

REPORT TO: Health Policy and Performance Board
DATE: 6th March 2012
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health & Adults
SUBJECT: Scrutiny Review of Autism
WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the Board with the draft Scrutiny Review of Autism report for approval to be presented to the Executive Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members of the Board

- (1) Note the contents of the report attached at Appendix 1; and**
- (2) Approve the report to be presented to the Executive Board.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The scrutiny review and resulting report (attached as Appendix 1) was commissioned by the Health Policy and Performance Board. A scrutiny review working group was established consisting of:-

- Six Members from the Board;
- Principal Policy Officer from the People and Communities Policy team;
- Practice Manager for Autism;
- Principal and Practice Managers from the Positive Behaviour Support Service (PBSS); and
- Operational Director (Complex and Commissioning).

3.2 In December 2010, the Department of Health issued statutory guidance and a delivery plan for local authorities and NHS organisations to support the implementation of the national autistic strategy “Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives”. There is an expectation that local authorities will implement the requirements set out in the statutory guidance. A regional network group has been established and that will provide an opportunity to monitor progress towards implementing the statutory guidance locally. The scrutiny review provided a good opportunity to review our services in supporting people with autism spectrum conditions living in Halton.

3.3 This scrutiny review was conducted through a number of means:

- Monthly meetings of the scrutiny review topic group;
- Presentations by various key members of staff;

- Provision of information;
- Carer consultation;
- Site visit to Day Services; and
- National Autistic Society speaker.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Existing policies are endorsed by the report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The report makes a series of recommendations under each separate area of evidence that was scrutinised and have been collated into an Action Plan for ease of reference and monitoring by the Practice Manager for Autism.

5.2 From 13th to 16th February 2012, the National Autistic Society will be undertaking a separate review of Autism in Adult services at Halton Borough Council and this may identify further recommendations.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Although the scrutiny review focused upon services provided to adults, the PBSS does provide a service to children and young people as well as adults.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The scrutiny review recommendations link in to developing a culture where learning is valued and raise skill levels throughout the adult population and in the local workforce; and promoting and increasing the employability of local people and tackle barriers to employment to get more people into work.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The scrutiny review recommendations link in to understanding how Autism effects the health of individuals in Halton and how the services currently provided lay firm foundations for a healthy start in life and support those most in need in the community by maximising and promoting autonomy, promoting a healthy living environment and lifestyles to protect and sustain individual good health and well-being.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None Identified

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None Identified

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The report and recommendations support the Council's strategic priority of Improving Health. Taking on board the recommendations from the report will be positive steps to improving Autism services for people in Halton.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The implementation of the recommendations will help to improve services in Halton for people on the Autistic Spectrum Condition.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.