



Lincolnshire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019 – 2022



Contents

Introductions	3
Executive Summary	5
Background	6
What is Autism?	7
Local Prevalence	7
Delivering our Local Strategy	9
What has been achieved in the last 3 years?	10
Transforming Care	13
Developments for children and young people	14
Autism Statutory Guidance requirements	15
Think Autism strategy governance refresh and review of the national strategy	17
15 Priority Challenges for Action	18
What are our priorities for the next 3 years?	19
Lincolnshire All-Age Autism Strategy – Action Plan (2018-2021)	21
Glossary of abbreviations	32

The 'Autism Lincs' logo displayed on the front cover of this strategy is used as the formal branding for the Lincolnshire Autism Partnership Board. It was kindly developed by Joel Watkin-Groves, an autistic designer from Lincolnshire, and we wish to thank Joel for his time in producing the logo and allowing us to use it.

Footnote:

Throughout the course of this strategy we use the term 'autism' as an umbrella to cover the range of diagnostic terms that exist to describe particular autism profiles, such as 'Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)', 'Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)', 'Asperger Syndrome' and 'classic autism'.

We recognise that when describing people on the autism spectrum there is no single term that everyone prefers. In recent years there has been a shift towards more positive and assertive language being used, particularly among autistic communities where autism is seen as integral to the person. Therefore, when referring to autism, and in particular about adults, we have used the term 'autistic people' within the strategy. However, where children have been referenced, we have used a 'person first, disability/condition second' approach in line with national publications, such as the SEND Code of Practice.

Introduction

It has been 10 years since the introduction of the Autism Act in 2009 and four years since Lincolnshire launched its All-Age Autism Strategy in 2015. During that time I have been employed as an Expert by Experience in a strategic commissioning role to promote autism issues and raise understanding within Lincolnshire. As the lead for the A-Team Network for the Lincolnshire Autism Partnership Board (LAPB), and through my national work for the Westminster Commission on Autism, the National Autistic Society and as a selected member of the Advisory Group for the All Part Parliamentary Group on Autism, I have a privileged view of how changes are happening both locally and nationally. We are living through difficult times with limited budgets both in the social care and health sectors and there are times when it must seem that progress is frustratingly slow or even non-existent for autistic people and those who care for them.



Jo Minchin
Autism Expert by Experience
South West Lincolnshire CCG

I am often asked how things have changed for us in Lincolnshire. First of all, here I am, an actually autistic person, writing an introduction to Lincolnshire's Autism Strategy. If there were just one thing to demonstrate that autistic voices are being heard and amplified where it matters, this is it. As we move forward with this new strategy and the focus that we now have on autism in Lincolnshire, I will continue to engage with local and national forums and find new ways to make it possible for more autistic people to have their say.

We have done a lot to create structures within local services to cater for autistic people, but it can look from the outside as though not much has been happening. Change takes time in big organisations like the NHS and the County Council, and many things we have done have been targeted at very specific needs, such as our work around Transforming Care, which was used as an example of good practice by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). My mantra will be, 'What does this actually do for autistic people in Lincolnshire when they start looking for help?' I hope that by the time we write the next Lincolnshire Autism Strategy, more autistic voices will be heard and involved in the work of the LAPB. Come and join us, tell me what you need to make it less daunting for you.

As Chair of the Lincolnshire Autism Partnership Board, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the board members and the officers whose efforts have produced this updated strategy. Our focus is to improve access to services for autistic people and I look forward to delivering on our key priorities over the next three years.

Richard Eccles

**Chief Commissioning Manager for Mental Health,
Learning Disabilities and Autism**
South West Lincolnshire CCG



Executive Introduction

We are pleased to present Lincolnshire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019-2022, which has been developed by the Lincolnshire Autism Partnership Board (LAPB). This builds upon the work that has already been progressed as part of the first local autism strategy for the county that was launched in 2015.

The purpose of this strategy is to set out our objectives and strategic direction over the next three years. We want to support autistic people of all ages and their families, so that they have an equal opportunity to lead fulfilling and rewarding lives. This document outlines our commitment in Lincolnshire to do more to help autistic people and how we intend to deliver on the objectives set out within the national autism strategy at a local level.

The LAPB is responsible for overseeing the delivery of this strategy. It consists of a range of representatives from partner organisations and stakeholders, who are working in collaboration to try to push this agenda forward and develop ways of improving services and support for autistic people. The LAPB includes professionals from health and social care, education, mainstream public services, voluntary sector organisations and, importantly, autistic people and their family members and carers.

In developing our local autism strategy, the main focus has been on how we can achieve the 15 Priority Challenges for Action that are set out in the government's national autism strategy. We have identified some key themes and issues locally that we will aim to prioritise and we will implement an action plan to address the concerns that are of most importance to autistic people and their families in Lincolnshire.

We welcome as many public services, partner organisations and members of the community joining us to help deliver this strategy and ensure that Lincolnshire is a place that respects and supports all autistic people who live here.



***Councillor Patricia Bradwell OBE
Executive Councillor for Adult Care,
Health Services and Children's Services***



***John Turner
Chief Officer, South Lincolnshire CCG
and South West Lincolnshire CCG***

Executive Summary

This strategy has been produced in response to the government's national autism strategy for England. It replaces the Lincolnshire All-Age Autism Strategy 2015-2018, which was the first local autism strategy for the county. The Lincolnshire Autism Partnership Board (LAPB) is responsible for developing and implementing the local strategy. This document sets out;

- National and local drivers that have influenced the development of this strategy, along with key local prevalence data
- How the local strategy is being delivered and what we have achieved in Lincolnshire since the original strategy was launched in 2015
- The key objectives and outcomes for autism services and support in Lincolnshire, including an action plan outlining the work programme over the next three years

A set of 15 Priority Challenges for Action were included within the national adult autism strategy refresh, *Think Autism*, and this forms the basis of our strategy and action plan in Lincolnshire. We engaged with stakeholders to determine which of these priorities people felt were of most importance and this highlighted the following key challenges locally;

- Getting a timely diagnosis and support throughout the process
- Everyday services make reasonable adjustments and staff are aware of autism
- Support through transitions and other major life changes
- Recognising an individual's autism and adapting support for additional needs and challenging behaviour
- Making sure family/carers get the help and support they need

Four Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF) exercises have been conducted by the government since 2010 to monitor progress in delivering the national autism strategy. This has enabled the LAPB to identify key areas where progress and improvement is required, and these are addressed within the strategy action plan.

In 2018, the government published a *Think Autism strategy governance refresh* policy document. This followed agreement with stakeholders that progress to implement the national strategy has not been as quick as envisaged. A revised governance model has been established, which centres on 19 overarching strategic objectives. Again, our local strategy action plan takes these into account.

Additionally, the government announced in late 2018 that a national autism strategy review will be conducted during 2019, which will see the strategy extended to include children and young people. As we already have an all-age autism strategy for Lincolnshire, this reinforces the approach we previously agreed to take to consider and support the needs of autistic people of all ages.

The NHS Long Term Plan was also released at the beginning of 2019. This has highlighted learning disabilities and autism among the key priorities for NHS services over the next 5-10 years and sets out a series of commitments to improve the services and support currently being provided.

We have an ambitious vision for Lincolnshire demonstrated by the objectives and priorities set out in our strategic action plan. It should be noted that the delivery of the autism strategy is on the backdrop of no specific additional funding being allocated at either a local or national level and is on the basis of the goodwill and efforts of the multi-agency partners, autistic people and family members involved in the LAPB.

Background

Following the introduction of the Autism Act 2009, the government's first strategy for autistic adults in England, *Fulfilling and rewarding lives*, was published in 2010. This addressed the long term ambitions about how public services must reflect and adapt to the needs of autistic adults. It set out the government's overarching vision;

‘All adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can get a diagnosis and access support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents.’

(Fulfilling and rewarding lives: the strategy for adults with autism in England, 2010)

The national strategy was refreshed in 2014 with the release of *Think Autism*. This sets out a programme of action to improve the lives of autistic people and brings a renewed emphasis on involvement and awareness of autism within the local community, as well as ways to look differently at support and engagement. A series of 15 Priority Challenges for Action are identified to highlight the key themes that the strategy aims to deliver. The government announced in late 2018 that a national autism strategy review will be conducted during 2019, which will see the strategy extended to include children and young people.

Statutory guidance was produced in 2010 (and updated in 2015) to accompany the national adult autism strategy. It sets out responsibilities and legal duties that Local Authorities and NHS bodies *must* achieve in line with the Autism Act 2009. It also specifies responsibilities that *should* be delivered and achieved to ensure autistic people are supported.

The Care Act 2014 provides a coherent approach to adult social care in England and sets out new duties for local authorities and partners and new rights of service users and carers. Some of the responsibilities placed on local authorities through the Autism Act 2009 and accompanying papers are strengthened by the introduction of the Care Act, as the new legislation highlights the need for improvement of services and support for autistic people.

Similarly, the Children and Families Act 2014 does the same and has an emphasis on personalisation, outcomes and integration of services. It provides a change in the way services provide support for children, young people and those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and focuses on the best outcomes for each individual.

In 2015, *Building the Right Support*, a national plan to develop community services and close inpatient facilities for people with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, including those with a mental health condition, was published. The document sets out a requirement for Clinical Commissioning Groups, Local Authorities and NHS England to work together to develop local Transforming Care Partnerships.

Lincolnshire's local Transforming Care Plan outlines the responsibility for the planning, development and implementation of changes and this feeds into the Lincolnshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). This is a five year plan, submitted to NHS England, setting out how health and care services will be provided differently by 2021. It has been produced and signed up to by the seven key NHS organisations in Lincolnshire and outlines actions that will be taken to improve services in order to meet the needs of the population and make them sustainable for the future.

The NHS Long Term Plan, released in early 2019, has highlighted learning disabilities and autism among the key priorities for NHS services over the next 5-10 years, and sets out a series of commitments to improve the services and support currently being provided.

What is Autism?

Autism is a lifelong condition that can be very disabling. It is a spectrum disorder; this means that despite there being a shared core of symptoms, everyone who has autism experiences it differently and is affected in different ways.

Autistic people often experience sensory difficulties, such as over- or under-sensitivity to sounds, touch, tastes, smells, light or colours. It is also more likely that autistic people will experience higher levels of stress than someone not on the spectrum, which makes mental health needs more likely. However, every person's experience of autism is unique and they will have a range of strengths alongside their needs, just like every individual.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, fifth edition (DSM-5), published by the American Psychiatric Association, has been updated and the diagnostic criteria is now much clearer and simpler, and sensory behaviours are now included. It has replaced the variety of different diagnostic terms to describe particular autism profiles, such as 'Asperger Syndrome' and 'classic autism', with the collective term 'autism spectrum disorder'.

The manual defines autism spectrum disorder as having two main areas of difficulty that all autistic people are likely to share;

- Persistent difficulties with social communication and social interaction
- Restrictive and repetitive patterns of behaviours, activities or interests

The revised edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), which is the most commonly-used diagnostic manual in the UK, is now closely aligned with the updates made to autism diagnosis within the DSM-5 edition.

Local Prevalence

Autism is a relatively new condition – it was not until the 1940's that it was recognised as a distinct condition – and it is only in recent years that research has improved our understanding and increased the number of diagnoses. Therefore, older generations of the population would not have been screened for autism and when those people were younger, only classic autism is likely to have been recognised. However, it is accepted that the prevalence of autism is not actually increasing like an epidemic and the proportion of older autistic people is likely to be similar to the proportion of children.

National research and expert analysis suggests there are over 700,000 autistic people in the UK – more than 1 in every 100 individuals.

Based on the indication that 1.1% of the UK population is autistic, it is estimated that there are over 8,100 autistic people in Lincolnshire (*applying this prevalence rate to the Office for National Statistics population estimates for Lincolnshire in 2016*).

However, determining the exact number of autistic people living in the county is extremely difficult. A key issue is the gap in terms of estimated numbers of autistic people and the capacity of the NHS to offer diagnosis. In many cases though, autistic people are at present unknown to the NHS or to the local authority. It is recognised that there may be many people who are not disabled by their autism and so would not benefit from or pursue a diagnosis.

Details of some available information on autism in Lincolnshire include the following;

- Data provided by the Lincolnshire CCG's from 2015 identified 3,822 people registered with a GP Practice in Lincolnshire recorded as being autistic
- Of this total, 80% were male and 72% were under the age of 18 - this equates to 2,750 children and young people with autism in Lincolnshire
- In contrast, using the projected population data from the Office for National Statistics from 2016, it is estimated that there are around 1,570 people aged 0-17 in Lincolnshire with autism (*based on the 1.1% prevalence rate*)
- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) topic for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) illustrates that 812 (22%) of the school population with an EHC Plan have autism identified as their primary special educational need
- In addition to those young people with an EHC Plan, around 7% (963) of the school population who receive SEN Support have autism recorded as their primary special educational need (*NB: these figures do not take into account pupils for whom autism is a secondary or additional element of their special educational needs*)
- The School Census indicates that there are 1,175 pupils in the school population where autism is identified as their primary special educational need (*NB: currently 19% of young people with an EHC Plan attend educational settings that do not record on the School Census*)
- The DHSC national prevalence study, published by the Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information Systems (PANSI) and the Projecting Older People Population Information (POPPI), has projected that the total number of autistic adults in Lincolnshire in 2017 was 5,886
- The above data indicates that the projected number of autistic adults in Lincolnshire aged 18-64 is likely to remain at just under 4,250 people over the next 15-20 years
- However, a 40% increase in autistic people is projected among older people aged 65 and over between 2017 and 2035, and in terms of the overall adult autistic population in Lincolnshire, this is expected to increase by just under 700 people in the same period
- There are 394 people in receipt of an adult social care service in Lincolnshire who have autism recorded as a health condition as at March 2018 (based on Short and Long Term (SALT) data)
- Of these, 383 people are aged 18-64, with just eleven people aged over 65 in receipt of adult social care who have a recorded health condition of autism

Delivering our Local Strategy

The strategy and action plan will be overseen by the LAPB, which will take a leadership role for the delivery of key pieces of work to implement our strategic objectives. There are four key strategic programmes in place to deliver the local Autism Strategy;



Working Groups were established in 2015 as part of the first Lincolnshire All-Age Autism Strategy for each of these programmes of work. These sit beneath the Partnership Board, which monitors the progress being made to deliver tasks and projects within each programme and provides a steer and strategic direction.

The 'Involvement & Collaboration' element encompasses three specific groups that have been introduced to enhance opportunities for people with a lived experience of autism to be involved in the LAPB and help inform decisions.

- The **A-Team Network** is predominantly for autistic people and family members/carers and is led by the Autism Expert By Experience Worker, employed by South West Lincolnshire CCG, utilising both physical and online meetings to help co-produce work.
- The **Autism Lived Experience Forum** is also led by an autistic individual and provides an opportunity in an informal environment for people with a personal and/or professional interest in autism to share their experiences and concerns about services and support, and to discuss particular themes and subjects.
- **Lincolnshire Young Voices** is a group that has recently been established to give children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) the chance to raise issues and inspire change.

In terms of governance, the LAPB is accountable to and, when necessary, reports into;

- Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board
- Specialist Adult Services Joint Delivery Board
- Women and Children's Joint Delivery Board

What has been achieved in the last 3 years?

In response to the national strategy, Lincolnshire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2015-2018 was launched in April 2015.

The decision to establish an all-age strategy came about following a series of engagement and public consultation activity over the preceding years. The feedback from this highlighted that the transition from children's to adults' services was a major issue. Both the public and professionals recognised the challenges facing autistic children and their families, and the need to improve services and support for autistic people of all ages, not just adults.

Additionally, in 2014, the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Board and the council's Children's Services Directorate jointly commissioned the *Independent review of services for Children and Young People with Autism in Lincolnshire*. The aim of this review, which was completed by the National Autistic Society, was to look at how agencies in Lincolnshire respond to autistic children and young people. The key themes and recommendations from the review were incorporated into the action plan for Lincolnshire's Autism Strategy.

The LAPB was given responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the strategy action plan. The LAPB consists of representation from health and social care, education, other mainstream public services, voluntary sector organisations, as well as autistic people and their families/carers. A number of working groups were established to implement the action plan, looking at specific programmes of work.

What we have achieved and how it links to our key strategic programmes:

Original Strategy Action Plan Task	What We Did	Key Strategic Programme
Establish working groups for each of the four key strategic programmes	Completed – including appointment of Working Group Leads and members, establishing Terms of Reference and agreed outcomes/action plan for each Working Group	All
Strengthen the Autism Partnership Board to ensure that it is fit for purpose to lead on implementing Lincolnshire's All-Age Strategy	Re-launched the LAPB to make it an all-age Autism Partnership through wider participation and representation from services for children and young people	Involvement & Collaboration
	Created an A-Team Network (named by the members themselves), which predominantly includes autistic people and parent/carers helping to influence and co-produce the delivery of the local autism strategy	Involvement & Collaboration
	The A-Team Network developed and introduced Communication Cards at all LAPB meetings	Involvement & Collaboration
	Established an Autism Lived Experience Forum to give people with a personal and/or professional interest in autism the chance to discuss specific themes and to raise issues and concerns about services and support	Involvement & Collaboration
	Appointed an Autism Expert By Experience	Involvement &

	Worker employed on a permanent basis by the South West CCG, who leads the A-Team Network and is involved in Care and Treatment Reviews involving autistic people who have been admitted to hospital	Collaboration
All autistic people admitted to hospital will have a review to assure that they need to be there and that they are safe, their care needs are being met and future planning is in place	A Transforming Care Team was introduced, so that autistic people who have been admitted to hospital are reviewed to assure that this is the right place for them to be, as part of the 'Building the Right Support' national initiative	Service Provision
Promote the need for services to be inclusive of autistic people, including a review of service specifications that we commission to ensure that they are fit for purpose for autistic people	Service specifications for Adult Learning Disability and Mental Health Services commissioned by the NHS have been reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose for autistic people	Service Provision
	An Autism Reasonable Adjustments Mark has been developed to review how accessible services are for autistic people – this has been piloted by Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) and 37 teams from their Learning Disability and Mental Health Services have achieved the Mark	Service Provision
Ensure that a local information hub is available where autistic people and families can access information and advice about autism and local services they may require	A virtual local Autism Information Hub has been introduced, which is hosted via the Lincolnshire Autistic Society website – the intention is that this will become a central point of access to information and advice for autistic people, families and professionals once further development of the site has been completed	Service Provision
Introduce efficient diagnostic and post diagnostic pathways	An improved adult autism diagnostic pathway was introduced by LPFT – there has since been a significant increase in demand for this service and there is now a requirement to review capacity, with commissioners and providers working collaboratively to meet the growth in demand	Service Provision
	LPFT have appointed to a brand new role of Autism Lead, as well as creating new Autism Liaison Nurse roles	Service Provision
Introduce autism champions within every local school who will promote early intervention and work together with children and young people with autism and their families to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create autism friendly environments - Tackle bullying - Increase social inclusion - Support and champion the talents and contributions of people with autism 	An Autism Champions Network for schools has been established	Awareness & Training
	LCC Children's Services commissioned a service for schools to support children and young people with autism – the Working Together Team is a contracted service delivered through a collaboration of three groups of Special Schools	Service Provision
	LCC Children's Services now commissions a Behaviour Outreach Support Service, delivered by Family Action, to support schools in	Service Provision

	developing strategies and interventions for children who display behaviour that challenges	
	LCC Children's Services commissioned a three year pilot through the Pilgrim School to provide education for eight pupils with autism who are high functioning and unable to access mainstream school	Service Provision
	LCC Children's Services has worked alongside schools, colleges, partners and the Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum to develop the 'Special Educational Needs: Support and Guidance' document, which is published on the Local Offer	Service Provision
Identify key partners within Public Health, social care, primary and secondary healthcare and local groups to develop better ways of recording and collecting data	New data sources have been identified and work has been completed to collate and analyse information in order to build up a better picture of service provision for autistic people, including data from GP's, the school census and those in receipt of support from adult social care	Data & Information
Establish information and intelligence across Adult and Children's Services enabling us to understand our local population data to assist in commissioning services	It was agreed to introduce an autism-specific Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) topic, which was subsequently produced by members of the LAPB and then launched in June 2017	Data & Information
Undertake a review of autism awareness and training being completed and the range of available training resources	Produced a report on autism awareness training being provided in Lincolnshire based on responses from organisations across multi-agency services	Awareness & Training
Provide basic autism awareness as part of mandatory training to mental health and physical health services, and develop a range of training opportunities for the local workforce to access	Basic autism awareness is now part of mandatory training provided to staff at LPFT	Awareness & Training
	Developed a local intermediate level autism training presentation, as well as reviewing other training packages and compiling a list of training resources that services/individuals can access	Awareness & Training
Develop local autism champions in key universal services	Lincolnshire Police have implemented significant levels of autism training across their workforce and also introduced Autism Champions	Awareness & Training
All services that we commission will be expected to identify a local autism champion	An Autism Champions Information Pack has been developed and a network of autism champions is being rolled out across various services and organisations, including schools, health and social care	Awareness & Training
Promote community networks and the wide range of support that people with lived experience and their carers can provide to each other	Annual Autism Conferences are provided by local voluntary support groups, which offer an opportunity for parents, carers and professionals to learn together	Awareness & Training

Transforming Care

Transforming Care is all about improving health and care services so that more people can live in the community, with the right support, and close to home. It was introduced in 2015, following the publication of *Building the Right Support*. This is a national plan that highlights the need to close inpatient facilities for people with learning disabilities and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, and to develop and improve community services to support their needs.

As part of the national programme, Transforming Care Partnerships (TCP's) were set up. The Lincolnshire TCP is made up of clinical commissioning groups, NHS England's specialised commissioners and local authorities and they work with people with a learning disability, autism or both and their families and carers to agree and deliver local plans for the programme.

A review of inpatient admissions within the Lincolnshire Transforming Care programme during 2018/19 showed the following;

- Only 8% of inpatients had no diagnosis of autism
- 67% of the admissions were for patients who are autistic only, with 25% of those admitted having a dual diagnosis of both a learning disability and autism
- 83% were discharged during 2018/19
- Of those discharged, 80% returned to their home address, not community supported living or residential care
- 67% had a community Care and Treatment Review undertaken prior to their admission
- 67% were emergency admissions under Section 2 of the Mental Health Act
- The average age of those admitted into inpatient care was 25
- The average length of stay in inpatient care was 49 days
- None of the admissions had previously been receiving Adult Social Services
- 25% were known to LPFT mainstream mental health services

An analysis of findings by the Lincolnshire TCP has found that there are high numbers of young autistic adults being admitted to mainstream acute mental health provision. Further analysis is required to develop a deeper understanding of whether or not there is an issue in relation to autistic people having difficulty accessing mainstream Mental Health Services.

Some gaps have been identified in the risk register process and with a lack of assurance in the ASD Liaison Service, and the Lincolnshire TCP have agreed actions to resolve these issues.

The review and analysis of the Transforming Care cases has found no obvious correlation between a lack of provision in services and the increased likelihood of admission into inpatient care. However, there may be issues around very complex cases where people do not 'fit' into a clear diagnostic category and could, therefore, fall between the gaps in terms of receiving services, which, again, needs to be explored and resolved.

The work being undertaken by the Lincolnshire TCP complements what we intend to deliver in this autism strategy and specific actions are included within section 12 of the strategy action plan.

Developments for children and young people

The Women and Children's Joint Delivery Board have commissioned a review of the autism diagnostic pathway for children and young people. This has recommended that the CCG's consider commissioning a multi-agency diagnostic pathway which is informed by the NICE guidance and evidence of best practice. Work is taking place collaboratively between the providers and commissioners to develop an agreed model based on a specification which has been developed following input from a wide range of stakeholders. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in time to be reflected in the CCG's commissioning intentions for 2019/20 with improvements in the pathway being introduced incrementally between now and April 2020 when we hope the full pathway will be operational.

Most young people with autism receive their education in mainstream schools, usually close to where they live. For some young people they need to have specialist support provided through a Special School. The 'Building Communities of Specialist Provision Together in Lincolnshire: A Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Lincolnshire' was published in November 2018.

The strategy will enable Lincolnshire pupils with SEND to access an integrated and collaborative 'all needs' education system, which provides excellent education, health care and support interventions. The aim of the strategy is to *'Establish an integrated school system where children and young people get the right health, care and education, in the right place, at the right time, as close as possible to where they live'*.

Many families report that young people, often those with autism, find difficulty with long journeys. Around 70% of pupils attending Special Schools in the county do not attend their nearest school and for 36% their daily round-trip commute can be between 20 and 80 miles per day. Just over half (51%) of pupils that are placed in Out of County educational settings have autism as their primary educational need. Their placement in an out of area setting is usually because local Special Schools have been unable to meet their needs and this has often been because the current buildings and facilities of the Special Schools have not had the appropriate spaces to support young people with complex autism. Parents have described the negative impact that this has on the family and have indicated that they would prefer their young people to be educated close to home.

The strategy builds on the excellent provision that already exists in Lincolnshire Special Schools and includes a significant capital investment to re-model the schools to ensure that they have the facilities and the resources to meet the majority of needs of young people that require specialist provision. All pupils, including those with autism, will be able to attend a Special School in their community. The strategy also includes the development of satellite hubs on mainstream sites. They will be staffed by Special School practitioners and will allow young people that are ready to access a mainstream curriculum to do so with the support of the specialist staff. There are young people with autism that are able to access a wider mainstream curriculum but have difficulty in managing the mainstream environment. This strategy provides the opportunity to access the wider curriculum with the support they need.

Grant funding from the Department for Education will enable the Local Authority to work with education settings and employers to enhance the provision of Supported Internships. This extended initiative will provide opportunities for young people, including those who are autistic, to consider a Supported Internship as part of their preparation for adulthood and a route into paid employment.

Autism Statutory Guidance requirements

Since the implementation of the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have released four Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF) exercises. All local authorities in England are requested to respond to this to enable the Government to monitor progress across the country in achieving the goals identified in the national strategy.

The process also allows local authorities (and the local Autism Partnership Boards) across the country to review progress locally and support future planning. It should be noted that the questions within the SAF relate only to adults unless otherwise stated, in line with responsibilities under the Autism Act and the national strategy.

The self-assessment exercise comprises a number of themed questions covering the key topics within the national strategy. These include;

- **Planning** – Local planning and leadership in relation to the provision of services for autistic adults
- **Training** – Training of staff who provide services to autistic adults
- **Diagnosis** – Identification and diagnosis of autism for adults, leading to assessment of needs for relevant services
- **Care & Support** – Preventative support and safeguarding in line with the Care Act 2014
- **Housing & Accommodation** – Reasonable adjustments and equality for autistic adults in relation to housing
- **Employment** – Supporting autistic people around employment
- **Criminal Justice System** – Working with the criminal justice system

The majority of questions consist of a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating system to score the level of performance at that particular time against specific criteria. In addition, each topic area includes a series of Yes/No questions, which are worded so that 'Yes' is deemed to be the preferable response.

The latest Autism SAF was completed in 2018 and builds on the previous exercise released by the DHSC in 2016. It should be noted that the questions set by the DHSC within each self-assessment tend to be altered or modified each time (along with the addition of new questions), so it is difficult to make direct comparisons with the year-on-year results, as the questions are not identical.

The following information provides a summary of the responses submitted by Lincolnshire for the questions released in the last two autism self-assessment exercises (2016 and 2018);

	2016 Responses						
Section	Red	Amber	Green		Yes	No	Total
Planning	1	6	4		7	0	18
Training	1	1	0		5	3	10
Diagnosis	2	2	5		1	2	12
Care & Support	0	1	3		0	2	6
Housing & Accommodation	1	0	0		0	1	2
Employment	0	2	0		0	0	2
Criminal Justice System	0	1	1		0	0	2
Total	5	13	13		13	8	52

Based on these overall figures for 2016, it shows that for half of the questions we were performing well at that time (the total for the responses in the two green columns) and the questions where it was highlighted that further improvement was required (the two red columns) makes up a quarter of the total amount.

	2018 Responses						
Section	Red	Amber	Green		Yes	No	Total
Planning	1	7	4		8	1	21
Training	0	2	0		5	3	10
Diagnosis	3	3	3		1	2	12
Care & Support	0	1	3		4	0	8
Housing & Accommodation	1	0	0		0	1	2
Employment	0	2	1		1	0	4
Criminal Justice System	0	1	1		0	0	2
Total	5	16	12		19	7	59

Although the number of questions increased for the 2018 exercise (and some questions were modified), the overall picture has generally remained the same as the results for 2016, in that half of our responses were positive (Green), while a quarter are still negative (Red). A key area to note is that for the theme of Diagnosis, performance has deteriorated since the previous Autism Self-Assessment exercise, as the waiting time for an adult diagnostic assessment is no longer meeting recommended levels.

For the questions in the response where it has been identified that further improvement is required (Red), details have been incorporated into the strategy action plan and are highlighted within our priorities for the next three years.

Think Autism strategy governance refresh and review of the national strategy

In April 2018, the government published a *Think Autism strategy governance refresh* policy document, which clarified activities required to deliver the intended outcomes of the national strategy and who is responsible for it. This has come about following agreement with stakeholders that, in some areas, progress to implement the strategy has not been as quick as originally envisaged.

A revised governance model to oversee implementation of the strategy has been established, which centres on 19 overarching strategic objectives, grouped into five domains. Each domain will have a Task and Finish Group, which will be responsible for coordinating the delivery of the relevant objectives and tracking progress of actions, as per the details below;

Domain Name	Task & Finish Group Lead
1: Measuring, Understanding and Reporting Needs of Autistic People	Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
2: Workforce Development	Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) / Health Education England (HEE)
3: Health, Care and Wellbeing	NHS England (NHSE)
4: Specific Support	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
5: Participation in Local Community	Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)

A new Executive Group will oversee the progress of these five Task and Finish Groups and will then report annually to a meeting chaired by a DHSC Minister. The revised governance model is expected to help drive progress in achieving the aims and objectives of the current Think Autism Strategy.

In late 2018 it was announced that a formal review of the national strategy will be completed during 2019 to help inform development of a refreshed version of the strategy. Timescales for this work coincide with it marking 10 years since the Autism Act was introduced.

A major element of this refresh is that the government have committed to extending the national autism strategy to include children and young people. This is a significant step and as part of the review the government will be collecting evidence from autistic children, families and their carers on how to improve the current levels of support.

Our refreshed local all-age autism strategy for Lincolnshire will ensure that the objectives set out under the new national governance model are taken into account as part of our 3-year action plan. We will also conduct an annual review of our priorities to ensure that they reflect any key requirements arising from the forthcoming national strategy refresh.

15 Priority Challenges for Action

The national adult autism strategy, *Think Autism*, introduced a set of 15 Priority Challenges for Action. These were developed by autistic people, their families and professionals and they provide a platform to highlight the key issues that need to be delivered to meet the requirements of the Autism Act.

The LAPB agreed that these challenges should form the basis of our strategy in Lincolnshire and be the key focus in terms of developing our intentions for the next three years. We have localised the challenges to take into account our current position, as well as listening to autistic members involved in our Partnership, who said that they would prefer them written as 'We' rather than 'I' statements. The 15 Priority Challenges for Action are as follows;

An equal part of our local community

- 1. We want to be accepted for who we are within our local community and for people to have an awareness and acceptance of autism.**
- 2. We want our views and aspirations to be taken into account when decisions are made in Lincolnshire and to know that services and support here is as good as other places in the country.**
- 3. We want to know how to connect with other people and have access to local autism peer support.**
- 4. We want the everyday services we use to know how to make reasonable adjustments to meet our individual needs and for staff to be aware and accepting of autism.**
- 5. We want to be safe in our community and free from the risk of discrimination, hate and hate crime, and abuse.**
- 6. We want to be seen as individuals and for our gender, sexual orientation and race to be taken into account.**

The right support at the right time during our lifetime

- 7. We want a timely diagnosis from trained professionals and information and support throughout the pre and post-diagnostic process.**
- 8. We want good information about autism needs to be maintained in the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, so that person-centred health, care and support services is available for autistic people.**
- 9. We want staff in health and social care services to understand autism and how this affects us as an individual.**
- 10. We want to know that our family and carers can get help and support when they need it.**

- 11. We want services to understand how autism affects us differently and to be supported through various life changes, such as transition from school, getting older or when a person close to us dies.**
- 12. We want people to recognise our autism and adapt the support they provide based on any additional needs we have, such as a mental health problem, a learning disability or if we communicate through behaviours which others may find challenging.**
- 13. If we are a victim of crime or break the law, we want the criminal justice system to think about autism and how to work well with other services.**

Developing our skills and independence and working to the best of our ability

- 14. We want the same opportunities as everyone else to enhance our skills, to be empowered by services and to be as independent as possible.**
- 15. We want support to get a job and support from our employer to help keep it.**

What are our priorities for the next 3 years?

We have an ambitious vision for Lincolnshire, in that it includes expanding on the national adult strategy and working towards achieving fulfilling and rewarding lives for autistic people of all ages. It is recognised the first local autism strategy we launched for the county in 2015 was very aspirational and that there are still elements of the original action plan yet to be achieved or worked upon.

As stated, we have agreed to make the 15 Priority Challenges for Action the focal point of our refreshed strategy. However, it is acknowledged that this encompasses a number of different themes and elements that need to be delivered. Therefore, we have engaged with stakeholders to identify which of these challenges they rate as the most important in order to help us determine what issues we should prioritise within our strategy action plan.

This engagement highlighted the following as being the top five most important issues out of the 15 Priority Challenges for Action;

- 7 Getting a timely diagnosis and support throughout the process**
- 4 Everyday services make reasonable adjustments and staff are aware of autism**
- 11 Support through transitions and other major life changes**
- 12 Recognising an individual's autism and adapting support for additional needs and challenging behaviour**
- 10 Making sure family/carers get the help and support they need**

We will make a concerted effort to ensure that these issues are at the forefront when delivering our local autism strategy and that they take precedence when agreeing tasks and timescales that we wish to achieve within the action plan detailed in this document.

Our strategy action plan will also address the 12 questions within the 2018 Autism Self-Assessment Framework for which Lincolnshire is currently rated as Red, as these are seen as priority areas to progress and resolve.

The 19 objectives that have been identified in the '*Think Autism strategy governance refresh*' have also been detailed within the strategy action plan in order to ensure that they have a bearing on the work we do to implement our local autism strategy.

Additionally, there are key pieces of work in progress since the launch of our first local autism strategy that will need to continue and be further developed. Some or all of these are likely to have a beneficial impact on the key priorities outlined above, and include;

- Roll-out of the Autism Reasonable Adjustments Mark to a range of services (this has already been piloted with Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)
- Further roll-out of Autism Champions and the introduction of a multi-agency Network
- Further improvements and developments to the local Autism Information Hub
- Increasing community involvement/networks through the A-Team, Lived Experience Forum, Lincolnshire Young Voices and local peer support groups
- Improving recording mechanisms, data collation and analysis of autism cases across partner organisations and completion of the annual review of the Autism JSNA
- Development of an overarching multi-agency autism training plan – working with partner organisations to ensure they embed their own individual plans and promotion of training to wider services, businesses and the community sector
- Specific work with partners to improve issues in the following areas;
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - Criminal Justice Service
 - Access to Mental Health Services

We will also await further specific detail on the NHS Long Term Plan, which commits to;

- Reduce preventable deaths
- Pilot health checks for autistic adults
- Improve community mental health support and suicide prevention
- Reduce diagnostic waiting times for children
- Halve the number of people with learning disabilities and/or autism in inpatient care
- Provide more training for NHS staff on autism
- Ensure all local services make reasonable adjustments for autistic people
- Increase volunteering and internship opportunities for autistic people

The successful delivery of Lincolnshire's All-Age Autism Strategy to support autistic people and their families/carers will rely on the participation and support of a range of multi-agency partners, including local authorities, NHS organisations, education, mainstream public services, businesses, community and voluntary sectors.

With this in mind, the LAPB will be asking partners to sign up to a Commitment Statement to ensure that they embed this strategy within their own internal practices and consider their role in helping to support the needs of autistic people.

The Strategy Action Plan will be reviewed and updated annually by the LAPB to make sure it remains fit for purpose.

Lincolnshire's All-Age Autism Strategy – Action Plan (2019-2022)

Key to the Action Plan:

The national Priority Challenges for Action identified locally as being the five most important issues in Lincolnshire have been marked in **Blue**.

The key areas to improve identified by the 2016 Autism SAF exercise have been marked in **Orange** and allocated under the appropriate Priority Challenge for Action.

The 19 objectives arising from the new *Think Autism strategy governance refresh* have been marked in **Purple** and allocated under the appropriate Priority Challenge for Action.

	National Priority Challenges for Action & Local Key Tasks	Key Strategic Programme / Lead Agency	Target Date	Measurable Outcomes
1.	We want to be accepted for who we are within our local community and for people to have an awareness and acceptance of autism.			
1.1	Roll out of Autism Champions – detailed in section 4.3	Awareness & Training	Mar 2022	See section 4.3
1.2	Development and implementation of a multi-agency autism training plan – detailed in section 4.4	Awareness & Training	Mar 2022	See section 4.4
2.	We want our views and aspirations to be taken into account when decisions are made in Lincolnshire and to know that services and support here is as good as other places in the country.			
2.1	Increase engagement and participation of autistic people in the LAPB, specifically through the A-Team Network and the Lived Experience Forum, to inform decision making and help co-produce change.	Involvement & Collaboration	Mar 2022	
2.2	Forge closer relationships with local peer support groups – LAPB members to visit the peer support groups annually to build closer links.	Involvement & Collaboration	Mar 2022	Peer support groups sign up to the LAPB Commitment Statement
2.3	Review Autism SAF results to monitor our response in comparison to the national / regional position and progress made against identified	Data & Information	Sep 2019	Report to be submitted to the Partnership Board

	improvements – the DHSC are conducting the Autism SAF exercise in Autumn 2018 with results due to be published by March 2019.			
2.4	Autism SAF: Does your local autism partnership board have an autistic chair or co-chair?	Involvement & Collaboration	Mar 2020	Incorporate as part of the review of the Terms of Reference for the LAPB
2.5	National Governance Objective: Participation in local planning and Health & Wellbeing Strategy implementation.	ADASS	Awaiting national targets	
3.	We want to know how to connect with other people and have access to local autism peer support.			
3.1	Further development of the Autism Information Hub – detailed in section 10.1	Service Provision	Mar 2020	See section 10.1
3.2	Better support from key organisations to help promote and sustain local peer groups – the development of a Managed Care Network for Autism has been agreed.	Involvement & Collaboration / LCC Adult Care	Mar 2020	Implement Managed Care Network scheme and allocation of funding to successful bids
4.	We want the everyday services we use to know how to make reasonable adjustments to meet our individual needs and for staff to be aware and accepting of autism.			
4.1	Forge relationships with public services (district councils, transport operators, businesses, supermarkets, heritage and leisure services, etc.) to build knowledge and awareness of autism across all sectors.	Involvement & Collaboration	Mar 2020	Sign up to the LAPB Commitment Statement
4.2	Roll out of the Autism Reasonable Adjustments Mark (RAM) – A project plan is in place, which includes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of administrative processes and duties • A promotional event to raise the profile of the scheme • Targeted work with specific services, such as Speech & Language and Occupational Therapy assessments, local housing offices and GP Practices • Further development of the scheme to incorporate general council services, community settings and the business sector 	Service Provision	Mar 2022	Matrix of key stakeholders to target services and monitor achievement of the RAM; Year 1 – 10 services Year 2 – 20 services Year 3 – 30 services (targets to be reviewed annually)

4.3	<p>Roll out of Autism Champions – Work has initially been completed to launch this within schools and across health and social care but is not limited to these areas. Further development includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series of launch events for specific organisations and service areas • Provision of training opportunities to ensure Autism Champions have a sufficient level of autism knowledge and understanding • Formation of an Autism Champions Network and introduction of focus groups to promote peer support and share good practice • Work with a range of public services, community settings, businesses, supermarkets, etc. to introduce Autism Champions across a range of everyday services 	Awareness & Training	Mar 2022	<p>Matrix of key stakeholders to target services and monitor roll out of Autism Champions;</p> <p>Year 1 – Schools, LCC, NHS organisations</p> <p>Year 2 – Mainstream public services, care providers</p> <p>Year 3 – Businesses, supermarkets</p>
4.4	<p>Development and implementation of a multi-agency autism training plan – Ensure that key stakeholder organisations have clear and appropriate autism training pathways and development for their staff, share training resources where this is possible, and monitor progress in delivering the plan to ensure accountability.</p>	Awareness & Training	Mar 2022	<p>Matrix of key stakeholders to set autism training targets for services;</p> <p>Year 1 – Sign up to plan</p> <p>Year 2 – 50% completed</p> <p>Year 3 – 95% completed</p>
4.5	Autism SAF: Have reasonable adjustments been made to general council services to improve access and support for autistic people?	Service Provision / LCC / District Councils	Mar 2020	Target services to complete RAM scheme via matrix of key stakeholders
4.6	Autism SAF: Can people diagnosed as autistic and without a learning disability access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted speech and language therapy assessments?	Service Provision / CCG's	Mar 2020	Target these services to complete RAM scheme via matrix of key stakeholders
4.7	Autism SAF: Can people diagnosed as autistic and without a learning disability access post diagnostic specific or reasonably adjusted occupational therapy assessments?	Service Provision / CCG's / LCC	Mar 2020	Target these services to complete RAM scheme via matrix of key stakeholders
4.8	National Governance Objective: Widespread use of tailored communication methods and recognition of sensory, communication and environmental needs.	NHSE	Awaiting national targets	

4.9	National Governance Objective: Reasonable adjustments enable people to access public services.	ADASS	Awaiting national targets	
5.	We want to be safe in our community and free from the risk of discrimination, hate and mate crime, and abuse.			
5.1	Work in conjunction with the Police / CJS / Safer Lincolnshire Partnership members regarding initiatives they are implementing, such as alert cards, staying safe projects, hate/mate crime initiatives, etc.	Service Provision / Police / CJS / Safer Lincolnshire Partnership	Mar 2022	
5.2	Roll out of Autism Champions – detailed in section 4.3 (specific work required regarding awareness throughout the community)	Awareness & Training	Mar 2022	See section 4.3
6.	We want to be seen as individuals and for our gender, sexual orientation and race to be taken into account.			
6.1	Conduct data analysis and research around autistic females in Lincolnshire to identify any particular issues in terms of access to services and any specific changes (including additional training) that may be required.	Data & Information	Mar 2022	See section 7.5 – include as part of an annual review of assessment and diagnostic rates
6.2	Conduct data analysis and research on the BAME population in Lincolnshire to identify any particular issues in terms of access to services for autistic individuals and any specific changes (including additional training) that may be required.	Data & Information	Mar 2022	See section 7.5 – include as part of an annual review of assessment and diagnostic rates
6.3	Person-centred approaches – identify specific/specialised support services that can help individuals with particular issues they may encounter regarding gender, sexual orientation and race, and ensure that these services have an awareness of autism.	Service Provision	Mar 2022	
7.	We want a timely diagnosis from trained professionals and information and support throughout the pre and post-diagnostic process.			
7.1	Develop and implement a revised Children's Autism Diagnostic Pathway – a steering group has been created to develop a new service specification and will be responsible for procuring a new service.	Service Provision / LCC Children's Services / CCG's	Mar 2020	Service targets will be set as part of developing the new service specification

7.2	Develop and introduce a proposed Autism Parent Training Programme to better support families with understanding autism following the diagnosis of a child – a business case will be produced seeking approval for the allocation of resources to address this unmet need.	Awareness & Training	Mar 2020	Business case to include evidence of unmet need – once determined, targets will be set to address the required support needs
7.3	Review the current Adult Autism Diagnostic Pathway to ensure that it is capable of meeting the significant increase in demand for this service.	Service Provision / CCG's / LPFT	Mar 2020	Service targets will be set as part of the review of the current pathway
7.4	Introduction of post-diagnostic support (information, signposting to support, etc.) provided to adults following completion of the assessment and diagnosis process conducted by LPFT.	Service Provision / LPFT	Mar 2020	
7.5	Introduce clear processes to record data related to assessment and diagnostic numbers and outcomes as part of both the children's and adults' diagnostic pathways, and analyse and review the data annually.	Data & Information / CCG's	Mar 2020	Annual report submitted to the Partnership Board analysing service demand and performance, and to review future targets
7.6	Ensure that details about the diagnostic pathways, for both children and adults, are available and communicated on the Autism Information Hub.	Service Provision	Mar 2020	
7.7	Ensure that autistic people without a learning disability have access to the same level of clinical support – a review of the service specification between the CCG's and LPFT will be completed to determine what is needed in terms of service provision.	Service Provision / CCG's / LPFT	Mar 2020	Collate feedback from service users as part of the review – complete annually to monitor access to support
7.8	Autism SAF: When will your area be able to meet NICE recommended waiting time (for adult diagnostic assessment) and expect to be able to keep within them?	Service Provision / CCG's / LPFT	Mar 2020	See section 7.7 – include as part of the CCG / LPFT service specification review
7.9	Autism SAF: In your local diagnostic pathway does a diagnosis of autism automatically trigger an offer of a care assessment (or re-assessment if the person already had a current Care Act assessment)?	Service Provision / CCG'S / LCC Adult Care	Mar 2020	See section 7.5 – include as part of an annual review of assessment and diagnostic rates
7.10	Autism SAF: Is post-diagnostic adjustment support available with local clinical psychology or other services for those people diagnosed as	Service Provision / CCG'S	Mar 2020	See section 7.7 – include as part of the CCG / LPFT

	autistic and without a learning disability?			service specification review
7.11	National Governance Objective: Awareness of diagnosis waiting times and post diagnostic outcomes, with focus to include older people and under diagnosis of women and children.	DHSC	Awaiting national targets	
7.12	National Governance Objective: Timely access to adult autism diagnosis.	NHSE	Awaiting national targets	
8.	We want good information about autism needs to be maintained in the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, so that person-centred health, care and support services is available for autistic people.			
8.1	Annual review of the Autism JSNA topic.	Data & Information	Annually	Scheduled for completion annually by December
8.2	Continued work to request, collate and analyse data from different sources to build up a better picture of autism needs in Lincolnshire.	Data & Information	Mar 2022	
8.3	Influence Public Health commissioners to develop a clear health and wellbeing offer for autistic people and monitor that key priorities within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy take into account of their needs.	Data & Information / Service Provision / Public Health	Mar 2022	Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy considers the views of the LAPB as an expert panel
8.4	Review data and recording mechanisms within educational settings to ensure accurate and consistent reporting is gathered regarding pupils with autism to help analyse this demographic – a specific Task & Finish Group has been established by Children's Services to work on this.	Data & Information / LCC Children's Services	Mar 2022	Outcomes will be set by the Task & Finish Group.
8.5	National Governance Objective: Widespread interpretation of social care return data to support the autism strategy.	DHSC	Awaiting national targets	
8.6	National Governance Objective: Research conducted into causes of life expectancy gap and best interventions to address these, benchmarking what are effective mental health interventions for autistic people.	DHSC	Awaiting national targets	

9.	We want staff in health and social care services to understand autism and how this affects us as an individual.			
9.1	Development and implementation of a multi-agency autism training plan – detailed in section 4.4	Awareness & Training	Mar 2022	See section 4.4
9.2	Roll out of Autism Champions – detailed in section 4.3	Awareness & Training	Mar 2022	See section 4.3
9.3	Roll out of the Autism Reasonable Adjustments Mark (RAM) – detailed in section 4.2	Service Provision	Mar 2022	See section 4.2
9.4	National Governance Objective: GP's aware of patient's condition (establishment of Autism Register)	DHSC	Awaiting national targets	
9.5	National Governance Objective: Health and care staff, and staff in organisations with public facing responsibilities, who provide general support to autistic adults, have appropriate knowledge of the condition.	DHSC / HEE	Awaiting national targets	
9.6	National Governance Objective: Health and care staff, and staff in organisations with public facing responsibilities, who have a direct impact on, and make decisions about, the lives of autistic adults have appropriate specialist knowledge of the condition.	DHSC / HEE	Awaiting national targets	
10.	We want to know that our family and carers can get help and support when they need it.			
10.1	Development of the Autism Information Hub – Our aim is for the Hub to be the initial point of access for autistic people, their families and professionals when requiring information and advice regarding autism, services and support. Funding has been agreed to commission a resource to develop the website and ensure ongoing management, update and maintenance of the information available.	Service Provision	Mar 2020	Year 1 – 10% increase in website usage Year 2 – 25% increase Year 3 – 50% increase
10.2	More collaborated work with the lead commissioners for the Carer's Service (Carers First) and local carers/autism support groups to	Involvement & Collaboration / Public Health	Mar 2020	

	develop a wider offer of support, including addressing the needs of aging carers and helping carers to remain or return to employment.			
11.	We want services to understand how autism affects us differently and to be supported through various life changes, such as transition from school, getting older or when a person close to us dies.			
11.1	Roll out of Autism Champions – detailed in section 4.3	Awareness & Training	Mar 2022	See section 4.3
11.2	Development and implementation of a multi-agency autism training plan – detailed in section 4.4	Awareness & Training	Mar 2022	See section 4.4
11.3	A Transitions Protocol will be developed to assist young people with additional needs in their preparation for adulthood – this aims to make the process more seamless, improve the information offer and to review and develop a multi-agency pathway that supports young people moving into adulthood.	Service Provision / LCC Children's Services / Adult Care	Mar 2020	
11.4	Autism SAF: Do you have specific training that focuses on autistic adults over the age of 65?	Awareness & Training	Mar 2020	See section 4.4 – include as part of the matrix of key stakeholders, specific training targets for staff working in older people's services
11.5	National Governance Objective: Appropriate support to identify and follow aspirations when transitioning from education.	DWP	Awaiting national targets	
11.6	National Governance Objective: Successful transition of people preparing for adulthood across education, health, employment and social care spheres (participation in employment considered in needs assessments and care and planning process takes account of work opportunities).	ADASS	Awaiting national targets	

12.	We want people to recognise our autism and adapt the support they provide based on any additional needs we have, such as a mental health problem, a learning disability or if we communicate through behaviours which others may find challenging.			
12.1	Development and implementation of a multi-agency autism training plan – detailed in section 4.4 (this will need to incorporate specialist autism training for appropriate services/professionals)	Awareness & Training	Mar 2022	See section 4.4
12.2	Implementation of the local Transforming Care Plan	Service Provision / CCG's / LCC Adult Care	Mar 2020	NHS England targets in place to reduce the number of people requiring inpatient care
12.3	Review the ASD Liaison Service and activity, and undertake a deep dive of LD community services to include the effectiveness of the Community Home Assessment and Treatment Service	Service Provision / CCG's / LPFT	Mar 2020	Part of the Lincolnshire TCP action plan
12.4	Establish a Psychiatric Clinical Decisions Unit pathway for all proposed autism patient admissions to Psychiatric Intensive Care Units or Acute Psychiatric beds	Service Provision / CCG's / LPFT	Mar 2020	Part of the Lincolnshire TCP action plan
12.5	Open Crisis House admissions to adults with learning disabilities and autism	Service Provision / CCG's / LPFT	Mar 2020	Part of the Lincolnshire TCP action plan
12.6	National Governance Objective: Timely and appropriate mental health support.	NHSE	Awaiting national targets	
13.	If we are a victim of crime or break the law, we want the criminal justice system to think about autism and how to work well with other services.			
13.1	Improve and increase stakeholder participation from the CJS within the LAPB, and work closer with Safer Lincolnshire Partnership agencies.	Involvement & Collaboration / CJS	Mar 2020	Sign up to the LAPB Commitment Statement
13.2	Implement autism training, Autism Champions and the Autism RAM scheme within the CJS – see details in sections 4.2 – 4.4	Awareness & Training / Service Provision	Mar 2022	See sections 4.2 – 4.4

13.3	Autism SAF: Criminal Justice Services – Do staff in the local court services engage in autism awareness training?	Awareness & Training / CJS	Mar 2020	See section 4.4 – include as part of the matrix of key stakeholders, specific training targets for staff in local court services
13.4	Autism SAF: Criminal Justice Services – Do staff in the local probation service engage in autism awareness training?	Awareness & Training / CJS	Mar 2020	See section 4.4 – include as part of the matrix of key stakeholders, specific training targets for staff in the local probation service
13.5	National Governance Objective: Specific support available to people within the criminal justice system.	CJS / DWP	Awaiting national targets	
14.	We want the same opportunities as everyone else to enhance our skills, to be empowered by services and to be as independent as possible.			
14.1	Promote opportunities for autistic people to improve their personal development and access help with life skills, etc. – a key action within LCC Adult Care is to help make care and support more personalised and based on peoples' own strengths.	Service Provision / LCC Adult Care	Mar 2022	
14.2	Improve housing support for autistic people and ensure their needs are specifically identified in local housing strategies – a local Accommodation Strategy for those people requiring specialist adult services is planned for development, which will include meeting the needs of people within the Transforming Care cohort.	Service Provision / Public Health / LCC / District Councils	Mar 2022	Targets to be set once Strategy has been developed – expected launch is Mar 2019
14.3	Autism SAF: Does the local housing strategy and/or market position statement specifically identify autism?	Service Provision / LCC / District Councils	Mar 2022	See section 14.2 – local Accommodation Strategy to be developed
14.4	Autism SAF: Do you have a policy 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?	Service Provision / District Councils	Mar 2020	See section 4.4

14.5	National Governance Objective: Preventative support in line with the Care Act 2014.	NHSE	Awaiting national targets	
14.6	National Governance Objective: Easy access to public transport.	DWP	Awaiting national targets	
14.7	National Governance Objective: Access to an appropriate range of accommodation options.	ADASS	Awaiting national targets	
15.	We want support to get a job and support from our employer to help keep it.			
15.1	A Specialist Tailored Employment Partnership project is currently being developed to promote employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities / autism / mental health conditions – service due to commence in 2019 following completion of a tender exercise.	Service Provision / LCC Adult Care	Mar 2022	Project Year 1 target; minimum of 5.6% of adult care service users with learning disabilities/autism in paid employment
15.2	The DWP Work and Health Programme was launched in January 2018 which aims to identify and support those people who may require additional 1:1 assistance in their attempts to gain employment.	Service Provision / DWP	Mar 2022	
15.3	Work alongside partners on other local employment projects/initiatives to increase opportunities for paid employment and vocational work, and ensure that Transitions Pathways support employment opportunities.	Service Provision	Mar 2022	Outcomes to be set within individual projects
15.4	National Governance Objective: Easy access to, and positive experience of, employment and benefits pathways.	DWP	Awaiting national targets	
15.5	National Governance Objective: Support is provided to autistic people to help them retain employment and support them in their work setting.	DWP	Awaiting national targets	

Glossary of abbreviations

ADASS	Association of Directors of Adult Social Services
ASC	Autism Spectrum Condition
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicities
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CJS	Criminal Justice System
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care
DSM	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
GP	General Practitioner
HEE	Health Education England
ICL	International Classification of Diseases
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LAPB	Lincolnshire Autism Partnership Board
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
LPFT	Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
NHSE	National Health Service England
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
PANSI	Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information Systems
POPPI	Projecting Older People Population Information
RAG	Red, Amber, Green rating system
RAM	Reasonable Adjustments Mark
SAF	Self-Assessment Framework
SALT	Short and Long Term data
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability
STP	Sustainability and Transformation Plan
TCP	Transforming Care Partnership

