

## **Cover Sheet Autism Programme Board Papers**

### **Date of meeting**

22 October 2013

### **Attachment number**

APB(13)19

### **Title of paper**

Update on the draft national eligibility criteria for adult care and support and on sources of information/support available to everyone with autism irrespective of Fair Access Criteria (FAC)

### **Summary**

The paper provides an update on draft eligibility criteria for adult care and support.

To assist the discussion there will be an update at the meeting of the current engagement on a draft national minimum eligibility threshold for adult care and support.

### **Action required / recommendation**

For discussion. Views from Programme Board members on the support that people with autism receive will be useful ahead of the re-fresh of the strategy.

## **Update on the draft national eligibility criteria for adult care and support and on sources of information/support available to everyone with autism irrespective of Fair Access Criteria (FAC)**

1. The Adult Autism Strategy 2010 and its statutory guidance marked a great step forward for adults with autism in England. What it doesn't do however, is guarantee that everybody with a diagnosis of autism will receive support or services from local authorities.
2. Access to publicly funded care services is based on meeting the criteria set out in guidance known as Prioritising Need. Each local authority decides, according to their own resources, which people they can support. If your needs do not meet eligibility criteria set out by your local authority, you will not receive social care services. Nonetheless, you should be given information about what other support from charities or other community groups are available in your local area, and there may be low level support available.
3. The statutory guidance linked to the Adult Autism Strategy set out that when adults receive a diagnosis of autism, they should expect to be offered a social care assessment. People with autism or Asperger syndrome could no longer be refused an assessment or access to support because their IQ is too high and they do not have a learning disability. With training, community care assessors should have greater awareness and knowledge of autism and be able to better assess an individual's needs.
4. The NAS Push for Action research has shown that people's expectation of receiving care and support is much higher than what they are actually receiving based on their assessed care needs.
5. The local authority area self-assessment exercise has:
  - shown that specific training on autism has not always been provided to staff that carry out statutory assessments and that a diagnosis of autism does not automatically trigger an offer of a community care assessment, in all areas;
  - highlighted services and support that everyone with autism can access, whether they are FACS eligible or not.

## Discussion

6. Views from Programme Board members on the support that people with autism receive will be useful ahead of the re-fresh of the strategy. To assist the discussion there will be an update at the meeting of the current engagement on a draft national minimum eligibility threshold for adult care and support. The discussion document can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-national-eligibility-criteria-for-adult-care-and-support>

7.6. At **Annex A** below a summary has been compiled from the self assessment exercise of how people with autism access information services and the type of support that is available to everyone with autism, whether they are FACs eligible or not.

Autism Programme Board Secretariat

October 2013

## Annex A

### Question 28 - Do you have a single identifiable contact point where people with autism whether or not in receipt of statutory services can get information signposting autism friendly entry points for a wider range of local services?

A total of 102 Local Authorities out of 146 said they had a single point of contact including face to face, a telephone helpline or web based information. The responses of 132 Local Authorities were analysed further to see how this point of contact was provided.

Contact Point	Number of Local Authorities
Autism specific contact point	17
Autism specific contact point planned	11
General Adult Social Care contact point with onward referral to other services	50
General Adult Social Care contact point with onward referral to other services, where a specific mention of autism training having been provided	37
Arrangement/reliance on the general voluntary sector	3
Arrangement/reliance on autism voluntary sector	14

Question 32 – Can people with autism access support if they are non Fair Access Criteria eligible or not eligible for statutory services?

A total of 136 Local Authorities out of 145 provided information in relation to this question. 52 said they provided a sign posting service and 36 said they referred people to the autism voluntary sector. The following services were specifically mentioned in responses.

Type of service	Times mentioned by Local Authorities
Support with a specific tailored outcome	14
Welfare benefit advice	9
Provision of safe places	3
Housing/Tenancy support	18
Befriending	6
Provision of equipment	2
Support for family members/carers	21
Mentoring/counselling	5
Employment support	28
Leisure opportunities	13
Opportunities to volunteer	7
Short term visiting/floating support	7
Facilitated support/social groups	27
Life skills	17
Drop in sessions	10
Peer support	2
Advocacy	20