Scottish Borders Delivery Plan

Priority Area 1 – Autism Awareness and Training			Scottish Government Best Practice Indicators: 1, 2, 3 & 4					
Broad theme	**Engagement Feedback**	**Action**	**Lead responsibility**	**By 2016**	**By 2019**	**By 2024**	**Comments**	**Progress**
Awareness	Local campaign and events, supported by established autism networks and community resources	-consider local events/workshops and campaigns to promote autism locally		√				
		-planned involvement in annual autism awareness day		√				
		-establish SBC and NHS Borders membership for Autism Network Scotland		√				
		-establish lead officers to attend national autism events		√				
	Develop a role of autism champions across mainstream services	- identify the potential for such a role within existing teams		√				
		-link to specific professions and team roles		√				

		-outline the scope of the autism champion role		√				
		-establish level of autism training needed		√				
		-establish what level of time commitment is required		√				
Information & Advice	Information and advice for people with autism and their families/carers	-develop an online resource that will give information about: diagnosis; services available locally; other resources specific to autism; neuro-typical psychology		√	√			
		-explore potential within existing commissioning arrangements as well as other autism organisations and statutory services such as the Local Area Coordination Team, Community Psychiatric Nurse etc, to provide information and advice			√			
Training	Lead autism advisor to coordinate the disparate existing training	-explore the potential for establishing a lead autism advisor, from existing personnel		√				
		-map out existing autism		√				

				√				
		training provision						
	Mandatory autism training modules to be included as part of CPD in education, health and social work	- locate workforce development strategies and plans across NHS Borders and SBC		√				
		-arrange meetings with workforce development leads to discuss inclusion of autism training in plans		√				
		-acquire sign off for inclusion of autism training from senior management teams across both organisations		√				
	Establish a framework linked to Getting it Right for Every Child, which outlines an approach to autism training and awareness across children and young people's services	-ensure GIRFEC guidelines and principles are included in any autism training developed for children and young people		√				
		-link this to transition services policies and procedures		√				
	The promotion of improved communication between professionals, people with	- ensure that communication features as part of autism training at all levels.			√			

	autism and their carers							
		-consider e-module training to include focus on communication		√				
	Training for parents and carers	-scope external training provision		√				

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Priority Area 2 - Diagnosis – Good-quality early diagnosis and intervention for both children and adults			Scottish Government Best Practice Indicators: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 8					
Theme	**Engagement Feedback**	**Action**	**Lead responsibility**	**By 2016**	**By 2019**	**By 2024**	**Comments**	**Progress**
Pre-assessment	People should have easy access to central information on the diagnostic process or pathways, regardless of whether or not they have an existing mental health diagnosis or learning disability	- develop an on line hub where information can be hosted regarding: who to contact; what an assessment involves; and who to contact in the first instance			√			
		-explore potential within existing commissioning arrangements as well as other autism organisations			√			
	Develop an equivalent of a 'named person' for adults to advise and guide through the assessment process	-look at the potential to develop such a role for adults, over a longer period			√			
The autism	A wide multi-disciplinary/multi-	-work with lead			√			

assessment	agency team of professionals, involved as part of the assessment for both adults and children. This should include Speech and Language Therapy (full individual assessment), psychiatry (adults) or paediatrician (children), Occupational Therapy, psychology, education and social work.	consultant psychiatrist around developing dedicated consultant time for autism assessment across a wide range of teams						
		- assess the feasibility of establishing the regional assessment team			√			
		-establish a protected local service/group/team with links to external autism services				√		
		- ensure clinicians have opportunities to be trained in using a range of diagnostic tools, in line with SIGN guidelines		√				
		- develop a system using a coordinated, joined up approach to make sure that it runs smoothly; this				√		

				√				
		includes accurate report writing, information about individual assessments being shared at multi-agency meetings on a scheduled basis and linkage with the post-diagnostic services involved						
Post-assessment	Develop appropriate immediate post-diagnosis support	- develop system so people will be provided with a clear and consistent written confirmation of diagnosis (or not)		√				
		- and people will be provided with a full written report of their assessment		√				
		- and have an opportunity to discuss the above with clinician		√				
		- and clinician or autism advisor to		√				

		consider completing the menu of interventions to identify needs and potential services						
	Develop appropriate longer term post-diagnostic support	- develop capacity so that people are supported to engage with a range of services that meet their needs, possibly by the Local Area Coordination team			√			
	Information at key stages for parents and carers	--develop an online resource that will give information about: diagnosis; services available locally; other resources specific to autism			√			
		-link with the Carers Strategy and explore capacity for autism resource		√				
		-look to develop carer support through the local carer strategy and accessing local carer organisations			√			

				√				
Data recording	Data collection should be further developed to make best use of existing databases, following diagnosis	-develop a system for routinely inputting diagnosis, into existing databases		√				
		-establish shared terminology relating to autism assessment, to improve consistency		√				
		- work with performance teams within SBC and NHS, to develop information held on the respective databases		√				
		-identify inclusion of autism in workflows ,episodes, and joint assessments		√				
		-develop a system for cross referencing data held within different sources, across the sectors		√				

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Priority Area 3 – Getting the right services at the right time, for adults with autism and no learning disability		Scottish Government Best Practice Indicators: 1, 3, & 8						
Broad theme	**Engagement Feedback**	**Action**	**Lead responsibility**	**By 2016**	**By 2019**	**By 2024**	**Comments**	**Progress**
Access to information	There should be a central point of access for information regarding all available services, locally, across all sectors – this could be used as a platform for specialist services to promote their services and the use of Self-Directed Support	-develop an online resource that will give information about: specialist and mainstream services available locally and advice on how to access them			√			
		-explore potential within existing commissioning arrangements, as well as other autism organisations and statutory services such as the Local Area Coordination Team, Community Psychiatric Nurse etc, to provide information and advice on services available and how to access them.			√			
	Through the role of autism advisor, use the menu of interventions to identify area of need for the individual	-explore the potential for a role of autism advisor, as above		√				

	and link to available services	-develop further a comprehensive menu of interventions, linked with the online market place			√			
	Through the role of autism champions, the virtual market place should be promoted and shared amongst other professionals	-incorporate virtual market place in autism champion training			√			
Access to services	Fund services for people with Asperger Syndrome	- map current spend on all provision for people with autism		√				
		-explore potential for establishing access to existing services for people with AS, through re-design and re-commissioning services in all budget areas		√				
	Strengthen transport links to facilitate better access to services	-link into the Borders Transport Strategy		√				
		-ensure needs of people with AS are detailed in the Transport Strategy		√				
		-establish whether there are processes in place to facilitate subsidised travel		√				
	When assessments are conducted within statutory services, to establish a level	-ensure that AS characteristics are included in any training provided		√				

	of need, AS characteristics should be reflected in the assessment process	around assessment – including adapting approaches to communication and questioning -ensure that AS characteristics are reflected in Social Work Eligibility Criteria		√				

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Priority Area 4 – Purposeful occupational activities			Scottish Government Best Practice Indicators: 1, 2, 3, 6, & 9					
Broad theme	**Engagement Feedback**	**Action**	**Lead responsibility**	**By 2016**	**By 2019**	**By 2024**	**Comments**	**Progress**
Transition planning	Each person should have an individual plan which details their employability goals linked to their interests and strengths	-review existing transition arrangements for children and young people, leaving education -develop pathways for children and young people, which are person centred and detail routes from school to further education, training and other employability opportunities -identify resources to build capacity into existing employment services to better respond to the needs of people with autism			√ √ √			
Support pre-employment	Support should be in place to prepare an individual for employability opportunities. This support could focus on skills development, for example: CV writing;	- work with existing employability and employment services around gaining access for people with autism to facilitate these types of		√				

	preparing for and attending interviews; and informing employers of an autism diagnosis.	support						
Awareness	Liaise with potential employers and other agencies around increasing their awareness and understanding of autism	-work with existing employability services and the autism advisors (if role in place) -consider awareness training being made available to potential employers		√ √				
Building capacity to provide opportunities	Develop a bank of agencies that can provide specific opportunities tailored to an individual's strengths and skills	- work with existing employability services		√				
	NHS Borders and SBC should develop opportunities for volunteering or work experience placements for people with autism	-link into SBC Work Opportunities Scheme to provide such opportunities within each organisation -follow the procedures for responding to and meeting volunteer and work placement enquiries		√ √				
	Strengthen links with Job Centre Plus	- Make contact with Job Centre Plus, locally, to discuss developing protocol outlining how Disability Employment		√				

		Advisors can best work with people with autism -feed into any National initiatives to work with Job Centre Plus, locally.			√			

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Priority Area 5 – Social support and opportunities	Scottish Government Best Practice Indicators: 1, 2, 3, & 8

Broad theme	Engagement Feedback	Action	Lead responsibility	By 2016	By 2019	By 2024	Comments	Progress
Access to services	Support is available for people with autism to access a range of social opportunities	-map existing supports for people with autism as well as other client groups		√				
		-consider the potential to extend access within existing support services for people with autism in all budget areas		√				
		-consider the peer-support model and the potential for developing this locally for people with autism		√				
	A range of autism specific social activities are available	-liaise with autism networks and autism organisations to map out existing social opportunities for people with autism, locally		√				
		-link available social opportunities to the virtual market place			√			
	Develop and promote more autism befriending opportunities	-map existing befriending services		√				

		- explore potential within existing commissioning arrangements as well as other autism organisations and statutory services to improve access for people with autism			√			
	Develop links with Borders Sport and Leisure, to enhance access for people with autism - this could include autism specific sessions	-make contact with Borders Sport and Leisure lead officer and explore potential options to improve access for people with autism		√				

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Priority Area 6 – Improving access and provision of housing			Scottish Government Best Practice Indicators: 1, 2, 3, 8 & 9				
Broad theme	**Engagement Feedback**	**Action**	**Lead responsibility**	**By 2016**	**By 2019**	**By 2024**	**Comments**	**Progress**
Developing options	A range of different types of housing support, including clustered housing, individual flats and residential housing	-link into the SBC housing strategy and ensure that the needs of people with autism are prioritised		√				
		-explore potential within existing commissioning arrangements as well as other autism organisations and statutory services			√			
		-link into the central information point on the virtual market place			√			
	Liaise with housing providers and planning agencies to ensure that an allocation of new build accommodation is developed with the needs of people with autism taken into account	-set up meeting with housing colleagues		√				
		-conduct a needs assessment of people with autism and housing			√			
		-incorporate needs assessment into housing strategy			√			
Improving access	Improved access for people with autism, with a housing need	- identify system for housing allocation in the Borders and build autism into the assessment for housing need				√		

					√			
Access to information	There should a central point of information for housing options available and how to apply for housing	- the virtual market place to include information regarding available housing options and updates regarding the above actions			√			

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Priority Area 7 – Ensuring inclusion for people with autism and their families			Scottish Government Best Practice Indicators: 1, 8 & 10					
Broad theme	**Engagement Feedback**	**Action**	**Lead responsibility**	**By 2016**	**By 2019**	**By 2024**	**Comments**	**Progress**
Developing methods of inclusion	Develop a forum for people with autism, which is flexible in its approach to inclusion and has an online capacity	-liaise with existing network, service user groups and parents/carers groups to discuss the best platform of managing a forum -identify appropriate support for the forum		√ √				
	Develop a forum for parents and carers of people with autism, which is flexible in its approach to inclusion and has an online capacity	- liaise with existing network, service user groups and parents/carers groups to discuss the best platform of managing a forum -identify appropriate support for the forum		√ √				
	Develop service user involvement within services themselves and represented in strategic decision making	-look at creative ways to develop service user involvement in service planning and delivery			√			