

The Statutory Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services Delivery Plan 2021-22

The autism code of practice comes into force on 1 September 2021. It gives clarity to local health boards, local authorities and Regional Partnership Boards on the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act and/or the NHS (Wales) Act 2006 and the responsibilities and services they are required to provide to support autistic people in their day to day lives. This delivery plan outlines the first year of priorities for this Senedd Term. Future priorities will be informed by outcomes of the demand and capacity review of neurodevelopmental services due to be completed March 2022.

The effective implementation of this first phase will rely on collaborative working and learning from feedback from autistic people, their families and carers. The first table (below) assigns each delivery organisation a number. This corresponds to the 'Who is Involved' section in the delivery plan to show which organisations are responsible for delivering the priority area. The views of autistic people, their families and/or carers along with stakeholders will be central in measuring the success of each priority area.

Welsh Government	National Autism Team (NAT)	Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs)	National Autism Leads Network	Local Authorities	Local Health Boards	Third Sector Organisations	Integrated Autism Service (IAS)	Together for Children and Young People Programme (T4CYP)	Autism Advisory Group
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

What will we do?	How we will do it	Outcome	Who is involved
Priority Area 1: Delivering the priorities for action			
We will continue to support the provision of expert advice and guidance on the delivery of autism services and the delivery of the Code of Practice	We will continue to fund the National Autism Team (NAT) to support the implementation of the Code of Practice.	Accessible advice and guidance to all stakeholders. Measurement: NAT work plan and Welsh Government annual report.	1 and 2
Priority Area 2: Awareness raising			
We will raise public and employers awareness of autism and the Code of Practice	The NAT and the third sector will continue to raise public awareness of autism. The NAT will promote the Autism Aware Campaign as part of its annual work plan.	Public awareness of autism increased. Measurement: NAT Annual Report and data collection. Feedback from autistic people their families and/or carers.	2, 3 and 7

What will we do?	How we will do it	Outcome	Who is involved
Priority Area 3: Training			
We will work with partners to support training needs analysis and raise awareness of the duties in the Code of Practice	We will engage with local authorities (LA) and local health board (LHB) workforce leads to support the identification of training and development needs.	Staff training needs identified. Measurement: Each area will have a training needs matrix.	1, 2, 5, 6 and 8
Priority Area 4: Assessment and Diagnosis services			
We will support the improvement of autism assessment and support services.	We will drive improvement to adult assessment services through the implementation of the LHB duties in the Code and by continuing to fund the Integrated Autism Service (IAS).	Adults will receive improved assessment and support services through LHB's and the IAS. Measurement: IAS and health board data collection.	1, 5, 8
We will support the Together for Children and Young People Programme 2 Neurodevelopmental work stream to improve children and young people's assessment services.	We will work collaboratively with the Together for Children and Young People Programme 2 and the National Autism Team to offer support for diagnostic training.	Improved children and young people assessment services. Measurement T4CYP ND workstream as part of the wider T4CYP programme reporting requirements.	1, 2, 6 and 9
Priority Area 5: Health and Social Care			
We will drive inclusion of the Welsh language in service delivery.	We will complete a demand and capacity review of neurodevelopmental services for children and adults by March 2022, which will include delivery of services through the medium of Welsh. We will work with stakeholders to deliver services through the medium of Welsh as directed in the Code.	Autistic people their families and carers will be able to access bilingual autism services. Measurement: A demand and capacity review report with a Welsh Government response will be published. Feedback from the autism community.	1,2,3,4,5,6 7,8 and 9
Priority Area 6: Recovery, Inclusion and Well-being			
We will support autistic people impacted by Covid-19 pandemic to recover.	Through the implementation of the Code of Practice we will inform autistic people their families and carers of the improved support and services available to them.	Autistic people will be aware of and will receive information and support to assist with the Covid 19 recovery.	1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7.

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	<p>The NAT will ensure that information on the Autismwales.org website remains a reliable source of information and signposting on Covid-19.</p> <p>We will continue to support the National Autistic Society's Spectrum Clubs and Autistic Spectrum Connections Cymru Third Sector projects which provide support to autistic people.</p>	<p>Measurement: Visits to the NAT website Covid 19 page. Third sector grant scheme projects progress reports.</p>	
<p>We will support and include autistic people who identify as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and/or identify as LGBTQ+.</p>	<p>We will continue to engage with the Chinese in Wales community.</p> <p>We will actively support the actions laid out in the social care section of the Welsh Government's Race Equality Action Plan.</p> <p>We will attend and engage with internal and external groups to support the rights of autistic people who identify as LGBTQ+.</p>	<p>Individual and cultural differences of autistic people who are Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and/or identify as LGBTQ+ will be reflected in service provision.</p> <p>Measurement Population Needs Assessment /area plans Voices of minority communities.</p>	<p>1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7.</p>
Priority Area 7: Stakeholder involvement			
<p>We will ensure that autistic people, parents and carers are involved in all future policy and service development for autism services.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government Autism Advisory Group will meet at least twice yearly. The Group's membership will include autistic people, representatives from parents and carers and service delivery organisations including the third sector.</p> <p>Through the Code each RPB will appoint an Autism Champion to sit on the board and ensure the voice of autistic people is heard.</p>	<p>Autistic people and families will have a voice in service development</p> <p>Measurement: Minutes of meetings and outcome of actions. Population needs assessments / area plans</p>	<p>1, 2, 4, 7 and 10</p>

What will we do?	How we will do it	Outcome	Who is involved
	We will engage directly with autistic people through face to face or webinar meetings at least annually.		
Priority Area 8: Planning, Data Collection and Monitoring			
We will provide funding for Regional Partnership Boards to support the development of autism infrastructure, Population Needs Assessment and Area Plans.	The NAT will engage with RPBs, to support the newly created role of autism champion in each board and to develop an autism infrastructure.	The needs of autistic people and parents and carers will be included in the population needs assessment, area plans and service development. Measurement: Regional Partnership Board reports/population needs assessments/area plans	1, 2 and 3