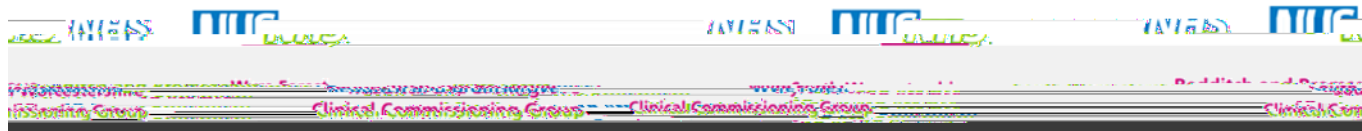


## 1. Vision

Based on the vision within the national autism strategy update in 2014 – *Think Autism: Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives* - our vision is that:



with supported transition to appropriate adult services. Effective transition systems will enable a seamless experience for those people with autism spectrum conditions who need support to have fulfilling and rewarding lives.

## 2. Background

### 2.1 Definition

For the purpose of this strategy, autism is defined as:

"A lifelong condition that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how a person makes sense of the world around them"

Source: National Autistic Society

Autism is known as a spectrum condition because of the wide range of ways in which Autism presents in different people. There are different terms that individual



## 2.2 Why does Worcestershire need an Autism Strategy?

The Autism Act 2009 was the first and, so far, only specific condition Act in England. The Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and NHS Organisations to support the implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy 2015 sets out requirements for Local Authorities and NHS to develop commissioning plans around Adults with Autism and review them annually. The Autism Partnership Board are encouraged to see new commitments for the NHS regarding Autism in the NHS Long Term Plan. This is a re-draft of Worcestershire's 2015-18 Strategy and sets out how Worcestershire will fulfill its statutory requirements, the commitments in the Long Term Plan and achieve its vision.

Worcestershire is required to have an Adult Autism Strategy but has committed to have an All-Age Strategy. This Strategy is for children, young people, and adults with autism spectrum conditions, their families and carers. The original strategy was developed with the Worcestershire Autism Partnership Board during 2014 and was consulted on in early 2015. During 2018 the Autism Partnership Group has worked with stakeholders to re-draft and renew the strategy to take it forward. The Autism Partnership Board consists of Adults with autism spectrum conditions, family carers, voluntary sector organisations, Health and Social Care Professionals for Children and Adults.

The quotes in this strategy all come from the engagement events held to re-draft this strategy.

Page | 4

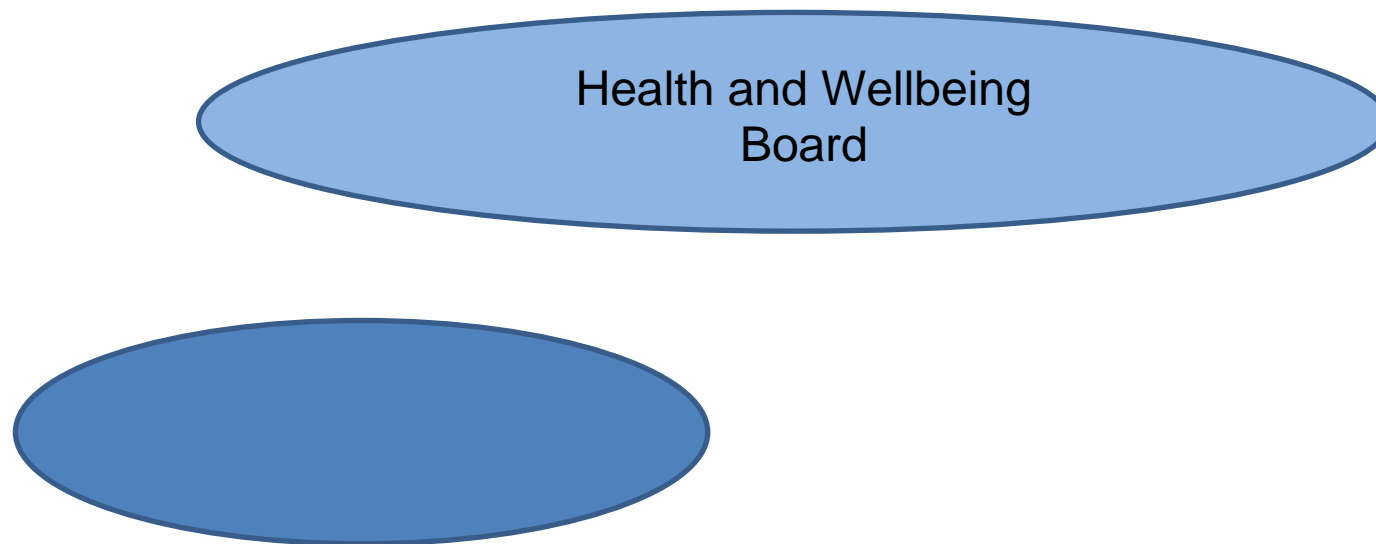
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/healthandwellbeingboard](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/healthandwellbeingboard)



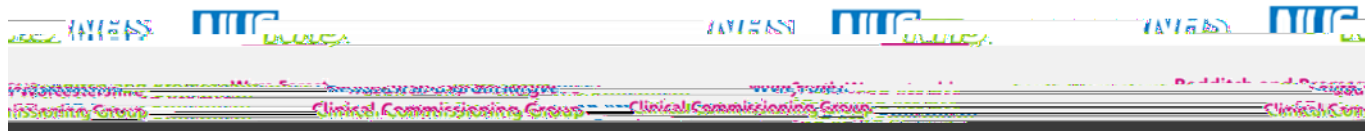
# Worcestershire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019 - 2022



### 3. Governance



The Health and Wellbeing Board









## Worcestershire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019 - 2022

- The Autistica Report into Early Death in Autism highlights that Autistic Adults with a Learning Disability are 40 times more likely to die prematurely due to a neurological condition. Autistic Adults without a Learning Disability are 9 times more likely to die from suicide.

### 4.3 Local guidance and research

- The vision of the Worcestershire Health and Well Being Strategy is that "*Worcestershire residents are healthier, live longer and have a better quality of life especially those communities and groups with the poorest health outcomes.*"
- In March 2018 Healthwatch Worcestershire published their Autism Spectrum Conditions Report, which provided feedback from people with Autism Spectrum Conditions and their carers in relation to the priorities within the All Age Autism Strategy. Recommendations were made about some specific areas where further improvements are still needed, including:

Increased staff awareness and understanding of Autism Spectrum Conditions across health services  
Making adjustments to help people with Autism Spectrum Conditions to access health services  
Access to information about services and support

Page | 11

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/healthandwellbeingboard](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/healthandwellbeingboard)



## Worcestershire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019 - 2022

Access to support, in particular mental health support for people with Autism Spectrum Conditions and their carers

Access to and waiting times for diagnosis for children via the Umbrella Pathway.

- The Strategy is designed to complement the Worcestershire SEND OFSTED Improvement Plan and Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs. It aimed that over the duration of this strategy there will be further alignment with plans for SEND 0-25 provision.
- The 2017 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Worcestershire and Shropshire highlighted Autism Spectrum Conditions as an emerging issue "The number of children with a Special Educational Needs (SEN) statement for ASD in







Worcestershire's

## 6. Priorities

The key priorities will be linked to an action plan to ensure that outcomes are clearly identified

### Priority 1:

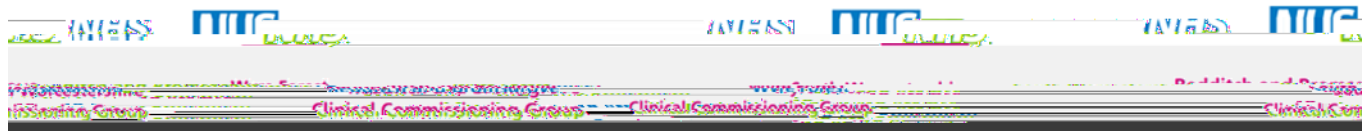




## Worcestershire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019 - 2022

Starting College  
Becoming an adult  
Moving house  
Family changes  
Death of a relative  
Starting Employment

**Priority 5:** We will work with employers to improve employment opportunities and conditions for people with Autism Spectrum Conditions





## Worcestershire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019 - 2022

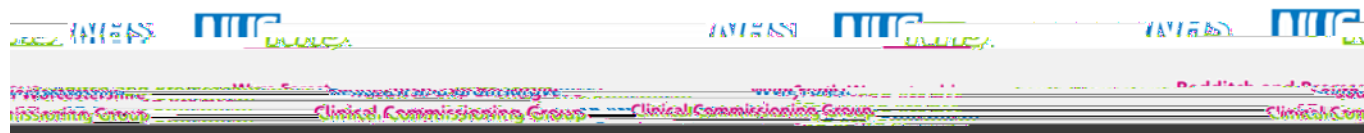
- The SEND Strategy sets out priorities for early identification and intervention and providing a graduated response.
- The majority of people who are diagnosed with autism spectrum conditions receive their diagnosis as children. Worcestershire will continue to encourage early identification of potential autism spectrum conditions in childhood and improve the transition from children's to adult services. This should support a reduction in the numbers of people with autism spectrum conditions who reach adulthood without a diagnosis. However it is not unusual for adults to be referred for an assessment of an autism spectrum condition. Work will be done to promote the adult diagnosis service more widely
- Adult Social Care is spending almost £5 million per year on individuals who have Autism Spectrum Conditions and Complex Needs

### 7.2 What are we going to do to achieve Priority 1

Work will be done to increase awareness of diagnosis services, maximising the online presence and literature published about these services.

Page | 19

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/healthandwellbeingboard](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/healthandwellbeingboard)



Worcestershire's All-



- Under the Care Act 2015, everyone is entitled to an assessment of need. Our 2018 Autism Self-Assessment highlighted that care assessments and carer assessments are not routinely offered to people going through the current Adult Pathway.

### 8.2 What are we going to do to achieve Priority 2

Work will be done over the course of this Strategy to help schools to achieve Autism Friendly Schools Standard.

We aim to develop partnerships with other agencies to build on the current local support services in Worcestershire, including housing, education, employment services and the Criminal Justice System

Work will be done to promote Autism Awareness training to other community groups.

Work will be done to map support available, establish any develop partnerships with other agencies to community groups.



# Worcestershire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019

## Worcestershire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019 - 2022

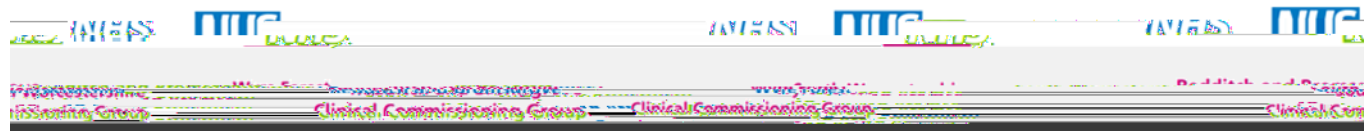
*support people with a learning disability or autism. Over the next five years, national learning disability improvement standards will be implemented and will apply to all services funded by the NHS. These standards will promote greater consistency, addressing themes such as rights, the workforce, specialist care and working more*

*patient has a learning disability or autism. We will work with the Department for Education and local authorities to improve their awareness of, and support for, children and young people with learning disabilities, autism or both. And we will work with partners to bring hearing, sight and dental checks to children and young people with a learning disability, autism or both in special residential schools."*

- Feedback from parents, carers, pupils and professionals makes it clear – all staff working with people with autism spectrum conditions should have access to at least basic information and training and this is a key priority for this strategy.
- Worcestershire County Council has co-produced a training course for staff and contracted providers; this has now been attended by approximately 600 staff.
- The Autism Partnership Board previously produced a GP Training Pack which worked well to raise Autism Awareness. This is due to be updated.
- Babcock offers Autism Awareness training and more detailed Autism Training for Schools.

Page | 24

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/healthandwellbeingboard](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/healthandwellbeingboard)







## Worcestershire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019 - 2022

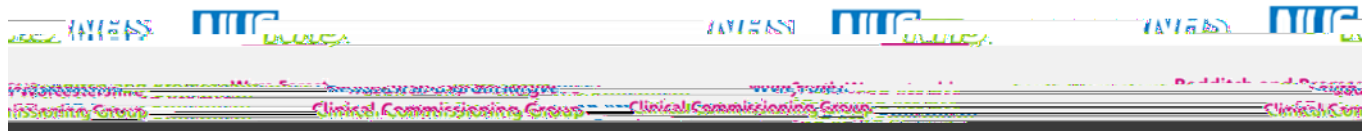
More specialised training should be undertaken by staff that hold key roles in assessment and support planning and we will make sure this is available for organisations to access.



10. Priority 4: We will publish good practice information and advice for people with Autism Spectrum Conditions and the organisations who work with them to help prepare for big life changes.

### 10.1 What do we know about Priority 4

- People with autism spectrum conditions ca



## Worcestershire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019 - 2022

- Social workers are linked with schools to identify children who may need this additional support as early as possible,

Page | 28

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/healthandwellbeingboard](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/healthandwellbeingboard)



## Worcestershire's All-Age Autism Strategy 2019 - 2022

This Strategy will build on the work already underway through the SEND Improvement Plan and the Worcestershire County Council Young Adults Team to ensure that people have the information and support they need to manage big life changes. This fits with priority 4 of the SEND Strategy and the two Boards will work together to deliver positive outcomes for people with Autism Spectrum Conditions.

Wherever possible, the Worcestershire Autism Partnership Group will work to influence other organisations, providers and public services to develop their understanding of autism spectrum conditions, to make reasonable adjustments to offer more effective support and, in particular, to help people experience successful and seamless transitions between services and placements.





## 11.2 How are we going to achieve Priority 5

Currently there are developments across both mental health and learning disabilities services regarding employment support and the aim is to ensure that adults with autism spectrum conditions are fully included in any developments as this strategy is implemented.

We will share good practice guidance with employers and share the findings from the next Worcestershire Autism Employment event with the local business community.

Education Health and Care Plans will include employment plans where appropriate. This will be audited by the Autism Partnership Board.

