



## **THE SCOTTISH BORDERS AUTISM STRATEGY**

### **Aim**

1.1 To acquire approval for the local autism strategy and delivery plan which take forward the recommendations as highlighted in the national autism strategy as well as identifying a planned approach to addressing the 7 priority areas highlighted within the local Borders service map.

### **Background**

2.1 The 'Same As You?' report was published in 2000; reviewing services for people with a learning disability. The report acknowledged and referenced autism, in part, including Asperger Syndrome. 29 recommendations were made, including:-

- Establishment of "Partnership in Practice" agreements;
- Development of a National ASD network;
- Right to a "personal life plan" if desired.

2.2 As a result the PHIS (Public Health Institute Scotland) report was produced in 2001 which contained 32 recommendations. These included how to approach the commissioning of autism services.

2.3 More recently the Scottish Government has published the Scottish Strategy for Autism in 2011. This strategy has 26 recommendations around developing and delivering services for people with Autism. This strategy coincided with a national autism mapping project where we worked with our own mapping coordinator supplied by the SG to develop our local 'Service Map'.

2.4 Following the receipt of our local mapping data in October 2013 we commissioned the same mapping coordinator to help us develop our local strategy. This was resourced by money that each local authority received to support the development of their local strategy. This project has been reported on at the Autism Strategy Steering Group which has representation from health and social work as well as voluntary sector representatives. The service areas represented cover all age groups.

### **Summary**

3.1 The development of the strategy followed two phases of engagement. During the initial engagement phase a number of meetings with key individuals, teams and groups were held in order to discuss and agree the priority areas. These priority areas were identified by asking people what they thought was working well, what they thought needed improving and what they thought were the gaps. Themes within the responses received were pulled together and the 7 priority areas identified as a result.

3.2 During the second phase we developed a questionnaire which was available on line as well as in paper form and easy read versions asking for peoples' views about the priority areas. These responses were pulled to together and helped to shape a later draft of the strategy.

3.3 A final draft strategy and delivery plan (both attached) were brought to the Planning & Delivery Committee in April 2014 which launched a period of 3 months consultation which ended at the end of June 2014. (Consultation Response Grid is available on request).

3.4 Once it is established where accountability for the strategy and delivery plan will sit work will continue to establish a structure involving relevant officers across all organisations to support the work within the delivery plan. Lead officers in the plan will be established as part of this process. The strategy will be launched early in 2015.

## Recommendation

The Integration Shadow Board is asked to:

1. **Approve** the Scottish Borders Autism Strategy as recommended by the CHCP Planning & Delivery Committee at their meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014.
2. **Approve** the associated Delivery Plan.

<b>Policy/Strategy Implications</b>	The launch of the Scottish Borders Autism strategy will bring the Borders in line with national strategic priorities and developments in relation to the delivery of services for people with autism.
<b>Consultation</b>	A full three months consultation process has been followed including engagement with all relevant boards and stakeholders through a variety of means (note Consultation Response Grid is available on request).
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	A key action within the delivery plan is a detailed scoping of the current financial and resource allocation for people with autism. It has been identified early in the process that the majority of resources are currently allocated to people with autism who also have a learning disability with very little resource for people with high functioning autism such as Aspergers Syndrome.
<b>Compliance with requirements on Equality and Diversity</b>	A full Equality Impact Assessment will be carried. The developments proposed with this strategy and delivery plan will inevitably address current inequalities in accessing services.
<b>Resource/Staffing Implications</b>	Many of the developments detailed in the delivery plan focus on services and staff making small changes to the way services are delivered and staff perform through

	increased awareness and understanding.
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**Approved by**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Susan Manion	Chief Officer		

**Author(s)**

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