



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan

Annual report 2017/18



## Contents

	Page
Summary	2
Introduction	2
What we have done	4
What we were told	10
What we will do	11

### Appendices

- 1 Summary of the ASD Strategic Action Plan – Delivery Plan
2. ASD National Development Team - Summary of Work Plan 2018

# 1. Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan – Annual report 2017/18

## Summary

1.1 This first report on the delivery of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan 2016 responds to our commitment to provide an annual update on the progress we are making. The report discusses each of the three priority areas in the Strategic Action plan:

- Assessment and Diagnosis.
- Meeting Support Needs.
- Awareness Raising, Information and Training.

The report also follows the structure of the Strategic Action Plan by reviewing *What We Have Done*, responding to *What We Were Told* and by setting out *What We Will do*.

1.2 The table at appendix one provides a summary on progress against each action as set out in the delivery plan which accompanies the Strategic Action Plan. This report covers the period from November 2016 to March 2018 so that in future years the report aligns with the Welsh Government's operational year which is April to March.

## Introduction

1.3 In November 2016 the Welsh Government published the new Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan which was developed in response to what people with autism, their families and carers have said is important to them. The aim of the refreshed Strategic Action Plan is for:

**Children, young people and adults with autism and their family and carers to have their needs understood, and to be supported to achieve their well-being outcomes.**

1.4 In developing the Strategic Action Plan we worked with a wide range of stakeholders to identify key themes and priority actions which would make the greatest difference to the lives of children and adults with autism. Three priority areas were identified.

- Assessment and Diagnosis.
- Meeting Support Needs.
- Awareness Raising, Information and Training.

1.5 We are working with our partners to deliver the ambitious commitments we have made, investing £13 million in new integrated services. We are making good progress but recognise it will take time to deliver on all our plans to establish long lasting improvements. We will continue to monitor and review our progress, working with delivery agencies and autistic people to make sure the investments we are making actually achieve the outcomes autistic people want to see.

1.6 The key achievements in the first year of delivering the Strategic Action Plan are:

- To put in place a 26 week waiting time target for neurodevelopmental assessment, including ASD for children and young people. Data collection commenced in November 2017.
- Nationally agreed neurodevelopmental children and young people's diagnostic pathways and standards are in place and have been adopted by all health boards.
- The National Integrated Autism Service is being rolled out across Wales. It is open in Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf, Gwent and Powys, it will open shortly in North Wales and will be operational this year in Western Bay and West Wales.
- The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act was given Royal Assent in January 2017 and will be implemented in late 2019.
- We have established an ASD Implementation Advisory Group to monitor the progress and delivery of the Strategic Action Plan, which has met 5 times.
- The interim report of the independent evaluation of the Strategic Action Plan was published in January 2018, the evaluation will be completed by early 2019.
- Continuing support for the ASD National Development team, hosted by the Welsh Local Government Association and Public Health Wales, to support the delivery of the Strategic Action Plan, in particular the roll out of the Integrated Autism Service.

## **2. What We Have Done**

### Assessment and Diagnostic Services

#### *Children and Young People*

2.1 The Welsh Government recognises that families must have access to timely assessment and diagnostic services and in some areas waiting times have been too long. Since 2015, £2 million of additional funding has been provided each year to health boards to establish dedicated services for children and young people with neurodevelopmental conditions including autism and ADHD. This work has been taken forward by the Together for Children and Young People's neurodevelopmental work stream, which involves specialist clinicians and is informed by parents and carers.

2.2 A nationally agreed diagnostic pathway and standards were published in 2016, these were developed by clinicians to support equitable access to and the provision of neurodevelopmental services in Wales. Health boards are expected to adopt the pathways and report back to the Children and Young People's working group.

2.3 Further guidance to support the pathway is being published this summer, it will cover the functions of neurodevelopmental services and support, and advise on how neurodevelopmental teams can demonstrate the quality of their services and improve their understanding of the increasing demand for assessment and interventions.

2.4 To monitor improvements a new 26 week waiting time standard has been put in place, measuring waiting times from referral to first appointment, which is in line with other paediatric services. It is expected that 80% of first assessment appointments will be undertaken by 26 weeks. Health Boards have been reporting on this data since November 2017 when the pilot data collection was established. This 12 month test period will enable all parties to monitor data collection and reporting, to address any issues which may arise that will impact on the quality of the data provided for the future. After this time if the data is of sufficient quality it will be published on the Statistics Wales website.

#### *Adults*

2.5 We will learn lessons from the introduction of the children and young people's target in the proposed development of a similar adult waiting time standard. We acknowledge that setting a simple waiting time may not reflect the complexity of many referrals and as it is recommended that assessments are undertaken by multi-disciplinary agencies it can take time to ensure there is access to all the professionals who need to be involved. There are also questions about measuring quality of both referrals and assessments and we must be able to achieve a balance between focussing on numbers being diagnosed to ensuring there is then capacity amongst specialist staff to also offer pre and post diagnostic support where needed.

2.6 A new adult assessment service is being developed as a part of the national Integrated Autism service (IAS) in each region, and is discussed below. In addition to encouraging collaborative work across the IAS regions we have also established an adult diagnostic community of practice to bring together specialist practitioners across Wales to improve our approach to diagnostic services, this includes developing a national adult diagnostic assessment pathway and supporting improvements in diagnostic skills amongst clinicians.

### Meeting Support Needs

2.7 Children, young people and adults with autism and their carers will have different support needs at different times in their lives and according to their abilities and needs. Feedback from stakeholders has consistently shown three areas where improvements are necessary, where there are gaps in services across the age range. These are:

- Transforming additional learning needs education.
- Employment support.
- Health and social care.

#### *Transforming additional learning needs education*

2.8 We have introduced legislation which sets out a new system to support children and young people with additional learning needs, the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act creates a unified legal framework for Wales which will put learners, and their parents and carers at the heart of the process to identify and plan how to meet their needs. The transformed system will ensure that all learners with ALN are supported to overcome barriers to learning and can achieve their full potential. The planning and delivery of support for learners from 0 to 25 with ALN will be improved, placing learners' needs, views, wishes and feelings at the centre, focusing on the importance of identifying needs early and putting in place timely and effective interventions which are monitored and adapted to ensure they deliver the desired outcomes. The ALN Transformation programme also focuses on skills development for the education workforce, to deliver effective support to learners with ALN in the classroom, as well as easier access to specialist support, information and advice.

2.9 The National ASD Development team is working to support autism awareness in schools, in March 2016 the Learning with Autism primary school programme was launched, it takes a whole school approach to supporting pupils with autism. Programmes to support secondary school children and early years have also now been developed. More information on the programme can be found on the ASDinfoWales Website, [www.asdinfo.wales.co.uk](http://www.asdinfo.wales.co.uk) which supports the delivery of the Strategic Action Plan.

#### *Employment Support*

2:10 We acknowledge that many autistic adults can have difficulty in finding and maintaining employment. As part of our national approach to improving employment outcomes, the Welsh Government has recently published an Employability Plan. The plan takes action in four distinct themes; providing an individualised approach to employment support, underlining the responsibility of employers to support staff, closing skills gaps and preparing for a radically changing labour market. Individualised support gives advisers the autonomy and flexibility to address the needs, strengths and ambitions of the person preparing for work.

2:11 We want employability programmes to be accessible to all and are building in consideration of the impact of our programmes on those with protected characteristics which can include autistic people, during their design, roll out and evaluation. We will undertake an equalities review of our core programmes to ensure that their operations are inclusive and sensitive to the needs of people with additional support needs.

2:12 We recognise the broader structures and culture of workplaces will have a direct impact on the employability of disabled people or those with protected characteristics. In the Employability Plan we want to increase the number of employers who place emphasis on creating workplaces which are inclusive and supportive environments for disabled people and those with long-term health conditions. We will challenge employers to think creatively about how they design jobs and recruit people to fill them. We will also evaluate our Healthy Working Wales programme, and encourage more employers to provide access to mental health services to support those at risk of dropping out of work due to poor physical or mental health.

2:13 The Welsh Government also supports the Big Lottery funded, Getting Ahead 2 project, which is aimed at young people aged 16-25 with a learning disability/difficulty or ASD. The programme creates and supports long term youth employment opportunities by engaging young people and employers. It provides young people with the intensive support required to maintain sustained and meaningful employment. Further detailed information on the programme can be found on their website [www.engagetochange.org.uk](http://www.engagetochange.org.uk)

2:14 We are committed to developing a target to increase the number of disabled people into work. We will work with representative organisations to formulate this target, and will continue to consult and work in partnership with stakeholders to implement the actions in the plan more broadly.

2.15 The Welsh Government is playing our part in raising awareness of autism in the work place, we are introducing the Positive About Working with Autism programme and have established a staff support group for autistic colleagues and for parents and carers to help us adapt our workplace to meet their needs.



## *Health and Social Care*

### *The National Integrated Autism Service (IAS)*

2:16 The central commitment in the Strategic Action Plan has been the development and roll out of a new Integrated Autism Service backed by £13m of investment up to 2021. The introduction of this new service has enabled us to take forward many of the commitments in the Strategic Action Plan.

2:17 The IAS is an evidence based approach to address gaps in services identified by autistic people and their parents and carers. The phased roll out has been supported by the ASD National Development team. It is now open in Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf, Gwent, Powys, will open shortly in North Wales, it is currently in development in West Wales and Western Bay and will open later this operational year. Contact details for local services can be found on the ASDinfo Wales website. ([www.asdinfo.wales.co.uk](http://www.asdinfo.wales.co.uk))

2:18 The IAS takes a national approach to providing support and services for autistic people. It is a new service in addition to existing provision bringing together specialist practitioners and is aimed at addressing identified gaps in support. It is just one element in statutory and voluntary services which should be available for autistic people in their local areas. Responding to stakeholder feedback that autism services can be inconsistent in different parts of Wales, we have put in place an overarching national model which can provide adult diagnostic services and additional support for adults, children and parents to provide tailored assistance and support if it has not been available, particularly for those not eligible for statutory services. The IAS can also provide expert advice and guidance for other services to enable them to build their knowledge and experience so they can provide adapted support for autistic people in their specialism.

2:19 The rollout of the new service has been a challenging and exciting time, the Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Action plan has reviewed the first phase of the roll out and has commented that the service was very much welcomed but initially there were differing visions for the service across the regions which had to be resolved. As the service is established in the first regions and the remaining areas are in development we are benefitting from an increased pool of specialist staff who are now working collaboratively and co-productively with autistic people to seek continuous improvement in the service. We have established a national IAS Leads group to enable the teams to work together to develop the service at a national level, and to make sure the service responds to feedback from participants, so that it provides the support autistic people are seeking, whilst ensuring there is capacity to provide a needs led service. We are already receiving positive feedback about the impact of the service and are developing case studies which we will publish as part of the evaluation of the service.

2:20 Through the development of the IAS it has become clear that close links must be established and maintained with other agencies delivering support, particularly learning disability, mental health and social care services and with essential third sector organisations offering support. We will reinforce the links between services through promoting collaborative working and will develop intervention pathways to ensure that all agencies providing support for autistic people work together to develop a seamless and integrated system.

### Awareness Raising, Information and Training

#### *National ASD Development Team*

2:21 The first ASD Strategic Action Plan published in 2008 was very successful in raising awareness of autism, and this has been achieved through supporting the work of the National ASD Development team. This team has worked with practitioners and with autistic people to develop a wide range of highly acclaimed resources and training programmes to raise awareness of autism across many services and in the community. These resources are free to access on the ASDinfo Wales website, and many will be available through local leads and services. More information on the materials available can be found on the ASD info Wales website. [www.asdinfo Wales.co.uk](http://www.asdinfo Wales.co.uk)

Examples of the resources available include:

- The Can You See Me Campaign, which promotes understanding and acceptance of autism amongst communities, so that autistic people and their families are less likely to experience exclusion or stigma.
- The Learning with Autism Programme for primary and secondary schools and early years resource.
- To respond to potential work place difficulties, the Working with Autism scheme seeks to improve knowledge and understanding amongst employers so they are better able to make adaptations to support autistic people to have successful careers.

2:22 The National Development Team's has also published an annual report which can be found on the asdinfo Wales website. It demonstrates the breadth of work the team has undertaken, in the year 2017-18 the website attracted 509,058 website views and there were 112,008 visitors to the site.

2:23 The team host a range of training schemes, over the last year they have been rolled out across Wales and this will be a priority for 2018/19. They include:

- An autism awareness scheme :8,142 people completed in the year 2017-18, 24,219 in total since the scheme began.

- Learning with autism: 4,516 staff completed the scheme across all ages in 2017-18, 283 in early years, 3,474 in primary school and 759 in secondary schools. 7,229 staff have completed the scheme since it began.
- Autism superheroes: 12,945 people pledged to become superheroes in 2017-18 and there are now 18,100 in total.
- Health and social care scheme: 609 adults and children completed the scheme in 2017-18, 882 people have completed the scheme in total.
- Leisure scheme: 419 people completed the scheme in 2017-18, 438 number of people have completed in total.
- Working with Autism: 255 people completed the scheme in 2017-18, 1010 in total
- Positive about Working with Autism 169 people completed the scheme in 2017-18, 231 in total.

### **3. What we were told**

3.1 When we launched the new Strategic Action Plan we also established an independent evaluation to help us assess the progress we were making and reflect on where we may need to undertake further work. The People and Work Unit are undertaking this review, building on the evaluation they undertook for the first Strategic Action Plan. This work has a specific focus on the roll out of the Integrated Autism Service, the Interim Evaluation Report was published in March 2017 (<https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-integrated-autism-service-autistic-spectrum-disorder-strategic-action-plan/?lang=en>)

3.2 The Report has provided a valuable insight into the early development of the service in the first regions. One of the greatest barriers to delivering the service is the availability of suitably qualified and experienced staff to join the teams and for some regions this includes being able to attract staff to re-locate. In some regions this has necessitated adapting the teams to suit local circumstances. Regions also have to respond to the challenges of creating an integrated service across different sectors, building on existing services, for example in Gwent there are five local authorities working with the health board to develop and deliver the service.

3.3 We work closely with the evaluation team and are responding positively to the recommendations they have made. Reflecting the advice provided we have:

- Worked with regions still developing the IAS to learn lessons from the first phase of implementation, such as discussing the benefits of a project co-ordinator.
- Established an ASD IAS leads group to bring all regions together to collaborate in the future roll out and development of the IAS. This includes considering issues around demand, monitoring and data collection and alignment with other services offering support for autistic people.
- Continued with the ASD Leads forum bringing together local authorities and health boards to align existing services with the IAS and to promote collaborative working.
- Established a programme board to support the National ASD Development team, providing high level support and advice in relation to key decisions ensuring there is a balance between a national approach and local autonomy.

## 4. What we will do

4.1 In the first year of delivering the Strategic Action Plan we have made significant progress, achieving a solid foundation for the future. Our focus continues to be on delivering on the investment we have made to improve autism services so they are sustainable and can meet needs of autistic people in the long term.

4.2 We will continue to deliver our priorities supported by the ASD National Development Team, and are now seeking to consolidate the resources they have developed and delivered in recent years and to support autism services, including the voluntary sector to continue to improve by bringing practitioners together to share good practice and work collaboratively to improve outcomes. The high level priorities in the ASD Development team's work plan for 2018/19 is attached at appendix two and includes:

- Increasing use of existing training materials and resources.
- Training including development of new resources.
- Supporting further development and embedding of Integrated Autism Services.
- Facilitating networks, to promote collaboration and shared learning.
- Working with partners and stakeholders, including Welsh Government.

4.3 A key commitment this year is to renew links with partners and stakeholders and to develop an engagement strategy which focuses on co-production with autistic people. There will also be a national Autism Wales Conference hosted in partnership with other autism services to raise awareness of the support available and to support the future development of services.

4.4 We will also focus on developing a workable data collection approach to measure the impact of autism services. This includes developing robust approach to measuring the outcomes of new services which meets the needs of stakeholders including autistic people and organisations delivering autism services.

### *Autism Legislation*

4.5 We have carefully considered the merits of stand alone autism legislation and can understand the driver behind these proposals is to sustain the improvements we are making in autism services for the long term. Through the Strategic Action Plan and the roll out of the IAS we are now seeing significant improvements in services emerging and a renewed appetite for collaborative working across sectors. We want to focus all of our attention on delivering the services and support which can make a real difference to the lives of autistic people and their families.

4.6 At this time we do not believe the introduction of resource intensive and costly primary legislation is the best way to achieve improved outcomes for autistic people, who already have the same rights to access services and support as any other

citizen, through existing legislation including the Social Services and Well-being Wales Act 2014 and the NHS Act 2006 the Mental Health Act 1983 (updated 2007) and the new Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act 2018. The autism specific legislative proposals which have been consulted can only highlight existing rights which can be achieved through other routes.

#### *Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services*

4.7 We have listened to calls for greater certainty about what services autistic people can access under existing legislation and through the reforms we are now putting in place. So that autistic people and service delivery agencies understand the support which should be available, we will publish a Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services under the Social Services and Well-being Wales Act (2014) and the NHS Act (2006). We are working closely with stakeholders including autistic people to agree the scope of the code and the duties it should include. The code will re-enforce the existing duties already placed on local authorities and health boards and will set out what good practice looks like.

#### *Updated Delivery Plan*

4.8 The Strategic Action Plan is not a static document, we are working with the ASD Implementation Advisory Group to consider what more we can do to improve the lives of autistic people. We are also working across government and with our partners to secure further improvements and will be issuing an updated delivery plan later this year. This is likely to include plans to establish a GP autism register, improve and expand existing Welsh Government housing guidance, to develop a joint engagement approach to raising awareness of autism and to ensure that we take a strategic approach to promoting the services now available and the resources which can be freely accessed.

4.9 Also since we published the first Strategic Action Plan in 2008 achieving a practical approach to data collection has been difficult to achieve in a way that meets all stakeholder's needs. With the introduction of the Integrated Autism Service and improvements in assessment waiting times it is essential we have a clear picture of not only how many people have autism and how many access services but more importantly the impact the services are making on improving their daily lives. Working with our partners will be looking closely at how we collect data on meaningful outcomes to inform us about the quality and effectiveness of the services provided and to identify where there may be continuing gaps in support.

## Appendix One

<b>Assessment and Diagnosis</b>		
<b>What we want to achieve</b>	<b>What will we do</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Children, young people and adults with autism have access to timely referral, assessment and post diagnostic services which meet their needs.	Deliver improvements to children's assessment and diagnostic services. This will include the implementation of the national standardised diagnostic assessment pathway to ensure consistency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2015, £2million annual funding has been provided to establish dedicated neurodevelopmental services for improving provision for young people with neurodevelopmental conditions including ASD and ADHD.</li> <li>• A nationally agreed diagnostic pathway has been published health boards have all adopted the national diagnostic pathway.</li> <li>• To support the pathway, it is expected that guidance will be published in the summer.</li> </ul>

	<p>Improve timeliness of access, for children and young people, a new 26 week time target from referral to first assessment appointment</p> <p>Ensure ongoing monitoring of progress and timeliness of assessment and diagnosis. This will be incorporated within the formal planning and performance management mechanisms of health boards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 26 week neurodevelopment (ADHD and ASD) waiting time standard has been introduced, in line with paediatric waiting times for other services.</li> <li>• A 12 month pilot period commenced in November 2017, data is reported monthly, health boards are expected to complete 80% of first assessment appointments within 26 weeks. After the pilot, the data will be assessed as to its quality and if appropriate, will be published on the Statistics Wales website, where it will be available to the public.</li> </ul>
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	<p>Deliver improvements to adult diagnostic services through the National Integrated Autism Service. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of a national model that will be implemented across Wales.</li> <li>• On-going monitoring and reporting of progress against the agreed standards of service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Integrated Autism Service has launched in Powys, Cardiff &amp; Vale, Cwm Taf, Gwent, it will shortly be available in North Wales. And in West Wales and Western Bay by the end of this operational year.</li> <li>• IAS services report to the Welsh Government on a quarterly basis. The IAS services are developing service standards to form the basis for the collection of monitoring data.</li> <li>• Quarterly meetings held with IAS leads to discuss progress and share best practice.</li> <li>• An adult diagnosis community of practice has been established to support improvements to diagnostic services. .</li> <li>• An adult waiting time standard is being developed, lessons learned from the children’s waiting time pilot will inform how the waiting time data will be collected for adults.</li> </ul>
	<p>Regional partnership boards will be required to report on progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Partnership Boards submit quarterly returns through the Integrated Care Fund</li> <li>• WG officials met with each IAS region in January and February 2018, to discuss progress and issues.</li> </ul>

<b>Meeting Support Needs</b>		
<b>What do we want to achieve</b>	<b>What we will do</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Children, young people and adults with autism and their family and carers can access advice and preventative services to address unmet need in education and health and social care.	Bring forward legislative reform for children and young people with additional learning needs in December 2016 and monitor progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill was passed by the National Assembly for Wales on 12 December 2016 and subsequently became an Act on 24 January 2018 following Royal Assent.</li> <li>There will be a three year implementation period from September 2020, using a mandatory phased approach. Learners with existing statements will transfer to the new system within two years, and all other learners with non-statutory plans within three years.</li> <li>The current Special Educational Needs system will be entirely phased out by summer 2023.</li> </ul>
	Continue to develop and roll out our 'Learning with Autism' programmes to improve support available to children and young people across early years, primary, secondary and further education sectors	<p>At April 2018, the following programmes had been delivered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Early years programme</u>: 283 members of staff have completed the programme, 9 settings have been awarded their certificate</li> <li><u>Primary School Programme</u>: In the year 2017-18 1568 teaching staff and 1906 learning support staff completed the scheme. In total 6470 have completed the scheme since it began in 2016.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80 schools have been awarded the whole school award certificate.</li> <li>• <u>Secondary schools</u>: 759 teachers have completed the scheme and just over 3,747 pupils have signed the pupil pledge. 3 schools have successfully applied for their awards.</li> </ul>
	<p>Improve opportunities for people with autism. This includes monitoring the delivery of the Getting Ahead Two programme to support long term youth employment for people with learning difficulties or disabilities including ASD</p>	<p>Progress up to March 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocational profiling for young people: Target 435 young people, Actual 211 (49%)</li> <li>• New employability skills: target 348 Actual 263 (76%)</li> <li>• Unpaid placements/volunteering: Target 425, Actual 159 (37%)</li> <li>• Paid placements started: Target 190 Actual 102 (54%)</li> <li>• Longer term sustainable employment: Target 77 Actual 22 (29%)</li> <li>• The Welsh Government has published its Employability Plan, the plan includes a commitment to increasing the number of employers who place emphasis on creating workplaces which are inclusive and supportive environments for disabled people and those with long-term health conditions.</li> <li>• The Welsh Government will evaluate the Healthy Working Wales programme, and encourage more</li> </ul>

		<p>employers to provide access to mental health services to support those at risk of dropping out of work due to poor physical or mental health.</p>
	<p>Welsh Government to take action to become an autism friendly employer by participating in the Positive About Working with Autism Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Welsh Government has established an ASD Support Group for colleagues who may be on the autism spectrum, managers who may have someone with autism in their team or staff who may have family members with autism. This group is informally sponsored at senior management level.</li> <li>• The National ASD Lead has delivered training to HR professionals within Welsh Government.</li> <li>• The Welsh Government is working to become an ASD aware organisation and to develop a programme on working with autism and to achieve accreditation to the Positive About Autism Charter.</li> <li>• Further training for line managers is being considered under the Welsh Government Health and Wellbeing Strategic Action Plan</li> <li>• The Welsh Government Health, Work and Wellbeing Toolkit, signposts staff to ASD external support services. The ASDinfoales website will be added to the Toolkit.</li> </ul>

	<p>Work with organisations across Wales to raise awareness and for them to become autism-friendly working environments. This will include promoting the Positive About Working with Autism Programme</p>	<p>At April 2018 the WLGA has reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1010 people have completed the Working with Autism scheme, 255 people completed the scheme in the year 2017-18</li> <li>• 231 people have completed the Positive about Working with Autism scheme, 169 people completed the scheme in the year 2017-18</li> </ul>
	<p>Delivery of the National Integrated Autism Service. This will be implemented from April 2016 over a three year period and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation of a standard diagnostic assessment service for adults</li> <li>• Provision of advice and support for all people with autism including their family and carers</li> <li>• Development of training and support packages for professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The service is open in Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf, Gwent and Powys, will launch in North Wales in June and will be open in West Wales and Western Bay this operational year.</li> <li>• A heads of IAS group has been established to develop national pathways and outcome standards to report progress.</li> <li>• A clinical adult diagnostic community of practice has been established to improve and diagnostic practice in Wales.</li> <li>• Support packages are being developed and rolled out for professionals, for example mental health training.</li> </ul>

<b>Awareness Raising, Information and Training</b>		
<b>What do we want to achieve</b>	<b>What will we do</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<p>People with autism and their family and carers and professionals report they have access to good quality information, advice and training on autism which meets their needs.</p>	<p>Ensure people with autism and their family and carers as well as professionals are made aware of the resources available on the ASDinfo Wales website.</p> <p>Develop a communication strategy setting out specific actions by end of January 2017.</p>	<p>The National Development Team is attached, up to April 2018 it has achieved the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ASDinfo Wales website generated 112,008 visitors over a 12 month period.</li> <li>• 509,058 pages were viewed across the website over a 12 month period</li> <li>• The Integrated Autism Service in each region is engaging with its local community to raise awareness of the services and resources available.</li> <li>• The team have continued to seek opportunities to raise awareness of the resources available on the website, for example operating a stand at the Royal Welsh Show in 2017 and attending autism conferences.</li> <li>• Welsh Government is working with the WLGA to develop an engagement strategy to ensure stakeholders are aware of the information and support available actively involved in the future development of resources.</li> </ul>
	<p>Continue to develop information and resources for identified priority areas, to be freely available through the ASDinfo Wales website. Priority areas will be reviewed and</p>	<p>The ASD National Development Team's annual report is at appendix two, providing detailed information on outcomes achieved. Resources developed during 2017 include:</p>

	<p>updated on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Learning with autism – early years programme including training films for staff, a guide for early years settings, self evaluation tools for childcare settings, support resources such as child profile, children’s picture cards and cue cards.</p> <p>Ble Mae Teifi resources for pupils, an animated film for early years settings.</p> <p>Learning with autism – secondary schools programme</p> <p>Can you See me - awareness raising campaign in communities</p> <p>The team’s work plan for 2018/19 is at appendix two. Resources to be developed for 2018 include:</p> <p>Behaviour management training for parents/professionals.  New resources to increase knowledge and understanding of co-occurring mental health and autism in Children and Young People.  An access to leisure programme - adults  Further develop post diagnostic support for the parents / carers of autistic children/ young people.  Further Education and Work Based Learning programme.  To further enhance early years resources with “Ble Mae Teifi?” campaign.</p>
	<p>Develop and deliver training resources and material to raise awareness of autism and</p>	<p>In its annual report the ASD National Development team report that up to April</p>

	<p>support for professionals working with children or adults with autism. Priority areas will be updated on an annual basis.</p>	<p>2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 438 people have completed the access to sports and leisure scheme, 419 completed the scheme in the year 2017-18</li> <li>• 882 people have completed the Health and Social Care (Adults and Children's) Schemes, 609 adults and children have completed the scheme in 2017-18.</li> </ul>
	<p>Work collaboratively with other organisations dealing with non-devolved matters to raise awareness of autism. This will include, the police, fire service, courts and the National Offenders Management Service.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government is working with Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (formerly National Offenders Management Service) to include a section in the planned the Code of Practice on supporting autistic people in the secure estate.</p>
	<p>Continue to support the ASD National Lead and team to provide expert advice and guidance on autism to the Welsh Government, professional groups and stakeholders.</p>	<p>The WLGA National Lead Team continues to be supported, the team's annual report for 2017/18 is at appendix two and the 2018/19 work plan is at appendix two.</p>



<b>Delivering the Priorities for Act</b>		
<b>What do we want to achieve</b>	<b>What we will do</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Children, young people and adults with autism and their family and carers are involved and consulted in the delivery of ASD SAP	Establish an Implementation Advisory Group to monitor progress and delivery of the specific actions in the Strategic Action Plan and Delivery Plan. This group will be established before 1 April 2017.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An ASD Implementation Advisory Board has been established, the first meeting was in March 2017 and it has met 5 times up to May 2018.</li> </ul>
	Publish an annual report setting out the progress in relation to the specific actions within the Strategic Action Plan and Delivery Plan. This will include performance information and timeliness of assessment and diagnosis.	Annual report published June 2018, this includes information on the new ASD children and young people's waiting time standard.
	Ensure Regional Partnership Boards report on progress in relation to the specific actions within the Strategic Action Plan and Delivery Plan. This will include performance information and timelines of assessment and diagnosis.	Regional Partnership Board's provide quarterly reports on the Integrated Care Fund which is supporting the roll out of the Integrated Autism Service.
	Collect information on the number of people with autism who have a care and support plan. This will be included as part of the new social services data collection from April 2017.	The Welsh Government is developing an outcome focussed data collection approach which focuses on impact and outcomes in addition to activity. We will consult on our plans in the autumn and we will engage with stakeholders to develop the data collection approach for autism which meets the needs of autism services, including the third sector.
	Undertake an independent evaluation of the refreshed Strategic Action Plan National Integrated Autism Service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim report published on January 2018</li> <li>Final report should be published by spring 2019.</li> </ul>
	Monitor the implementation of legislative requirements under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act and keep the need for future autism related legislation under review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Welsh Government in monitoring developments in regard to the development of the proposed Private Members Autism Bill.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Welsh Government will publish a Code of Practice in 2019 outlining the duties on the Local Authorities and Health Boards in regard to the provision of Autism Services</li></ul>
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## **Appendix Two**

### **ASD National Development Team – work plan 2018/19**

#### **1. Increasing use of existing training materials and resources**

- 1.1 To support the increased use of ASD training and support materials that have been developed by the National Development Team in partnership e.g. Learning with Autism, Working with Autism and Can you See Me?
- 1.2 To make necessary adjustments to resources and materials taking into account feedback from stakeholders and those who have used the resources.
- 1.3 To continue to maintain and further develop the ASDinfoWales website as an integral resource for autistic children, autistic individuals, parents and carers and professionals.
- 1.4 To support the roll out of the National Training Framework.
- 1.5 To complete Emergency Services resources package.
- 1.6 To support Mental Health Training Adults.
- 1.7 To scope an evaluation of the Learning with Autism scheme.

#### **2. Training including development of new resources**

- 2.1 To develop new resources concerning behaviour management training for parents/professionals.
- 2.2 To develop new resources in relation to increasing knowledge and understanding of co-occurring mental health and autism in Children and Young People (within CAMHS and Children's Social Services / Education teams - Powys work).
- 2.3 To develop an access to leisure programme – adults.
- 2.4 To further develop post diagnostic support for the parents / carers of autistic children/ young people.
- 2.5 To develop a Further Education and Work Based Learning programme.
- 2.6 To review and develop appropriate post diagnostic support for Adults.
- 2.7 To further enhance early years resources with “Ble Mae Teifi?” campaign.

#### **3. Supporting further development and embedding of Integrated Autism Services**

- 3.1 To further support the effective implementation of the IAS across Wales.

- 3.2 To review and update the guidance for the IAS.
- 3.3 To develop and support the implementation of a data / performance monitoring system.
- 3.4 To review the ICF Reporting Framework.
- 3.5 To increase awareness and understanding of the IAS across Wales.

#### **4. Facilitating Networks**

- 4.1 To facilitate the National ASD Leads Forum.
- 4.2 To facilitate the National IAS Network.
- 4.3 To develop and establish a community of practice for adult diagnosis and IAS implementation.
- 4.4 To progress engagement with housing providers in order to highlight specific issues to be considered in providing housing for autistic people (social housing sector and PRS) and ensure any specific needs of autistic people can be met by housing providers.

#### **5. Working with partners and stakeholders, including Welsh Government**

- 5.1 To develop an engagement strategy, with a focus on co-production.
- 5.2
  - a. To support the development of WG Code of Practice on the delivery of autism in Wales and work with local authorities, health boards and other partners in implementing the requirements of the Code when published.
  - b. To maintain an overview on the progress of the proposed Autism Bill and support its development, if appropriate, through highlighting the positive on-going work on autism across Wales.
- 5.3 To establish and facilitate new governance arrangements/advisory board to oversee delivery of work of the National Development team and to drive improvements in identified priority areas for ASD.
- 5.4 To progress an awareness raising campaign for autism in Wales.
- 5.5 To support and enable development of stronger links between Regional Partnership Boards and ongoing work at local and regional levels on autism.
- 5.6 To further contact with other sectors to raise awareness of IASs and achieve senior level buy in and commitment to contributing to work on autism as appropriate.
- 5.7 To coordinate an Autism Wales Conference in partnership with Public Health Wales, the National Autistic Society and other key stakeholders.
- 5.8 To support National, European and International Exchange of Good Practice.