



*Draft Scrutiny Review of Autism*

Report  
*February 2012*

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## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of the report, as outlined in the initial topic brief (at *Annex 1*) is to:

- ◆ Gain an understanding of Autism and an appreciation for the broad range of conditions that fall under the spectrum from low level to high functioning levels of autism;
- ◆ Examine the effectiveness of the current pathways for diagnosis and assessment for adults with an autism spectrum condition (ASC) in Halton;
- ◆ Gain an understanding of the Positive Behaviour Support Service and the benefits their interventions can bring to local service providers;
- ◆ Consider National best practice in relation to pathways for diagnosis and assessment for adults with autism spectrum conditions; and
- ◆ Consider ways to continue to make improvements and enable Halton to fully implement the statutory guidance and delivery plan.

## **2.0 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT**

This report is structured with an introduction, a brief summary of the methodology followed by evidence, analysis with findings/conclusions and recommendations. The annexes include the topic brief, methodology detail and an action plan to capture the recommendations from the scrutiny review.

## **3.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **3.1 Reason the scrutiny review was commissioned**

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 would provide a good opportunity to look at our services in supporting people with autism spectrum conditions living in Halton.

### **3.2 Policy and Performance Boards**

This report was commissioned as a scrutiny working group for the Health Policy and Performance Board.

### 3.3 Membership of the Scrutiny Working Group

Membership of the Scrutiny Working Group included:

Members	Officers
Cllr Ellen Cargill Cllr Joan Lowe Cllr Dave Austin Cllr Margaret Horabin Cllr Martha Lloyd-Jones Cllr Carol Plumpton-Walsh Cllr Geoff Zygadllo	Paul McWade – Operational Director for Commissioning and Complex Needs Maria Saville – Principal Manager for Positive Behaviour Support Service (PBSS) Kath Devonshire – Practice Manager for PBSS John Williams – Practice Manager for Autism Emma Sutton-Thompson – Principal Policy Officer

### 4.0 Methodology Summary

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 (detail of the presentations can be found in *Annex 2*);
- Provision of information;
- Carer consultation;
- Site visit to Day Services; and
- National Autistic Society speaker.

### 5.0 Evidence (summary of evidence gathered) and Analysis with findings/conclusions

#### 5.1 Autistic Spectrum Condition Awareness

Maria Saville, Principal Manager for the Positive Behaviour Support Service (PBSS) and Kath Devonshire, Practice Manager gave a presentation on the awareness of Autistic Spectrum Condition at the first meeting of the topic group. This covered:

- The Facts about Autism
- Triad of Impairments
- Communication
- Behavioural Excesses and Deficits
- Common misconceptions
- Common interventions
- Uncommon interventions

Part of the remit of the PBSS is direct work with service users to assist with technical support and placement development. The team are currently working with the following services users:

Area	Service	Numbers
Halton	Adults	5
	Children	12
Knowsley	Adults	4
	Children	8
St Helens	Adults	3

There is currently a waiting list approaching 30 people.

As well as dealing directly with people who have behaviour that challenges services the team are also involved in crisis prevention and management. Since the team's establishment in November 2010 they have delivered training to approximately 150 staff across adult and children's services, including:

- support workers;
- managers;
- learning disability nurses;
- social workers; and
- school staff.
- Pilot parent Workshops delivered- including an evening workshop for parents of children with a new diagnosis of ASC and also a full behaviour that challenges workshop for parents on the waiting list.
- Training planned with Halton Autistic Family Support Group (HAFS) and Cheshire Asperger's Parent's Support Group (CHaPs). Key staff have been invited to attend a training workshop to help evaluate PBSS training workshop material (especially with regards to accessibility for parents)
- Training with Cavendish School with staff working in the ASC pathways class
- Training with Brookfield School staff
- Active member of ASC strategy group and training sub group

The majority of these have been Halton staff although some adults staff from Knowsley council have accessed the training.

### 5.1.1 Early Intervention

- Training delivered to Education Staff in the use of a specific assessment tool for children with ASC or other developmental disabilities (Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills, Revised- ABLLS-R)
- Proposed Pilot Project using Assessment Tool in new ASC resource settings within Halton- ongoing work happening on this
- Links to ASC diagnostic pathway

### 5.1.2 Invest to Save

The PBSS will serve those who have a Learning Disability/Autistic Spectrum Condition and present with the most complex needs.

It is the first in the UK to be staffed and led by Board Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCBA)

Core Aims for the individual service users are:

- Improved quality of life
- Increased opportunity for meaningful engagement
- More opportunity for education/cognitive development
- Increased opportunity for community participation
- Greater access to a less restrictive environment
- Improved relationships

The service is expected to achieve financial benefits by:

- Reducing demand for expensive, specialist out of area placements through prevention of placement, and by support for repatriation programmes;
- Correspondingly reducing pressure on Continuing Healthcare funding, which contributes significantly to these placements, and also social care & education funding; and
- Helping to create robust community services that will reduce pressure on local NHS inpatient beds, thereby facilitating programmes to reduce their number.

### 5.1.3 Conclusion

The group concluded that the awareness-raising session clearly demonstrated the “ground-breaking” work that the PBSS is involved in and the high level of expertise and knowledge that the team has. The group found the interventions that the team use to support positive behaviour very interesting.

#### ***Recommendations:***

- i) Members to support the continued work of the Positive Behaviour Support Service.***

## 5.2 Autism Strategy in Halton

Paul McWade, Operational Director for Commissioning and Complex Care gave a presentation on the Autism Strategy at the July meeting of the topic group. This presentation included the following main points:

- Statutory background
- Autism Spectrum Condition Strategic Group
- Progress on Halton’s Autism Strategy

It was highlighted that as the guidance is required by law, it is known as “statutory” guidance and this means that local authorities and NHS bodies must follow the relevant sections or provide good reason why they are not. If this is not followed, they could be liable to judicial review.

The topic group were briefed about the ASC strategic group being a multi-agency group including representatives from the PCT, 5Boroughs Partnership, Children’s Services and Adult Services who meet on a quarterly basis and cover both children and adults.

Halton’s Autism Strategy has been drafted to meet the requirements of the Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives Delivery Plan and covers a three-year period. The Strategy has an Action Plan that will be monitored by the strategic group on a quarterly basis. In order to ensure the strategy is fully implemented, a Practice Manager specifically for Autism has been recruited for a two year period.

### **5.2.1 Conclusion**

The topic group supported the Autism Strategy and the recruitment of the Practice Manager for Autism.

#### ***Recommendations:***

- i) Halton’s Autism Strategy to be approved and implemented by the ASC Strategic Group, Senior Management and Health Policy and Performance Board, Children’s Trust, and Halton and St Helen’s Clinical Commissioning Committee; and***
- ii) Implementation of Autism Strategy Action Plan to be monitored and progress updates provided by the ASC Strategic Group.***

## **5.3 A Parent/Carer’s Perspective**

At the July meeting of the topic group, two parents/carers of young adults with Autism/Down’s Syndrome in Halton attended the meeting to share their experience of services they had encountered, professionals and attitudes towards Autism. Both carers recounted their experiences from when their son/daughter were first diagnosed and some of the positive and negative experiences throughout their children growing up, especially with regard to information and attitudes of professionals.

### **5.3.1 Conclusion**

The group felt that the contribution from parents/carers in this process was critical and this discussion with the two carers was very important in understanding the issues. Following the meeting and in preparation for the final scrutiny review report, Councillor Zygadlo requested that the carers were asked their views in terms of recommendations.

**Recommendations:**

- i) **Continue to improve engagement with parents/carers, building on the work that has already taken place.**

#### **5.4 Site Visit to Day Services**

On 9<sup>th</sup> September the topic group had a site visit to Day Services, arranged by Eileen Clarke, Performance Manager, Halton Day Services. The group visited the following services:

- Independent Living Centre
- Altered Images Hair and Beauty Salon
- Shopmobility
- Refectory Café, Norton Priory
- Tea room/Brewery, Norton Priory

At each venue, members of the topic group were able to talk to people who worked/attended the services. This was invaluable to the work of the topic group. Members could clearly see how meaningful daytime activities had a positive impact on people's lives, increased their independence and confidence. Amongst the many comments that were given to the group, two in particular were highlighted as powerful messages to support the daytime activities:

Councillor Lowe asked one of the service users working at Shopmobility, if she also worked at The Coach House. The service-user replied "I used to work at the Coach House, but I don't have time anymore because I'm too busy working at other places".

On the visit to the Cottage Tea Rooms at the Brewery, a service-user wanted to tell the topic group that she was moving into supported living accommodation, and to know that she is now thoroughly enjoying her new found independence.

A detailed site visit diary is included in Annex 3.

##### **5.4.1 Conclusion**

Members of the topic group found the site visit to be a very positive and uplifting experience. There are some excellent examples of services available for people with autism spectrum conditions to engage in across Halton. Service users are being equipped with life skills and experience, which will enable them to live more fulfilling and rewarding lives within their local community and wider.

**Recommendations:**

- i) **Continue and extend the work opportunities, both paid and voluntary, for individuals with ASC in Halton enhancing skills to achieve this;**
- ii) **Increase publicity about the good work that is being progressed in day services; and**



- iii) Source funding for new batteries for the shopmobility scooters.*

## **5.5 Day Activities for People with Autism**

At the October meeting of the topic group, John Williams, Practice Manager for Autism gave a presentation around Day Activities for People with Autism. The main points of the presentation included:

- Detail of the services that are available in Halton
- The customer journey
- Employment and Volunteering venues
- Core aims of the Positive Behaviour Support Service
- Challenges facing the Council
- Recommendations to improve this area

### **5.5.1 Conclusion**

The group concluded that there is still a long way to go with meaningful day activities for people with Autism although good progress has been made. There are challenges ahead, including attitudes and concerns, limited places within day services and voluntary service and lack of opportunities. Having the Practice Manager for Autism in post is a good opportunity for Halton to move forward in this area and overcome some of these challenges.

#### ***Recommendations:***

- i) Increase employment opportunities, both paid and voluntary, for individuals with ASC;*
- ii) Maintain the Pan-Disability model within employment services;*
- iii) Increase day service venues to replicate good practice within the service across the borough as social enterprises, to complete a feasibility study in 2012; and*
- iv) Increase the awareness of the benefits of employing individuals with ASC to local employers.*

## **5.6 Employment and Autism**

At the November meeting, Wesley Rourke, Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property attended to give a presentation to the topic group. The presentation covered the following areas:

- Halton in context – employment, worklessness, not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) and skills
- Business and Enterprise in Halton
- Background information to the service area and key priorities
- Six drivers of economic prosperity
- Employment, Learning and Skills division
- The Halton Employment Partnership (HEP)

- Apprenticeships
- What support is offered to people with ASC

### **5.6.1. Conclusion**

Members of the topic group commented that the Council's input is acknowledged and recognised, especially in terms of enhancing the local community.

#### ***Recommendations:***

- i) Further promote joint working between relevant teams and inform team work priorities and projects.***

## **5.7 National Autistic Society**

During the January meeting, Clare Hughes, Regional Officer from the National Autistic Society attending the topic group and gave a presentation on the national and regional perspective of Autism.

Clare's role covers Cheshire and Merseyside and is funded by 10 Local Authorities to focus on developing local services and family support.

Clare explained how her role linked into the statutory guidance and gave examples of the local authority areas she had been working with.

### **5.7.1 Conclusion**

From the presentation that Clare gave, Halton are in a good position regionally with some good examples of progress. The group also identified areas that require more work, in line with national and regional guidance, and these are detailed in the recommendations.

#### ***Recommendations:***

- i) Increase low level support for people with ASC;***
- ii) Increase the local provision for individuals with Aspergers;***
- iii) Increase awareness of ASC within workforce, for example, teachers, social workers, health colleagues, etc.; and***
- iv) Collect data on the number of adults and children with ASC borough wide.***

## 6.0 Overall Conclusion

This scrutiny review has been both a successful and a worthwhile exercise in terms of covering all the outputs and outcomes from the initial topic brief and gaining a thorough knowledge of Autistic Spectrum Condition in Halton.

It is recognised that there has been some good progress made in terms of services for adults with Autism in Halton over the past year, although much more is also required. Two major milestones have been the establishment of the Positive Behaviour Support Service and the recruitment to the Practice Manager for Autism post, both of which have already had a positive impact on services.

There are recommendations for further improvement that have been identified from this scrutiny review and these have been arranged into an Action Plan at Annex 5 for ease of reference and monitoring.

## TOPIC BRIEF

<b>Topic Title:</b>	Autism
<b>Officer Lead:</b>	Operational Director (Commissioning and Complex Care)
<b>Planned start date:</b>	June 2011
<b>Target PPB Meeting:</b>	March 2012

### **Topic Description and scope:**

A review of current pathways to diagnosis and assessment for adults with autism spectrum conditions in Halton, focusing on understanding how localised services support these people and the implementation of the statutory guidance published for local authorities.

### **Why this topic was chosen:**

In December 2010, the Department of Health issued statutory guidance and delivery plan for local authorities and NHS organisations to support the implementation of the nation autism 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 developed and this will provide an opportunity to monitor progress towards implementing the statutory guidance locally. The scrutiny review will provide a good opportunity to look at our baseline information in supporting people with autism spectrum conditions living in Halton.

### **Key outputs and outcomes sought:**

- An understanding of Autism and an appreciation for the broad range of conditions that fall under the spectrum from low level to high functioning levels of autism
- Examine the effectiveness of the current pathways for diagnosis and assessment for adults with an autism spectrum condition in Halton
- An understanding of the Positive Behaviour Support Service and the benefits their interventions can bring to local service providers
- Consider national best practice in relation to pathways for diagnosis and assessment for adults with autism spectrum conditions
- Consider ways to continue to make improvements and enable Halton to fully implement the statutory guidance and delivery plan

**Which of Halton’s 5 strategic priorities this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will help to achieve:**

### **Improving Health:**

Key Objective A: To understand fully the causes of ill health in Halton and act together to improve the overall health and well-being of local people.

Key Objective B: To lay firm foundations for a healthy start in life and support those most in need in the community by maximising and promoting autonomy.

Key Objective C: To promote a healthy living environment and lifestyles to protect the health of the public, sustain individual good health and well-being and help prevent and efficiently manage illness.

Key Objective D: To reduce the burden of disease in Halton by concentrating on lowering the rates of cancer and heart disease, mental ill health and diabetes and addressing the health needs of older people.

**Employment, Learning and Skills:**

Key Objective C: To develop a culture where learning is valued and raise skill levels throughout the adult population and in the local workforce.

Key Objective D: To promote and increase the employability of local people and tackle barriers to employment to get more people into work.

**Nature of expected/desired PPB input:**

Member led scrutiny review of Autism.

**Preferred mode of operation:**

- Invite member from National Autistic Society to provide an overview of autism spectrum conditions and examples of areas of best practice nationally
- Meetings with/presentations from relevant officers within the Council to examine current practice regarding diagnosis and assessment pathways
- Talk from Positive Behaviour Support Service regarding the aims of their service, the type of training they can provide and support they offer to service providers who work with adults with autism spectrum conditions
- Site visit to Bredon respite provision, following receipt of training from the Positive Behaviour Support service

**Agreed and signed by:**

**PPB chair .....**

**Officer .....**

**Date .....**

**Date .....**

**METHODOLOGY DETAIL****a) Presentations**

The following officers gave presentations as part of this scrutiny review:

<b>Name of officer</b>	<b>Title of Presentation</b>
Maria Saville, Principal Manager and Kath Devonshire, Practice Manager of the Positive Behaviour Support Service (PBSS)	An Introduction to Autistic Spectrum Condition
Paul McWade, Operational Director for Commissioning and Complex Care	Halton's Autism Strategy
John Williams, Practice Manager for Autism	Day Activities for People with Autism
Wesley Rourke, Operational Director for Employment, Enterprise and Property	Employment Opportunities in Halton
Clare Hughes, National Autistic Society	The National Perspective



## Communities Directorate

### **AUTISM SCRUTINY REVIEW SITE VISIT**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

Independent Living Centre

Altered Images Salon

Shopmobility

Refectory Café, Norton Priory

Tea Room/Brewery, Norton Priory

# **AUTISM SCRUTINY REVIEW SITE VISIT**

## **INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE**

The Independent Living Centre is based at Collier Street, Runcorn and provides a service for people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD). Prior to the Independent Living Centre opening, these service users were based at Astmoor Day Centre, which was a unit based within an industrial estate which is isolated from the local community.

Each of the service users has a Support Plan. Each Support Plan is unique to the service user and provides a photographic process for various catering tasks, such as making a cup of tea or making a cup cake. The Support Plan includes a task monitoring sheet for staff to complete, in order to monitor the progress of the service user in completing their designated tasks.

Halton Day Services has established a catering training course which is called Pebbles. Pebbles is a step by step catering programme, through which people learn the skills and knowledge required in catering. The programme begins with equipping service users with the basic skills for catering and then allows service users with the basic skills for catering and then allows service users to progress and acquire more skills and knowledge. The Pebbles programme is ran at several Day Services venues across Halton. Once the Pebbles course has been completed, service users are fully skilled and trained and are able to then work in the cafés ran by Halton Day Services, or in a café based in the community if they are able to successfully seek employment. By progressing through the Pebbles programme, it has allowed service users to take on a mentoring role to other service users and support them to progress through the training programme successfully.

On the day of our visit, the service users were making cupcakes which were subsequently being delivered and sold at the Norton Priory Open Day. One of the ladies suffers from sleep apnoea and needed to rest in between tasks. Another two service users will only stir the cake mixture 10 times before they need to rest. To accommodate this, staff separate out the tasks into 10 minute slots between those service users, to ensure they are able to be fully involved and engaged in the task, but are also able to rest as required.

The catering programme is managed by a professional chef and her previous employment history includes being a personal chef to Joan Collins.

The Independent Living Centre has also utilised the outside space available to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables, which are then used in other Halton Borough Council catering facilities including the various community cafes which are ran by Halton Day Services. The flowers and vegetables have been planted in raised beds, to allow full accessibility for all service users to get involved in planting and nurturing and extracting the produce. In addition to this, there is also the “Chucky Chicken” project. This project has re-homed



20 ex-battery hens. The eggs produced from the chickens are used by the various Day Services catering projects including Cup Cake Catering.

During the visit, one of the service users James showed us around the flower and vegetable beds. James was obviously very proud of what they were involved with at the Independent Living Centre.

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# **AUTISM SCRUTINY REVIEW SITE VISIT**

## **ALTERED IMAGES SALON**

The Altered Image Salon is based on Granville Street in Runcorn. The salon is centrally located between the High Street and Church Street, which provides access to a good footfall for the salon. The salon was quiet at the time of our visit. When no customers are booked in, the service users will practice the skills they have learnt on each other as practical experience.

All service users working in the salon have a portfolio, in which to record all of the training they have undertaken. All service users working in the salon are undertaking an adapted NVQ Level 1 Certificate and Health and Safety training.

There is a full rotation of staff in the salon, so there are different workers in the salon each day and they rotate the tasks they are responsible for in the salon. The service users are fully supported by trained stylists and beauty therapists.

The Altered Image salon offers a full range of hairdressing services at very reasonable prices. They also offer manicures and gel nails.

The salon is open Tuesday – Saturday, with late night opening on a Friday night and this has led to a lot of trade from people who would like to have a hair or beauty treatment for the weekend. Research was undertaken regarding the opening times of other salons in the area in order to be competitive and the prices for hair and beauty treatments are also competitive with other salons in the area.

The salon has had a lot of custom since its opening in August. Customers who have received a hair or beauty treatment have given good reviews of the service they received.

# AUTISM SCRUTINY REVIEW SITE VISIT

## **SHOPMOBILITY**

The Shopmobility store is based in a retail unit in Halton Lea, Runcorn. Shopmobility is run by Eddie, who is an extremely committed and enthusiastic individual.

On the day of our visit, there were four service users working in the shop. The people working on the shop have also been customers of Shopmobility, who are gaining valuable work experience as well as people skills.

A team meeting is held each morning and at the meeting it is decided what jobs people would like to do that day. The tasks to be completed in the store include cleaning the shop, cleaning the scooters, ensuring the scooters are in full working order and inputting information onto the computer system.

There are some issues with some of the scooters in that their batteries are not holding their charge any more. This means that the customers have to be informed that they can only do short trips (no more than 30 minutes) on the scooters. New batteries cost between £300 - £400 each.

There are plans to purchase another four scooters in the near future. Also if funding can be secured, there is potential for a Shopmobility store to be opened in Widnes.

It has become apparent that the customers view the shop as more than just Shopmobility. The staff have found that they are able to help customers with some of their other queries and signpost to other shops and services, if they are unable to provide the equipment required themselves.

Within the Shopmobility store, there is a display cabinet which contains items which have been made at The Coach House (another Halton Day Services project). The articles include Baby Cakes, which are a cake shaped item made up nappies, babygrows, bibs and other useful baby items; handmade cards and other craft items. Councillor Lowe asked Jenny, one of the service users working at Shopmobility, if she also worked at The Coach House. Jenny replied that she used to work at The Coach House, but she doesn't have time anymore as she is so busy working at other places.

# **AUTISM SCRUTINY REVIEW SITE VISIT**

## **REFECTORY CAFÉ, NORTON PRIORY**

Norton Priory is based near Manor Park in Runcorn. Members of the Scrutiny Review Committee went to the café for lunch.

A number of service users work in the café, as they will have completed the Pebbles catering programme and have acquired the standard of catering skills required for working the café. For those service users who are undertaking the Pebbles programme, to secure employment at Norton Priory Café is held in great esteem.

The café offers a range of hot and cold food and a selection of beverages. Members of the committee ordered a selection of meals from the menu and all were found to be of a high standard and reasonably priced.

The vegetables used by the café are grown by the Country Garden scheme as seen at the Independent Living Centre.

# **AUTISM SCRUTINY REVIEW SITE VISIT**

## **TEA ROOM/BREWERY**

The Cottage Tea Rooms are based on the grounds of Norton Priory in the walled gardens. The Cottage Tea Rooms also incorporates the micro-brewery and a gift shop. Attendees of the site visit were able to see how the micro-brewery operates and taste a sample of the beer being produced. The brewery project is supported by a Master Brewer, who is helping the service users to ensure all standards in the production of the beer are adhered to. The beer has its own branding of "Priory Ales". The beer is now available for sale at the Tunnel Top public house in Runcorn and will be offered to other local public houses to sell. In the near future, gift packs of the bottled beer will be available to purchase from the gift shop based within the Cottage Tea Rooms.

The Cottage Tea Rooms are open between 12pm – 3.50pm. On the day of the visit, there were four service users working in the tea rooms, with the assistance of two support workers. The service users were able to explain how much their job means to them and how much independence it has allowed them. One example of which was a young lady who now feels independent enough to move into her own tenancy in supported living accommodation.

## **CONCLUSION**

Members of the Scrutiny Committee found the site visit to be a very positive and uplifting experience. There are obviously some excellent examples of services available for people with autism spectrum conditions to engage in across Halton. Service users are being equipped with life skills and experience, which will enable them to live more fulfilling and rewarding lives within their local community and wider.

All of the venues visited during the day were found to be managed to very high standard and providing excellent opportunities for people with autism spectrum conditions to engage in real work experience, rather than a tokenistic approach. The support staff working at each venue demonstrated real enthusiasm and motivation for the service they provide and are working daily to empower the individuals they are working with.

For many of the service users we met during the visit who are on the spectrum, their behaviour has changed dramatically since engaging in Day Services and helped them to increase their confidence, independence, knowledge and skill base, which will help them in their everyday lives.

Following the site visit, the overall opinion of all members of the Scrutiny Review Committee was that this work needs to continue and expand in Halton. The services currently provided have already received international recognition and is an area of best practice that the borough should be proud of.

The members of the Scrutiny Review Topic Group would like to extend their thanks to all of the venues visited, the service users and staff for taking time to talk through their experiences. A special thank you is also given to Eileen Clarke who shared not only her knowledge but her passion for the work of Halton Day Services.

**Documents Considered including Best Practice within the review**

National Guidelines:

- Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: The Strategy for adults with Autism in England, Department of Health, 2010
- Draft Clinical guidelines for adults with Autism, NICE

Halton Borough Council documents:

- Draft Autism Strategy
- Corporate Plan – 2011 - 2016
- Sustainable Community Strategy – 2011 - 2026

**AUTISM SCRUTINY REVIEW  
ACTION PLAN**

**ANNEX 5**

Action No.	Action	Responsible person	Timescale	Progress
1	Members to support the continued work of the Positive Behaviour Support Service (PBSS).	Members of the Health PPB	Bi-annually	Report due at the Health PPB on 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2012.
2	Halton's Autism Strategy to be approved and implemented by the ASC Strategic Group, Senior Management and Health Policy and Performance Board, Children's Trust, and Halton and St Helen's Clinical Commissioning Committee.	John Williams	2012/13	Due for approval by approximately April 2012.
3	Implementation of Autism Strategy Action Plan to be monitored and progress updates provided by the ASC Strategic Group	John Williams	Regularly throughout 2012/13	Will begin once Strategy is implemented.
4	Continue to improve engagement with parents/carers, building on the work that has already taken place.	John Williams	Quarterly	Consolidating links with HAFS/CHAPs, parents and carers to inform the development of services.
5	Continue and extend the work opportunities for individuals with ASC in Halton enhancing skills to achieve this.	Stiofan O'Suillibhan/ John Williams	Quarterly	Funding has been secured from the NHS to provide a dedicated resource to pull all voluntary and statutory bodies together and align their opportunities for employment. This would include the private, retail and social enterprise elements of Halton. This will be



				implemented through Training In Systematic Instruction (TSI). The driving force behind TSI is a positive and empowering values base. It places a positive expectation of people's potential to achieve - when we have taken notice of the tasks and environments that people are interested in.
6	Increase publicity about the good work that is being progressed in day services.	Stiofan O'Suilibhan	Bi-annually	Recent publicity includes work with MP Graham Evens about the sale of beer (made at the day service brewery) in a local pub the Tunnel Top and how this will develop into us making a sale in the bar at the Houses of Parliament. All beer has been made with the support of autistic people (this article was in the local paper during December 2011). The intranet is also fully utilised for publicity.
7	Source funding for new batteries for the shopmobility scooters.	Councillor E Cargill	Asap	The Area Forum has agreed to pay two thirds and we are awaiting to hear from Halton Lea Area Forum regarding the remaining one third.
8	Increase employment opportunities for individuals with ASC.	Stiofan O'Suilibhan/ Wesley Rourke	Quarterly	Funding has been secured from the NHS to provide a dedicated resource to pull all voluntary and statutory bodies together and align their opportunities

				for employment. This would include the private, retail and social enterprise elements of Halton. This will be implemented through Training In Systematic Instruction (TSI). The driving force behind TSI is a positive and empowering values base. It places a positive expectation of people's potential to achieve - when we have taken notice of the tasks and environments that people are interested in.
9	Maintain the Pan-Disability model within employment services.	Wesley Rourke	Annually	Review annually
10	Increase day service venues to replicate good practice within the service across the borough as social enterprises, to complete a feasibility study in 2012.	Stiofan O'Suillibhan	April 2012	Feasibility study to be completed by April 2012 which will then inform future developments.
11	Increase the awareness of the benefits of employing individuals with ASC to local employers.	Stiofan O'Suillibhan/ Wesley Rourke	Annually	Working with the voluntary sector, for example, Halton Speak Out. Could present report to ELS Policy and Performance Board.
12	Further promote joint working between relevant teams and inform team work priorities and projects.	Stiofan O'Suillibhan/Wesley Rourke	Annually	Review annually
13	Increase low level support for people with ASC	John Williams	Quarterly	Current pilot with Mental Health Outreach team and Community Bridge

				Builders.
14	Increase local provision for individuals with Aspergers	John Williams	Quarterly	On-going developments to provide information to feed into the commissioning of services.
15	Increase awareness of ASC within workforce, for example, teachers, social workers, health colleagues, etc.	Brian Hilton/ John Williams	Quarterly	ASC sub group for training is leading on the training needs of the workforce.
16	Collect data on the number of adults and children with ASC borough wide	John Williams	Quarterly	Collection of data from adult and children services.

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