

Newham Autism Action Plan: Lets Talk Autism

2024/25 Priorities – Year 1 Actions

P1: IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF AUTISM IN NEWHAM.

<p>Establish an effective adult Autism Resident Advisory Group to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - share ideas and give views on the issues affecting adult autistic residents - and help shape local services; - co-design the relevant actions in this Autism Action Plan; - share information about activities, events and services that may be beneficial / of interest to adult autistic residents; - create a network of peer support; 	<p>Raise awareness of autism (and autistic residents' strengths and challenges) to the wider Newham population by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - observing World Autism Acceptance Week/Day/Month (Council, Education and Health); - map the observation days the Council celebrates / observes where it would be appropriate to promote autism (e.g. Carers Week, Mental Health Week, etc). Ensure each of these include an autism information / stall / session, as appropriate. - identify autistic resident champions to raise awareness of autism (strengths and challenges) at events and activities - and to services. 	<p>Recruit a Peer Support Worker (via one-year fixed external funding) to set-up a variety of sustainable Autism Peer Support Resources and Groups.</p>
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P2: IMPROVE AUTISTIC CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO EDUCATION – AND SUPPORT POSITIVE TRANSITIONS INTO ADULTHOOD

<p>Deliver Social Communication, Emotional Regulation, Transactional Support (SCERTS) training in Newham Schools.</p>	<p>Procure an all-age Independent Living Support Service (Home Care) for residents whose primary need is Autism, Mental Health and / or Learning Disabilities.</p>	<p>Ensure robust data analysis and forecasting is implemented to ensure there is suitable school age, post 16 and adult educational provision and support for autistic residents in borough.</p>
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P3: SUPPORTING MORE AUTISTIC PEOPLE INTO EMPLOYMENT

<p>Co-design an annual summary / flowchart of post-16 further education offers and application closing dates to support autistic residents and their families to plan.</p>	<p>Co-design a suite of online and paper-based resources and training for local employers to build their confidence in supporting autistic residents in the workplace.</p>	<p>Explore establishing a variety of Social Enterprises to employ autistic Care Act eligible residents - shifting the focus to employment rather than Day Opportunity for those who are working-age.</p>
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P4: TACKLE HEALTH AND CARE INEQUALITIES FOR AUTISTIC PEOPLE

Co-design an online and paper-based resource to raise awareness of the autism diagnosis assessment process to provide residents and their families when referred (e.g. how long an assessment will last, the types of questions that will be asked, where possible images of the environment and professionals involved, etc).

Raise awareness of autism with health staff in Newham Hospital including co-design of new resources, training, promotional materials, and holding a World Café event at the hospital with staff, residents, patients and professionals.

Develop an awareness campaign / training for local Faith Groups.

P5: BUILD THE RIGHT SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT PEOPLE IN INPATIENT CARE

Develop and maintain an Autism Dynamic Support Register - identifying autistic residents who display, or are at risk of developing, behaviour that challenges or mental health conditions that are likely to lead to admission to inpatient care.

Residents on the Dynamic Support Register are offered a Community Care and Treatment Review to see whether they are safe, in the right place, and to understand their plans for the future

Agree an Autism Protocol (and flowchart with contacts) with and for the Inpatient Mental Health Service based on the patient's journey from admission to discharge.

Refresh the Inpatient Mental Health Service's Welcome Pack in partnership with autistic residents recently discharged to support other autistic patients to manage predictability and expectations.

Within this, consider agreeing a 'Welcome Kit' comprising flash cards, fidget toys, etc; and age-group and ability.

P6: IMPROVE SUPPORT WITHIN THE CRIMINAL AND YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Co-design an awareness programme for autistic residents (broken down by age: under 18 and 18+) advising them how to stay safe; and reduce the risk of them coming into contact with people planning to break the law.

Identify Autistic residents excluded from school (prior to or at the point of exclusion) and support them to stay safe and reduce the risk of them coming into contact with those planning to break the law / offending.

Within this, provide support to families and / or Social Care Service Providers to work with, not against the resident - encouraging employment and activities that provide a sense of purpose and enjoyment.

Co-design an online and paper-based resource on the Crown Prosecution Service process and support available to autistic residents who will face prosecution.