you need to work with to implement the Adult Autism Strategy in your local authority area?

1

Please indicate which ones these are.

Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group

Are you working with other local authorities to implement part or all of the priorities of the strategy?

Yes

If yes, name these local authorities and identify which priorities, including how you are doing this.

Durham County Council, there has been a long standing joint working group, however this does not meet as regularly, however the commitment remains to work in partnership wherever practicable.

Planning

Does your area have a designated strategic lead for adults with autism e.g. an Autism Lead Role? (Please distinguish from operational lead – see next question)

Yes

If yes, what is the name of your autism lead?

Mark Humble for the Local Authority

Donna Owens for the CCG

If yes, what is the job title of your autism lead?

Development and Commissioning Manager

Joint Commissioning Manager

If yes, what is the email address of your autism lead?

mark.humble@darlington.gov.uk

donna.owens@nhs.net

Is this your strategic joint commissioner?

No

What are the responsibilities of the joint commissioner/senior manager responsible for services for adults with autism?

Darlington, does not have a joint commissioning lead. The Local Authority have a lead and the CCG have a lead, however both work together to deliver the joint agenda, through a joint steering group.

Does your area have a separate operational lead for services for adults with autism? (A different individual from the person named in question 1, section 3)

Yes

If yes, what is the name of your operational autism lead?

Kevin Kelly

If yes, what is the job title of your operational autism lead?

Head of Service

If yes, what is the email address of your operational autism lead?

kevin.kelly@darlington.gov.uk

Is autism included and explicitly considered in the local JSNA?

No

Steps are in place to include in the next JSNA.

Yes

Does your local JSNA specifically consider the needs of children and young people with autism?

Yes

Provide a web link and page references.

<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/your-council/council-information/documents/darlington-joint-strategic-needs-assessment-2016/>

Do you collect data on those people referred to and/or accessing social care and/or health care and does your information system report data on people with a diagnosis of autism, including as a secondary condition, in line with the requirements of the social care framework?

Data recorded on adults with autism is sparse and collected in an ad hoc way

Current data recorded annually but there are gaps identified in statutory health and/or social care services data. Some data sharing exists between services

An established data collection and sharing policy inclusive of primary care, health provision, adult social care, schools or local education authority and voluntary sector care providers is in place and used regularly

Add any further comments you want (optional)

The current council electronic system does not support this, however the Council have invested in a new system which will support the collation of this information from June 2017.

Primary Care information systems have the capability to record and report on whether an individual has a diagnosis of Autism but this is not something that has been routinely tested. Within secondary care services individual's diagnoses are recorded and the data systems are capable of reporting on this indicator. There are identified codings (ICD10 and Read Codes) that are used to classify medical presentation, assessment and findings including diagnosis and treatment programmes.

Do you collect data on the total number of people currently known to adult social services with a diagnosis of autism (whether new or long-standing), who meet eligibility criteria for social care (irrespective of whether they receive any)?

Yes

Comment briefly if you wish on how you collect these numbers locally.

Each new referral to the Council the question is asked about autism and recorded

How many people assessed as having autism meet social care eligibility criteria?

54

How many people assessed as having autism and learning disabilities meet social care eligibility criteria?

76

How many people assessed as having autism, who are also in receipt of treatment for mental health problems, meet social care eligibility criteria?

11

Does your Local Joint Strategic Commissioning Plan (or other statement of joint commissioning intentions such as Health & Wellbeing Strategy, Autism Strategy or Market Position Statement etc., reflect local data and needs of people with autism?

Yes

Please supply a web link to the relevant document.

The Council is currently reviewing its existing Market Position Statement - this will set out a range of preventative requirements from providers. This includes partnership work with the Councils Leisure services. As part of the Councils savings strategy it is looking at the decommissioning of a range of in house services and the reinvestment into alternate support with a focus on supporting prevention and early intervention. The existing Market Position Statement includes a section on Autism.

Do you publish any data other than that collected in the JSNA?

Yes

If yes, please provide a web link

www.darlington.gov.uk/media/462471/Adult-Social-Care-Market

Taking together any data in the JSNA and any other sources referenced here, how adequately do current collections of data sources service the requirements of planning and commissioning?

No work underway

Collection of limited data sources.

Have made a start in collecting data and have plans to progress.

Have started to collect data and whilst not comprehensive, consider this is an accurate reflection.

Information from GPs, Schools or Local Education Authority, voluntary sector, providers, assessments and diagnosis are all collected and compared against the local population prevalence rate.

Are your Local Authority and local Clinical Commissioning Group(s) (including the support service) both engaged in the planning and implementation of the strategy in your local area?

None or minimal engagement between the LA and CCG(s) in planning and implementation.

Representative (s) from CCG(s) and / or the support service sits on autism partnership board or alternative and are in regular liaison with the LA about planning and implementation.

CCG are fully engaged and work collaboratively to implement the NHS responsibilities of the strategy and are equal partners in the implementation of the strategy at a local level.

Do you have a local Autism Programme Board or equivalent in place which meets at least once a year and includes representatives of at least Adult Social Care and the Clinical Commissioning Group(s)?

Yes

Please comment further

The Darlington Learning Impairment Network has the lead on supporting people with Autism locally. The Network is facilitated by Healthwatch Darlington and includes representation from both the Local Authority and CCG. <http://www.healthwatchdarlington.co.uk/learning-impairment-network> There is a local Autism Task and Finish Group who work on the local action plan.

How have you and your partners engaged people with autism and their families and carers in planning?

Minimal autism engagement work has taken place.

Some autism specific consultation work has taken place. Autism Partnership Group is regularly attended by one person with autism and one parent/carer who are meaningfully involved.

A variety of mechanisms are being used so a cross section of people on the autistic spectrum are meaningfully engaged in the planning and implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy. People with autism are thoroughly involved in the Autism Partnership Group.

Specify what you did to demonstrate your score.

Building on a market event that showcased local service/support for people with autism and sought views on how to meet the 15 I statements set out in Think Autism, an Autism summit is being planned in partnership with Darlington Healthwatch. The needs of people with Autism are currently addressed through the Learning Impairment Network, which is attended by a number of people with Autism. The Network, has the lead on developing the local plan to support people with Autism. The Local Authority facilitate a project group to develop and deliver the Autism Strategy locally. This group has recently looked to recruit people with Autism and carers as experts by experience to support progress. The National Autistic Society in the North East ran a series of drop ins for people with Autism and their carers at a library in Darlington. The information gathered was shared with local commissioners and used to plan support locally.

Have reasonable adjustments been made to general council services to improve access and support for people with autism?

Only anecdotal examples.

There is a clear council policy covering reasonable adjustments to statutory and other wider public services which make specific reference to autism
Clear council policy as in Amber and evidence of widespread implementation in relation to needs of people with autism.

Please give an example.

The Councils policy in relation to reasonable adjustments is a generic policy co produced with local disabled people user led organisation. However it does not specifically reference people with Autism.

In your area have reasonable adjustments been promoted to enable people with autism to access NHS services including primary care or GP services, mental health and acute services?

There is little evidence of reasonable adjustments in NHS services, to improve access for people with autism.

There are some examples of reasonable adjustments being made to NHS services to improve access for people with autism, across a small range of services.

There is evidence of implementation of reasonable adjustments for people with autism in a wide range of NHS services

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Work is ongoing acute services to develop systems in place to ensure that people are supported in the most appropriate way to meet their identified needs and to support with the achievement of health outcomes.

Reasonable adjustments in Primary Care include use of DISDAT communication tool, being offered double appointments or the first or the last appointment or appointments at quiet times or being able to wait in a quiet area rather than a busy waiting room.

Reasonable adjustments within acute care are planned admissions, offering advice to outpatients clinic about how to support individuals, side rooms being made available for families and carers to stay overnight as well as ongoing liaison with care providers and families and recognition of their expertise in supporting the individuals.

In your area have reasonable adjustments been promoted to enable people with autism to access health and social care information, support and advice?

There is little evidence of reasonable adjustments to health and social care information, support and advice services, to improve access for people with autism.

There are some examples of reasonable adjustments being made to health and social care information, support and advice services, across a small range of services.

There is evidence of implementation of reasonable adjustments for people with autism in a wide range of health and social care information, support and advice services.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Work has been undertaken with local providers in relation to the accessible information standard. Work has started within the council to ensure it meets the standards.

There are some examples of where reasonable adjustments have been made for people with autism to access health care information, support and advice. Examples include information available in various formats and also in easy read and explanatory language

In your area have reasonable adjustments been promoted to enable people with autism to access other public services including colleges and universities, libraries and all forms of public transport?

There is little evidence of reasonable adjustments in other public services, to improve access for people with autism.

There are some examples of reasonable adjustments being made to public services to improve access for people with autism, across a small range of public services services.

There is evidence of implementation of reasonable adjustments for people with autism in a wide range of publicly provided and commercial public services

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Current work underway to develop an autism friendly town. Local Police have made some reasonable adjustments to custody suites including dimmer lights in cells, consideration of the colour of the walls and sound proofing.

How do your transition processes from children's services to your local adult services take into account the particular needs of young people with autism?

No consideration of the needs of young people with autism: no data collection; no analysis of need; no training in young people's services.
Transition process triggered by parental request. Training in some but not all services designed for use by young people, and data collection on young people with autism and/education health and care (EHC) plans.

Transition process automatic. Training inclusive of young people's services. Analysis of the needs of population of young people, including those without education health and care (EHC) plans and specialist commissioning where necessary and the appropriate reasonable adjustments made.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

EHC plans are well embeded and the needs assessment and subsequent support plans has a clear focus on working towards employment.

How many children who had been identified as having autism, were in Year 10 in the school year 2015-2016?

5

How many children who had been identified as having autism, were in Year 11 in the school year 2015-2016?

17

How many children who had been identified as having autism, were in Year 12 in the school year 2015-2016?

12

How many children who had been identified as having autism, were in Year 13 in the school year 2015-2016?

10

How many children with autism have completed the transition process in the school year 2015-2016?

9

How does your planning take into account the particular needs of adults age 65 and older.

No consideration of the needs of people aged 65 and older with autism: no data collection.

There is some work in needs assessment, data collection and/or service planning for people with autism aged 65 and older.

Analysis of the needs of the population of people aged 65 and older inclusive of autism and specialist commissioning where necessary and the appropriate reasonable adjustments made.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Information on older people with Autism is being collected. Through the review process needs are regularly reviewed and fed into local commissioning intentions. A planned domiciliary care support tender will include a service lot that includes older people with Autism.

How do your planning and implementation of the strategy take into account the particular needs of women with autism?

Current planning has involved understanding the data around diagnosis and understanding the potential impacts on women, particularly in relation to a potential under diagnosis. The Council has devised a questionnaire which is soon due to be shared with local people. This will assist the Council in its approach to engagement, particularly with those even harder to engage with.

How do your planning and implementation of the strategy take into account the particular needs of people who have autism in BME communities?

Due to the local community profile those with Autism from BME communities are offered individual support built around a developing EHC plan or Care Assessment.

Training

Have you got a multi-agency autism training plan?

Yes

What staff groups and agencies are included? Provide a link if necessary.

Darlington has a multi agency collaborative group called "Developing Darlington". This group is made up of partners from all sectors and many backgrounds, both in adults and children's services. Autism has been identified as one of the priority areas for the Council Adults services re training, this has been fed into the developing Darlington Group and a holistic multi-agency training plan will be developed with Autism as a key section This work is ongoing and owned by all Developing Darlington Partners.

What is included in the multi-agency training plan?

The plan is in development. It will be Care Act compliant and take into account areas identified across multi agency partners.

Please comment further. Provide link if necessary.

Is autism awareness training being/been made available to all staff working in health and social care?

Historical workforce training data available from statutory organisations on request. Not yet devised an autism training plan/strategy.

Client facing staff identified as a priority. Good range of local autism training that meets NICE guidelines and some data on take up. Workforce training data available from statutory organisations on request. Autism training plan/strategy near completion.

Focus on all staff. Comprehensive range of local autism training that meets NICE guidelines and data on take up. Workforce training data collected from all statutory organisations and collated annually, gaps identified and plans developed to address. Autism training plan/strategy published.

Do you record uptake levels of autism awareness training for Local Authority and/or NHS staff working in health and social care?

Yes

Please outline scope of staff considered eligible and frequency of training.

Priority for depth training has been given to front line social workers, awareness training is rolled out to those with frequent customer contact. Tees Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trust deliver Autism Awareness training to all its staff and some staff complete university accredited training. Autism awareness training is provided for ward staff within the hospital settings. This includes provisions about how to recognise if an individual may have Autism and how best to respond to their needs. Training uptake for staff in primary and secondary care NHS services is not routinely reported or monitored but all NHS service providers are signed up to terms and conditions which specify the requirements that staff are all suitably qualified and trained which includes the provisions of Autism Awareness appropriate to role.

If answering yes, what is the number of staff who are eligible for awareness training?

If answering yes, what is the number of eligible staff who are up to date with training?

104

Specify whether self-advocates with autism and/or family carers are included in the design of training and/or whether they have a role as trainers. If the latter specify whether face-to-face or on video/other recorded media.

Yes

Please comment further.

Training is commissioned through a third sector provider, their training is developed and delivered with people with Autism.

Is specific training being/been provided to staff that carry out statutory assessments on how to make adjustments in their approach and communication?

Specific training is either not being offered or uptake by staff has not yet reached 50% of those for whom it is intended.

At least 50% of assessors have attended specialist autism training.

More than 75% of assessors have attended specialist autism training specifically aimed at applying the knowledge in their undertaking of a statutory assessment, e.g. applying the Care Act.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Training is delivered by a specialist third sector provider who develop and deliver training with people with autism and family carers. This includes staff undertaking Care Act and Mental Health assessments.

Do you have specific training that focusses on adults with autism over the age of 65?

No

Please comment further and give examples of the types of training.

The aging process and its impacts on autism as well as gender differences are addressed through the commissioned training.

Do Clinical Commissioning Group(s) ensure that all primary and secondary healthcare providers include autism training (at levels outlined in the statutory guidance) as part of their ongoing workforce development?

Yes

Please comment further on any developments and challenges.

Tees Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trust deliver Autism Awareness training to all its staff and some staff complete university accredited training within the integrated mental health and Learning Disability teams.
Training uptake for staff in primary and secondary care NHS services is not routinely reported or monitored but all NHS service providers are signed up to terms and conditions which specify the requirements that staff are all suitably qualified and trained which includes the provisions of Autism Awareness appropriate to role.
Development areas have been identified in relation to monitoring take up which will be addressed by the CCG and service provider

Criminal Justice services: Do staff in the local police service engage in autism awareness training?

Yes

Please provide specific examples.

Local Police service commission with an autism service provider to provide training. Written guidance on supporting people with autism is available to all police officers and civilian staff.

Criminal Justice services: Do staff in the local court services engage in autism awareness training?

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Criminal Justice services: Do staff in the local probation service engage in autism awareness training?

Yes

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Training takes place provided by specialist service provider.

Diagnosis

Have you got an established local autism diagnostic pathway?

No local diagnosis service planned or established. No clear transparent pathway to obtaining a diagnosis for Adults identified and only ad-hoc spot purchasing of out of area services. NICE guidelines are not being followed.

Local diagnosis pathway established or in process of implementation / sign off but unclear referral route. A transparent but out of locality diagnostic pathway is in place. Some NICE guidelines are being applied.

A local diagnostic pathway is in place and accessible, GPs are aware and involved in the process. Wait from referral for a diagnosis and initial assessment is less than three months NICE guidelines are implemented within the model

Does the pathway meet people with autism's needs regardless of whether or not the person meets learning disability criteria?

Yes, The diagnostic pathway meets the needs of individuals regardless of whether they have a Learning Disability or not

If you have got an established local autism diagnostic pathway, when was the pathway put in place?

04/2012

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Local diagnostic pathway has included diagnostic services for Tees (including Darlington) since the existence of Learning Impairment Services. The tertiary service was commissioned for Darlington in April 2012 and was recruited to since September 2012.
The specialist team undertakes clinical assessments and diagnostic profiling for people. GPs are aware of and access the diagnostic service.
Data maintained on the Trust system does not reflect the data maintained at service level. The wait for completion of formal assessment exceeds 3 months due to the length of the pathway and the required level of clinical input.
Development work is ongoing between the CCGs and service provider to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of reporting and data system capabilities.

In the year to the end of March 2016, how many people were referred out of area for diagnosis, despite a local diagnostic pathway being in place?

0

Add any further comments you want (optional)

In weeks, how long is the average wait between referral and assessment?

(Notes: 1. This should include all people referred irrespective of prioritisation streams. 2. The waiting time starts when the first referral about an individual is received by the diagnostic service. It finishes either when the person is first seen in clinic or when the person withdraws from the list by notifying the service that they do not want an assessment. 3. In this question you should report the average waiting time for people assessed in the twelve months to March 2016.

6

Add any further comments you want (optional)

been referred since September 15 are still waiting for their assessments. Until this point all patients were previously seen within 28 days of initial referral but then had been required to wait for the full assessment. Patients are now required to wait approximately 13 months for full assessment due to the length of the pathway and the required level of clinical input.
Information that has been provided has been issued by the Trust with a caveat around data quality in relation to accuracy and completeness and in some cases is conflicting.
Development work is ongoing between the CCGs and service provider to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the reporting and data system capabilities.

When will your area be able to meet NICE recommended [QS51] waiting time and expect to be able to keep within them? Comment: briefly note any contingency arrangements you have in place to manage short term increases in rate of referral to diagnostic services.

We do not anticipate being able to reach NICE recommended waiting times sustainably by March 2017

We anticipate meeting NICE recommended waiting times by March 2017 and to be able to sustain this thereafter

Our area already meets NICE recommended waiting times

Briefly note any contingency arrangements you have in place to manage short term increases in rate of referral to diagnostic services. 1000

Characters

Capacity is being addressed within the Autism Service and there are Service improvement workshops planned in coming months to review pathway planning and inform future developments.
In addition development work will be undertaken with the Provider to improve the efficiency of the service to meet the requirements in a sustainable way. This has been assessed as red as cannot assure that will be met sustainably within the timeframes identified in this question.
The current pathway is that initial mental health assessment is undertaken within Access within 28 days. If specialist Autism assessment is required the patient is then referred onto the Specialist Autism Team for diagnostic assessment. Contact is made with the patient and referrer to advise that referral has been received and that the care co-ordinator or lead professional will continue to provide contact whilst awaiting specialist assessment.

How many people have been referred for an assessment but have yet to receive a diagnosis? (Notes: In this question you should report the number who have started but not finished a referral waiting time at a single point in time. The best point to choose for consistency with question 6, section 5 would be 31st March 2016 but another specific date within three months would be satisfactory.)

13

Add any further comments you want (optional)

This figure in the question above relates only to those cases that have been referred to the Specialist Autism Team and does not include those people who have been referred for (and who have received – between 1st April 15 and 31st March 16) diagnosis within secondary teams.
The CCG is aware of individuals who have received Autism diagnosis through other assessment pathways and in Darlington, there are 8 identified individuals who are supported within other areas of the Trust.
Information that has been provided has been issued by the Trust with a caveat around data quality in relation to accuracy and completeness and in some cases is conflicting. Development work is ongoing between the CCGs and service provider to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the information reporting and data system capabilities.

In the year to the end of March 2016 how many people have received a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum condition?

3

Add any further comments you want (optional)

This figure in the question above relates only to those cases that have been referred to the Specialist Autism Team and does not include those people who have been referred for (and who have received – between 1st April 15 and 31st March 16) diagnosis within secondary teams.
The CCG is aware of individuals who have received Autism diagnosis through other assessment pathways and in Darlington, there are 8 identified individuals who are supported within other areas of the Trust.
Information that has been provided has been issued by the Trust with a caveat around data quality in relation to accuracy and completeness and in some cases is conflicting. Development work is ongoing between the CCGs and service provider to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the information reporting and data system capabilities.

Of the people who received a diagnosis in the year to end March 2016, how many:

Do not meet Care Act eligibility criteria?

0

Add any further comments you want (optional)

referred for (and who have received – between 1st April 15 and 31st March 16) diagnosis within secondary teams.
The CCG is aware of individuals who have received Autism diagnosis through other assessment pathways and in Darlington, there are 8 identified individuals who are supported within other areas of the Trust. There is limited information available for this submission in relation to support plans and other case notes in place for these identified individuals.
Information that has been provided has been issued by the Trust with a caveat around data quality in relation to accuracy and completeness and in some cases is conflicting. Development work is ongoing between the CCGs and service provider to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the information reporting and data system capabilities.

Have completed all relevant post diagnostic and care assessments and are not considered to need specific support at the present time?

0

Add any further comments you want (optional)

who have been referred for (and who have received – between 1st April 15 and 31st March 16) diagnosis within secondary teams.
The CCG is aware of individuals who have received Autism diagnosis through other assessment pathways and in Darlington, there are 8 identified individuals who are supported within other areas of the Trust. There is limited information available for this submission in relation to support plans and other case notes in place for these identified individuals.
Information that has been provided has been issued by the Trust with a caveat around data quality in relation to accuracy and completeness and in some cases is conflicting. Development work is ongoing between the CCGs and service provider to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the information reporting and data system capabilities.

Have completed all relevant assessments and are now receiving any support identified as relevant?

9

Add any further comments you want (optional)

who have been referred for (and who have received – between 1st April 15 and 31st March 16) diagnosis within secondary teams.
The CCG is aware of individuals who have received Autism diagnosis through other assessment pathways and in Darlington, there are 8 identified individuals who are supported within other areas of the Trust. There is limited information available for this submission in relation to support plans and other case notes in place for these identified individuals.
Information that has been provided has been issued by the Trust with a caveat around data quality in relation to accuracy and completeness and in some cases is conflicting. Development work is ongoing between the CCGs and service provider to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the information reporting and data system capabilities.

Have completed all relevant assessments but are awaiting some or all of the support identified as relevant?

0

Add any further comments you want (optional)

who have been referred for (and who have received – between 1st April 15 and 31st March 16) diagnosis within secondary teams.
The CCG is aware of individuals who have received Autism diagnosis through other assessment pathways and in Darlington, there are 8 identified individuals who are supported within other areas of the Trust. There is limited information available for this submission in relation to support plans and other case notes in place for these identified individuals.
Information that has been provided has been issued by the Trust with a caveat around data quality in relation to accuracy and completeness and in some cases is conflicting. Development work is ongoing between the CCGs and service provider to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the information reporting and data system capabilities.

Have not yet completed all relevant assessments of their support needs?

0

Add any further comments you want (optional)

who have been referred for (and who have received – between 1st April 15 and 31st March 16) diagnosis within secondary teams.
The CCG is aware of individuals who have received Autism diagnosis through other assessment pathways and in Darlington, there are 8 identified individuals who are supported within other areas of the Trust. There is limited information available for this submission in relation to support plans and other case notes in place for these identified individuals.
Information that has been provided has been issued by the Trust with a caveat around data quality in relation to accuracy and completeness and in some cases is conflicting. Development work is ongoing between the CCGs and service provider to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the information reporting and data system capabilities.

How would you describe the local diagnostic pathway, ie Integrated with mainstream statutory services with a specialist awareness of autism for diagnosis or a specialist autism specific service?

Integrated

Specialist

Please comment further.

Tees Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trust provide a specialist tertiary autism diagnostic service commissioned by the CCGs. The Secondary Mental Health Teams work in an integrated way with some people receiving official confirmatory diagnosis through multi disciplinary assessment without referral to the specialist service. The diagnostic pathway works in collaboration with health, social care and the voluntary sector.

In your local diagnostic pathway does a diagnosis of autism automatically trigger an offer of a care assessment (or re-assessment if the person has already had a current Care Act assessment)?

Yes

Please comment on who receives notification from diagnosticians when someone has received a diagnosis? How is this handled with people unlikely to be eligible for care and support under the Care Act?

The Specialist Autism Team provide a formal meeting with all parties involved to provide feedback following diagnosis or non diagnosis. If a patient is not eligible for care or support under the Care Act, this is clearly explained to the patients who are signposted accordingly.

In most cases, where appropriate, the diagnostic team will receive referrals through a secondary mental health team or via its own Access Teams. These cases remain active to the referring professional during the assessment and where appropriate the integrated/close working teams in Darlington will review, determine and facilitate access to social care.

Can people diagnosed with autism and a learning disability access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted psychology assessments?

Availability patchy or mainly generic services, with a small number of reasonably adjusted services.

Available everywhere. Mainly reasonably adjusted services, with some access to autism specific services (when necessary) and some generic services. All services are reasonably adjusted (in accordance with NICE Guidance) to provide access to post diagnostic specialist assessments. Access to autism specific services is also available when necessary.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

There are reasonably adjusted psychology assessment services available to people who have a diagnosis of Autism and a Learning Disability. These assessment services are provided through the Tees Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust Community Learning Disability Service, where psychology provision is available. Assessments are undertaken by appropriate professionals and are reasonably adjusted to meet the needs of people with Autism and would be tailored in respect of the functioning level of the individual.

Can people diagnosed with autism and without a learning disability access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted psychology assessments?

Availability patchy or mainly generic services, with a small number of reasonably adjusted services.

Available everywhere. Mainly reasonably adjusted services, with some access to autism specific services (when necessary) and some generic services. All services are reasonably adjusted to provide access to post diagnostic specialist assessments. Access to autism specific services is also available when necessary.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Psychology provision is available within secondary mental health teams, people diagnosed can access this provision if there are recommendations following assessment by the Specialist Autism Team. However there is an advert currently out of 0.4 Clinical Psychologist.

This is an acknowledged area for development and there is ongoing work between the CCG and the Trust in relation to this. There is a planned Service Improvement event to be held in coming months which will seek to better understand and address this aspect of the pathway and to inform future developments.

Can people diagnosed with autism and a learning disability access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted speech and language therapy assessments?

Availability patchy or mainly generic services, with a small number of reasonably adjusted services.

Available everywhere. Mainly reasonably adjusted services, with some access to autism specific services (when necessary) and some generic services. All services are reasonably adjusted to provide access to post diagnostic specialist assessments. Access to autism specific services is also available when necessary.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

There are reasonably adjusted Speech and Language Therapy assessment services available to people who have a diagnosis of Autism and a Learning Disability. These assessment services are provided through the Tees Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust Community Learning Disability Service. Assessments are undertaken by appropriate professionals and are reasonably adjusted to meet the needs of people with Autism and would be tailored in respect of the functioning level of the individual.

Can people diagnosed with autism and without a learning disability access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted speech and language therapy assessments?

Availability patchy or mainly generic services, with a small number of reasonably adjusted services.

Available everywhere. Mainly reasonably adjusted services, with some access to autism specific services (when necessary) and some generic services. All services are reasonably adjusted to provide access to post diagnostic specialist assessments. Access to autism specific services is also available when necessary.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Speech and Language Therapy is part of the diagnostic assessments undertaken within the Specialist Autism Team. Following diagnosis there is limited access to reasonably adjusted Speech and Language Therapy within Adult Mental Health Teams.

This is an acknowledged area for development and there is ongoing work between the CCG and the Trust in relation to this. There is a planned Service Improvement event to be held in coming months which will seek to better understand and address this aspect of the pathway and to inform future developments.

Can people diagnosed with autism and a learning disability access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted occupational therapy assessments?

Availability patchy or mainly generic services, with a small number of reasonably adjusted services.

Available everywhere. Mainly reasonably adjusted services, with some access to autism specific services (when necessary) and some generic services. All services are reasonably adjusted to provide access to post diagnostic specialist assessments. Access to autism specific services is also available when necessary.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

There are reasonably adjusted Occupational Therapy assessment services available to people who have a diagnosis of Autism and a Learning Disability. These assessment services are provided through the Tees Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust Community Learning Disability Service. Assessments are undertaken by appropriate professionals and are reasonably adjusted to meet the needs of people with Autism and would be tailored in respect of the functioning level of the individual.

Can people diagnosed with autism and without a learning disability access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted occupational therapy assessments?

Availability patchy or mainly generic services, with a small number of reasonably adjusted services.

Available everywhere. Mainly reasonably adjusted services, with some access to autism specific services (when necessary) and some generic services. All services are reasonably adjusted to provide access to post diagnostic specialist assessments. Access to autism specific services is also available when necessary.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Occupational Therapy is not currently part of the Specialist Autism Team, however referral to secondary mental health team can be facilitated for OT assessment.

This is an acknowledged area for development and there is ongoing work between the CCG and the Trust in relation to this. There is a planned Service Improvement event to be held in coming months which will seek to better understand and address this aspect of the pathway and to inform future developments.

Is post-diagnostic adjustment support available with local clinical psychology or other services for those people diagnosed with autism and a learning disability?

Yes

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Post Diagnostic adjustment support is available to people who have a diagnosis of Autism and a Learning Disability. These services are provided through the clinical psychology element of the Tees Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust Community Learning Disability Service.

Is post-diagnostic adjustment support available with local clinical psychology or other services for those people diagnosed with autism and without a learning disability?

Yes

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Local clinical psychology would be made available to people diagnosed with Autism but without a Learning Impairment based on their presenting needs.

Do crisis services in your area routinely anticipate and provide for the crisis needs of people with autism but without a learning disability?

Mental health crisis services do not provide for people with crises that relate to autism in the absence of acute mental illness.

Mental health crisis services will and do respond to mental health crises in people with autism whether or not these involve an acute mental illness.

Mental health crisis services will and do respond to mental health crises in people with autism whether or not these involve an acute mental illness. In addition staff have specific training about the needs of people with autism and specialised mental health support has been commissioned for this group and is easily and available within timescales relevant for crisis work.

Care and support

Of those adults who were assessed as being eligible for adult social care services and who are in receipt of a personal budget, how many have a diagnosis of autism both with a co-occurring learning disability and without?

What is the number of adults assessed as being eligible for adult social care services who have a diagnosis of autism and in receipt of a personal budget?

60

What is the number of those reported in question 1, section 6 above who have a diagnosis of autism but not learning disability?

8

What is the number of those reported in question 1,section 6 above who have both a diagnosis of autism AND learning disability?

52

Do you have a single identifiable contact point where people with autism whether or not in receipt of statutory services can get information signposting autism-friendly entry points for a wide range of local services?

General entry point

Single point of access with autism specific reasonable adjustments at entry point

Autism-specific access point

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Self referrals can be made through the Council's website as well as face to face. This will be strengthened with the introduction of a new electronic system.

Do you have a recognised pathway for people with autism but without a learning disability to access a care assessment and other support?

Yes

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Anyone undergoing Autism assessment and diagnosis processes is referred into the Community Resource team (Affective Team) to ensure that whilst awaiting the outcome of the assessment people are able to have access to a link worker.

For those people between the ages of 18 and 25 the pathway is through the Council's Lifestages Service. The service is available to Children and Young People from birth to 25 years old. For those aged 26 or over who do not have an associated learning or mental health impairment, the pathway is through the Council's Ongoing Care service. For those people who are diagnosed with acute mental health impairment will be supported and case managed through the Mental Health Teams.

Do you have a programme in place to ensure that all advocates working with people with autism have training in their specific requirements?

No programme in place.

Programme in place, not all advocates are covered.

Programme in place, all advocates are covered.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Autism Training for advocates is part of ongoing training. Advocates where possible undertake training with social workers.

Do adults with autism who could not otherwise meaningfully participate in needs assessments, care and support planning, appeals, reviews, or safeguarding processes have access to an appropriately trained advocate?

No autism specific advocacy service available.

Yes. Local advocacy services are working at becoming autism-aware.

Yes. There are mechanisms in place to ensure that all advocates working with adults with autism have received specialist autism training.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Care Act Advocacy is in place locally, provided by a user led organisation. Advocates are autism aware and some have been trained in depth. The plan is that all paid advocates will be trained.

Can people with autism access support if they are not eligible under the Care Act or not eligible for statutory services?

No

Provide an example of the type of support that is available in your area and how you measure if it is successful.

How would you assess the level of information about local support across the area being accessible to people with autism?

Information about support services for people with autism is either seriously incomplete or not easily accessible.

There is a moderate level of information available about support services for people with autism which is either incomplete or not readily accessible to people with autism.

There is readily accessible information (as required in the statutory guidance and the Accessible Information Standard) available on all relevant support services available for people with autism.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Information can be found through the "Local Offer" on the Councils Website, which also includes links to the Autism Directory. The Councils Service Directory also includes links to specialist information and service providers.

Where appropriate are carers of people assessed as having autism and eligible for social care support offered assessments?

Carers assessments are not consistently routinely offered

Where carers are identified in the course of assessments of people with autism, they are routinely offered carers assessments

Upon assessment of people with autism, carers are routinely identified and offered a carers assessment. Carers can also self-identify and request a carers assessment. Information about how to obtain a carers assessment is clearly available.

Comment

The Council default position is that carers will be offered an assessment. If the individual they support refuses an assessment a carers assessment is still offered and undertaken when requested.

Accommodation

Does the local housing strategy and/or market position statement specifically identify autism?

Needs of people with autism (as distinct from needs of people with other disabilities) not specifically mentioned in housing strategy and/or market position statement (for two tier authorities in any district council areas)

Housing requirements of people with autism are specifically mentioned but not to level described in Green rating (for two tier authorities not in all district council areas)

Comprehensive range of types of housing need for people with autism considered including estimates of numbers of placements required in each category (for two tier authorities and in all district council areas)

Please provide a web link and page references to support your answer.

The Local Authority maintains its own in house stock and there is a good working relationship between the Housing Department and Social Care. The Local Authority is part of the Healthy New Towns initiative and the needs of people with Autism are included in proposed developments.

Do you have a policy of ensuring that local housing offices all have at least one staff member who has training in autism to help people make applications and fill in necessary forms?

No

Add any further comments you want (optional)

However autism awareness and depth training is being made available to housing staff.

Employment

How have you promoted in your area the employment of people on the Autistic Spectrum?

No work in this area has been provided or minimal information not applied to the local area specific to autism. Local employment support services are not trained in autism or consider the support needs of the individual taking into account their autism. Local job centres are not engaged.

Autism awareness is delivered to employers on an individual basis. Local employment support services include autism. Some contact made with local job centres.

Autism is included within the Employment or worklessness Strategy for the Council / or included In a disability employment strategy. Focused autism trained employment support. Proactive engagement with local employers specifically about employment of people with autism including retaining work. Engagement of the local job centre in supporting reasonable adjustments in the workplace via Access to work.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Regular contact made with local Job Centre. Key staff play a part in the local implementation group. Advisors regularly attend the Learning Impairment Network to talk about their role and the support they have in place to support people with Autism into work. The Local Authority has its own in-house service that looks to support/link people with Autism into employment, with a focus on pre-employment support.

Do autism transition processes to adult services have an employment focus?

Transition plans do not include specific reference to employment or continued learning.

Transition plans include reference to employment/activity opportunities.

Transition plans include detailed reference to employment, access to further development in relation to individual's future aspirations, choice and opportunities available.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Employment is included in the EHC process and there is an expectation that people will undertake some form of work. This is reflected in the decreasing number of individuals accessing specialist day service provision on leaving School or College.

Criminal Justice System

Are the Criminal Justice Services (police, probation and, if relevant, court services) engaged with you as key partners in planning for adults with autism?

Minimal or no engagement with the criminal justice services.

*discussions between local authority adult social care services and criminal justice service agencies are continuing;

*representatives from criminal justice service agencies sit on autism partnership board or alternative

As amber, but in addition: *people with autism are included in the development of local criminal justice diversion schemes. *representative from criminal justice services agencies regularly attend meetings of the autism partnership board or alternative.

*there is evidence of joint working such as alert cards or similar schemes in operation. *there is evidence of joint/shared training.

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Local Police are regular attenders at the Learning Impairment Network and a member of the local Autism Implementation Group. Connections have been made with the wider criminal justice system.

Is access to an appropriate adult service available for people on the Autistic Spectrum in custody suites and nominated 'places of safety'.

There is not reliable access to an appropriate adult service

Yes, but appropriate adults do not necessarily have autism awareness training

Yes and these have all had autism awareness training

Add any further comments you want (optional)

Service is available 24/7 - process in place for out of hours and weekend need.

Local innovations

Please outline any innovations you have put in place in line with the Care Act.

If you wish, describe briefly (up to 1500 characters) one initiative of your Council, relating to the provision of care for people with autism, which you think has been successful.

Self advocate experiences

Of the self-advocate or family carer accounts, please ensure that no more than 2 are family carer experiences. In addition, please do not include identifying detail in the self-advocate or family carer accounts of experience section. These are not intended as 'Trip Advisor' style feedback on specific services. They are intended to give an impression of the types of experiences people with autism have in relating to everyday situations and public services. Their aim is to illustrate the ways these services help or hinder people who experience the world in this particular way. Accordingly we publish them without indicating which local authority they come from. You can see this in last year's report here (insert up to date link). So in practice 'my social worker' or 'my consultant' or even my gardening project will not be identifiable. However specific named projects or staff members would be and would be redacted.

Self-Advocate or Family Carer Account 1

[Empty box for self-advocate account 1 details]

Specify the section to which self-advocate account 1 relates

[Empty box for section specification]

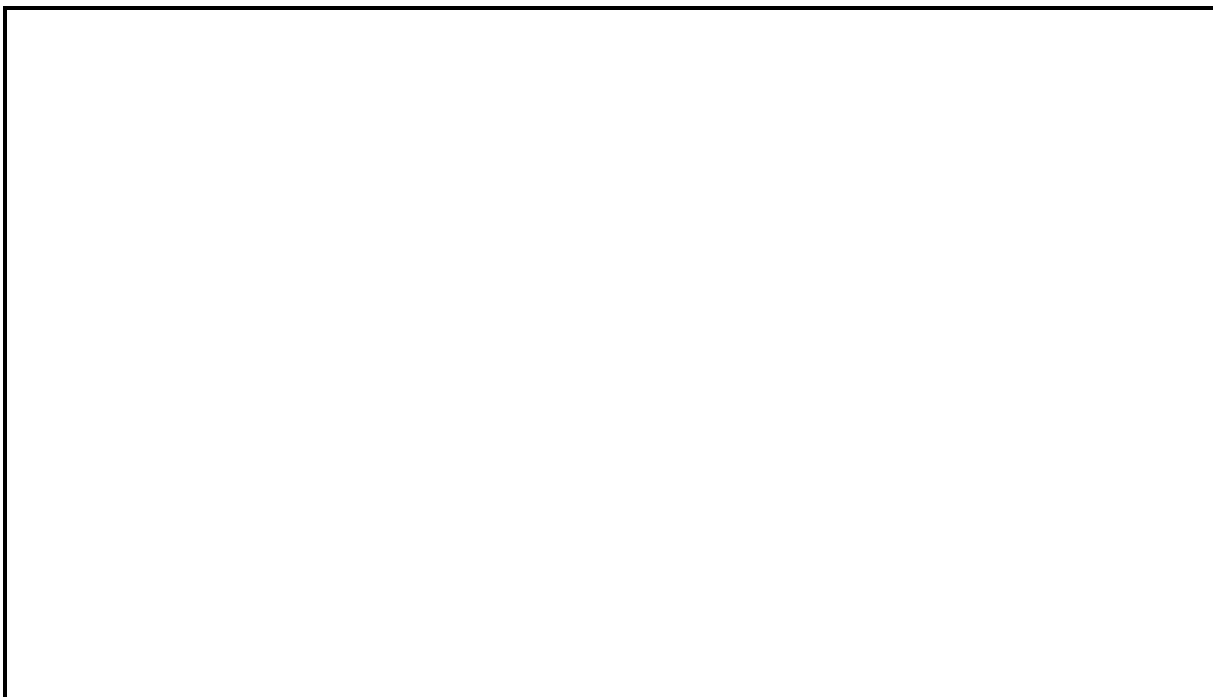
Self-Advocate or Family Carer Account 2

[Empty box for self-advocate account 2 details]

Specify the section to which self-advocate account 2 relates

[Empty box for section specification]

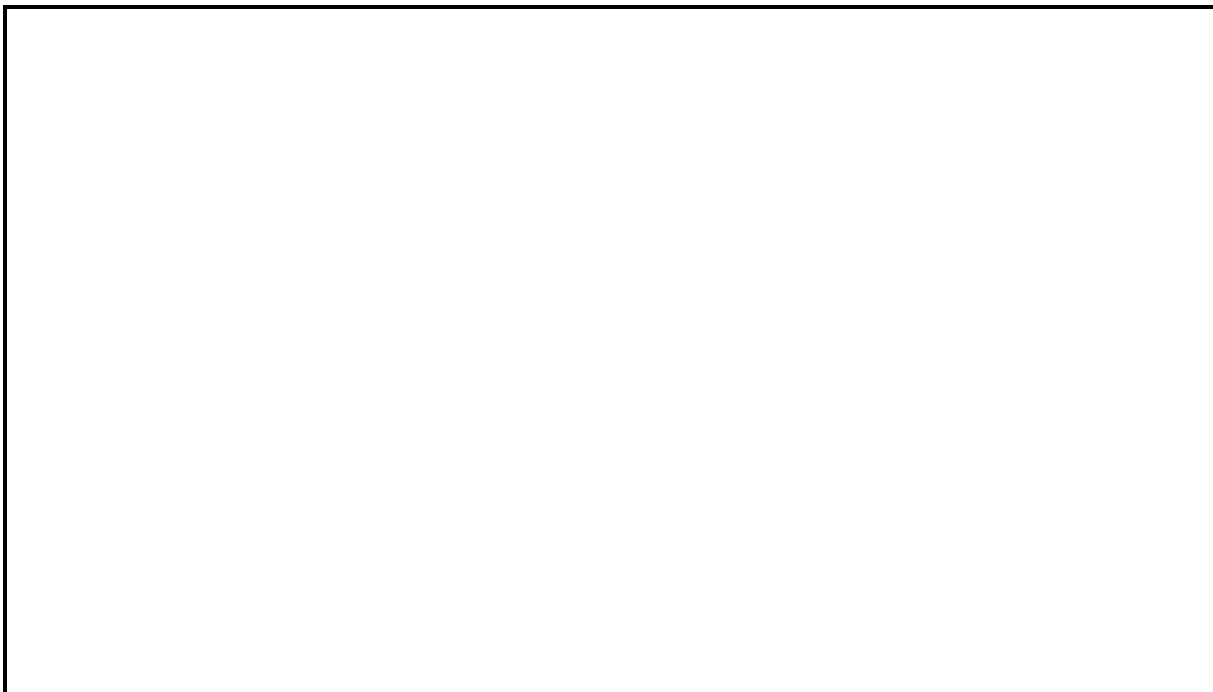
Self-Advocate Account 3



Specify the section to which self-advocate account 3 relates



Self-Advocate Account 4



Specify the section to which self-advocate account 4 relates



Self-Advocate Account 5

Specify the section to which self-advocate account 5 relates

Completion details

Which of the following types of partner were involved in the completion of this self-assessment?

Local Authority Adult Social Services

Yes

Local Authority Department of Children's Services

Yes

Local Education Authority

Yes

Health and Wellbeing Board

No

Local Authority Public Health Department

Yes

Clinical Commissioning Group

Yes

Primary Healthcare providers

Yes

Secondary Healthcare providers

Yes

Employment Service

Yes

Police

Yes

Probation Service

Yes

Court Service

Yes

Local charitable / voluntary / self advocacy / interest groups

Yes

People on the autism spectrum

Yes

Informal carers, family, friends of people on the autistic spectrum

Yes

Who signed off this self-assessment?

Director of Adult Social Services

Yes

Name of Director of Adult Social Services

CCG Chief Operating Officer

Yes

Name of CCG Chief Operating Officer

Ali Wilson
Chief Officer
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group

Was this self-assessment signed off by the Local Autism Programme Board referred to in question 6, section 3?