

Suffolk All-Age Autism Action Plan Tables

2024



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Action Plan 1

Improving awareness and understanding

Co-production partners agreed that more needs to be done to raise awareness of autism and the services that are available in Suffolk:

What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	What will 'done' look like?	How long should it take?
1(a) Increase awareness of autism in Suffolk [All age]	Develop an online resource for information, advice and signposting relating to autism in Suffolk	Children and Young People Services (CYP) Local Offer Teams Adult Social Care (ASC) Commissioning	Co-produced online resource developed and kept up to date	18 months
	Set up pop up "autism awareness" events / hubs in public spaces across Suffolk.	Suffolk All Age Autism Partnership	A series of pop-up hubs have been delivered, meaningful conversations with local people about autism	12 months
1(b) Further research into intersectionality [All age]	We will identify resource to undertake further work to better understand the impact of autism, support (and barriers to support) on specific communities and demographics – i.e. women, older people, learning disabilities and different ethnic backgrounds.	Public Health	Research to enhance the local understanding of intersectionality has been delivered based on a co-produced specification	12 months
1(c) Awareness and acceptance training [All age]	Develop bespoke awareness raising training around autism in conjunction with partners and roll out to targeted groups.	Workforce development leads	Training has been co-produced and rolled out to partners across Suffolk. This has been recorded and updates have been provided to the Autism Partnership.	12 months

Action Plan 2

Health and care inequalities

Co-production partners agreed that work already being delivered by the Integrated Care Boards (ICB) should continue and be reported to the Autism Partnership:

What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	What will 'done' look like?	How long should it take?
2(a) ICB to deliver regular updates on their Transformation Programme to the Autism Partnership [All age]	There will be quarterly updates to the Autism Partnership on the ongoing transformation programme	ICB Transformation Leads	Regular updates recorded in minutes and feedback recorded	Ongoing
2(b) Look for ways to improve access to diagnosis across Suffolk, and improve support pre, mid and post diagnosis [Adults]	Allocate funding to commission support for people awaiting autism diagnosis, this support will be commissioned in 2024	ICB Autism/ADHD Oversight Group (SNEE) LD&A Programme Board (NWICB)	Available funding has been used to commission services and residents with lived experience have been consulted	2 years
	Develop resource for people pre, mid and post diagnosis – a website and resources including what to expect. Link this to the "one stop shop" resource	ICB Autism/ADHD Oversight Group (SNEE) LD&A Programme Board (NWICB)	Resource has been developed and promoted with input from residents with lived experience	2 years
	Review support offer for people post diagnosis. Work with autistic people to identify what support is needed, and plan for how this support could be offered	ICB Autism/ADHD Oversight Group (SNEE) LD&A Programme Board (NWICB)	Requirements are identified for a post diagnostic support offer, and a plan is in place to deliver it.	2 years

Action Plan 2 *continued*

Health and care inequalities

What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	What will 'done' look like?	How long should it take?
2(c) Publicise "Right to Choose" in Suffolk [All age]	Develop an information campaign focused on GPs and GP surgeries	ICB commissioners (SNEE)	Information campaign on right to choose developed with residents with Lived Experience and rolled out to all GP surgeries in Suffolk.	12 months
2(d) Report on roll out of Oliver McGowan training [Adults]	Regular updates to partnership on roll out of Oliver Mc Gowan Training	All system partners	Oliver McGowan training being rolled out across Suffolk and regular updates to the partnership.	Ongoing

Action Plan 3

Employment

Co-production partners agreed that there needed to be more support to help autistic people to get into work, to remain in work and to progress in their careers.

What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	What will 'done' look like?	How long should it take?
3(a) Promote the "access to work" scheme [Adults]	Working with partners at Job Centre Plus to co-develop promotional material locally on the "Access to Work" scheme and distribute across Suffolk	Job Centre Plus	Promotional materials co-produced with residents with lived experience and distributed across Suffolk	12 months
3(b) Support autistic young people with pre-employment skills [CYP]	Support autistic young people to access meaningful work experience – through supported internships and other routes. This should link closely with ongoing Preparing for Adulthood work in the SEND Strategy.	SCC Skills Team	Targeted support for autistic young people to enhance ambition levels and employment support	12 months
3(c) Raise awareness of autism in local businesses and provide information on how to support autistic staff [All age]	Set up co-produced learning sessions for the Chamber of Commerce and other local business networks	ASC Commissioning: SCC Teams engaging with local businesses (Skills team and Growth Highways and Infrastructure teams as appropriate)	Sessions run with local businesses, attendees report increased awareness and knowledge on supporting autistic staff	12 months

Action Plan – 4

Community and Inpatient Care

Co-production partners agreed that there needed more research and co-production to enhance community and inpatient care in Suffolk.

What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	What will 'done' look like?	How long should it take?
4(a) Apply learning from national datasets to help prevent suicides. [All age]	Learn from the Learning from lives and deaths – People with a learning disability and autistic people (LeDeR) programme to identify areas for improvement to prevent suicides	ICB Commissioners and Health Providers	Learning from LeDeR is well understood and applied across relevant services in Suffolk	Ongoing
4(b) Research on mental health strategies for autistic people [All age]	Ensure we are following national guidance on accessible mental health services for autistic people already and commission further research on impact of MH strategies on the autistic community.	Public Health	Assurance provided that services are already following best practice on accessible mental health services and commissioning further research on the impact of neurotypical mental health approaches on autistic people	12 months
4(c) Training for staff who work in mental health services [Adults]	Mental Health workforce plan	Workforce development leads	Programme has been rolled out and positive feedback has been reported to Autism Partnership	Ongoing
4(d) Co-produced market engagement [All age]	We will deliver co-produced market engagement events to understand barriers to providing specialist support for Autistic Residents (particularly young people)	Lived Experience Group and SCC Commissioners	Market engagement complete and tangible actions in place to increase access to provision for autistic people in Suffolk.	12 months

Action Plan 4 *continued*

Community and Inpatient Care

Co-production partners agreed that there needed more research and co-production to enhance community and inpatient care in Suffolk.

What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	What will 'done' look like?	How long should it take?
4(e) Enhance housing options for Autistic residents eligible for support with accommodation [Adults]	Work in co-production to support the commissioning of accommodation with support opportunities, encompassing the varying needs of people with autism at differing points within their lives.	ASC Commissioning	Wider range of accommodation with support opportunities available providing care and support to people who are eligible under the Care Act.	2 years
	Work with Districts and Borough councils and Registered Social Landlords to embed the reasonable adjustments identified within the strategy to support people when accessing housing	ASC Commissioning	Advice, guidance, and support when accessing housing is adjusted to meet the needs of people with autism when accessing general needs and or accommodation with support opportunities.	2 years

Action Plan 5

SEND and Transitions

Co-production partners agreed that better support in the Education system was vital to the success of this strategy. It was recognised that this particularly linked to Priority 2 outcomes focused on the Child/Young Person's Journey.

What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	What will 'done' look like?	How long should it take?
5(a) Regular updates on SEND Priority Action Plan and Strategy to quarterly Autism Partnership meeting. [CYP]	There will be regular updates to the Autism Partnership on the ongoing improvement programme and strategy.	SEND Programme Manager	Regular updates (written or in person) recorded in minutes and feedback recorded	3 months to first update
5(b) Working with schools to support teachers and education leaders to have an in-depth and trauma informed understanding of autism [CYP]	Identify schools who might need additional support and approach them with a training offer at termly visits. With a focus on advice around sensory environments for educational settings.	Specialist Education Services Team	A clear universal offer of services developed and articulated for Suffolk children and young people	12 months
5(c) Develop materials to support communication with parents of autistic children [CYP]	Develop materials to raise awareness of autistic communication to support conversations with parents and roll out to education settings.	Lived Experience Group (including SPCF) and Suffolk County Council through a task and finish group.	Materials developed and rolled out to schools	12 months
5(d) Build on welcoming places to enhance social support for Autistic Children and Young People [CYP]	Work to identify gaps in provision for social support and outlets for Children and Young People across Suffolk.	CYP Lead - Engagement Hub in conjunction with Activities Unlimited lead.	Gaps identified and proactive steps taken to develop social provision – i.e. youth clubs – for children with ASD across Suffolk	12 months

Action Plan *continued*

SEND and Transitions

What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	What will 'done' look like?	How long should it take?
5(e) Further engagement [CYP]	Continue efforts to reach out to Children and Young People with a particular focus on those without an Education, Health and Care Plan	CYP Engagement Hub	Children and Young People have been further consulted on their experience and this is being used to inform future actions	Ongoing

Action Plan 6

Criminal and Youth Justice

Co-production partners agreed that further research was required to better understand the current position regarding training and awareness for professionals in the Criminal and Youth Justice Systems.

What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	What will 'done' look like?	How long should it take?
6(a) Carry out further research [CYP]	Conduct further research into support and training already available for staff working in the Criminal and Youth Justice System	Youth Justice Service	Autism partnership has a thorough understanding of the support and training available to partners including police, prison and youth justice staff	12 months
6(b) Develop support materials [CYP]	Co-produce specific support materials for staff working in the criminal and youth justice systems and roll out across system.	Youth Justice Service	Co-produced materials developed and being rolled out across Suffolk to criminal and youth justice partners.	12 months
6(c) Join up with restraint reduction network [All age]	Invite representatives from the restraint reduction network to update the Partnership and discuss how this work could support autistic people	Suffolk All Age Autism Partnership	Restraint reduction network have attended Autism Partnership Board	6 months

