

# SHROPSHIRE ADULT AUTISM STRATEGY

2016 - 2020



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## VISION

In Shropshire we support the Government's vision that:

'All adults with Autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can get a diagnosis and access support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents'

*(Department of health, 2010, Fulfilling and rewarding lives; the strategy for adults with autism in England and Think Autism 2014.)*

## INTRODUCTION

This strategy has been developed by Shropshire Autism Partnership Board. Its purpose is to provide the strategic direction for statutory health and social care organisations in Shropshire with regards to supporting adults and young people with an Autistic Spectrum Condition.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the commissioning, planning and provision of autism services across the County which also includes low-level preventative services.

*(NB: This strategy replaces the draft Shropshire Adult Autism Strategy 2012 – 2015, in order to respond to the work that has already been carried out and to the updates in strategy and guidance since that was written.)*

The document sets out:

- The objectives and outcomes for the Autism services in Shropshire in line with Think Autism and the statutory guidance issued by the DoH in March 2015.
- Considers the national and local drivers, prevalence statistics and stakeholders who need to be involved in this work.
- The achievements in Shropshire from the previous 3year strategy.
- Includes an action plan of how the work programme will be taken forward over the next four years.
- Provides a framework of how we want to monitor and evidence service quality to ensure that it will support the achievement of national and key local targets and performance indicators.

## WHAT IS AUTISM?

In this strategy we recognise that there are a number of terms that different individuals and groups prefer to use for recognising autism. In this strategy we use the term 'autism' as an umbrella term for all the terms listed below:

Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)  
Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC)  
Asperger Syndrome  
Autistic Spectrum Difference  
Neuro-diversity

Autism was first recognised as a distinct condition in the 1940's. Since then research has improved our understanding of the condition and numerous theories have been put forward as to its causation, including theories about genetic links, but as yet no definitive cause has been found and there is no cure. The national autism strategy for adults **Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives 2010 1** defined autism 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".*

Autism is known as a spectrum condition because of both the range of difficulties that affect people with autism and the way it presents in different people.

In the 1970's the symptoms were described as a triad of impairments (Wing 1976):

- ☐ Social communication, e.g. problems using and understanding verbal and non-verbal language, such as gestures, facial expressions and tone of voice
- ☐ Social interaction, e.g. problems in recognising and understanding other people's feelings and managing their own
- ☐ Social imagination, e.g. problems in understanding and predicting other people's intentions and behaviour and imagining situations outside their own routine.

In the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5, American Psychological Association), the triad was reduced to two core dimensions:

- ☐ Social communication difficulties, which incorporates both communication and social interaction as these are intertwined.
- ☐ Strongly repetitive behaviour (e.g. difficulties in adapting to change and unusually narrow interest).

In addition, people with autism may experience some form of sensory sensitivity or under-sensitivity to sounds, touch, tastes, smells, light or colours; they often prefer to have a fixed routine and can find change difficult to cope with. However every person's experience of autism is unique to each individual who will have a range of strengths as well as needs.

Asperger's Syndrome is also a form of autistic spectrum disorder affecting people of average or above-average intelligence, who typically have fewer problems with speaking than others on the autistic spectrum; but do still have significant needs that can be masked by their ability to speak fluently. People with autism are often stigmatized and this can cause barriers in accessing services.

## BACKGROUND

In **2010** the government published a national strategy for autism entitled **Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives**. A draft strategy was developed for Shropshire which outlined the key priorities for achieving the changes locally that were needed, so that people with an autistic spectrum condition have access to the opportunities, support and services to enable them to live a full and rewarding life. The Shropshire strategy was also available as a summary in Easy Read version.

In **April 2014** the government published **Think Autism**, an update to the National Strategy published in 2010. This update was produced as a result of major changes to many parts of the system since the 2009 Autism Act and the 2010 Autism Strategy as part of the programme right across Government to reform public services.

In **March 2015** the department of Health issued Statutory guidance for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the adult autism strategy.

This updated local strategy covers the Shropshire Council / Shropshire CCG (Clinical commissioning group) local authority area and has been written in response to these updates and developments.

**Think Autism** focuses on **15 Priority challenges for action** and these challenges form the basis of the Shropshire strategy for 2016 – 2020.

These action points have been determined by individuals with autism, their families and professionals. They formulate the key areas to be worked upon moving forward.

The priorities are:

***An equal part of my local community***

- 1. I want to be accepted as who I am within my local community. I want people and organisations in my community to have opportunities to raise their awareness and acceptance of autism.**
- 2. I want my views and aspirations to be taken into account when decisions are made in my local area. I want to know whether my local area is doing as well as others.**
- 3. I want to know how to connect with other people. I want to be able to find local autism peer groups, family groups and low level support.**
- 4. I want the everyday services that I come into contact with to know how to make reasonable adjustments to include me and accept me as I am. I want the staff who work in them to be aware and accepting of autism.**
- 5. I want to be safe in my community and free from the risk of discrimination, hate crime and abuse.**
- 6. I want to be seen as me and for my gender, sexual orientation and race to be taken into account.**

***The right support at the right time during my lifetime***

- 7. I want a timely diagnosis from a trained professional. I want relevant information and support throughout the diagnostic process.**
- 8. I want autism to be included in local strategic needs assessments so that person-centred local health, care and support services, based on good information about local needs, is available for people with autism.**
- 9. I want staff in health and social care services to understand that I have autism and how this affects me.**
- 10. I want to know that my family can get help and support when they need it.**

**11. I want services and commissioners to understand how my autism affects me differently through my life. I want to be supported through big life changes such as transition from school, getting older or when a person close to me dies.**

**12. I want people to recognise my autism and adapt the support they give me if I have additional needs such as a mental health problem, a learning disability or if I sometimes communicate through behaviours which others may find challenging.**

**13. If I break the law, I want the criminal justice system to think about autism and to know how to work well with other services.  
Developing my skills and independence and working to the best of my ability.**

**14. I want the same opportunities as everyone else to enhance my skills, to be empowered by services and to be as independent as possible.**

**15. I want support to get a job and support from my employer to help me keep it.**

The actions needed to continue and to work towards fully achieving all these goals are set out in the action plan at the end of the document.

Running in tandem with this strategy will be the **Transforming Care Plan for Shropshire**. This is the local response to ‘*Building the Right Support*’ (October 2015, a service model for commissioners of health and social services, DOH).

***‘I want people to recognise my autism and adapt the support they give me if I have additional needs such as a mental health problem, a learning disability or if I sometimes communicate through behaviours which others may find challenging’***

**The Transforming Care Partnership (TCP)** is for people with a learning disability and/or autism who may present with behaviours which can challenge and may include mental health issues. The TCP Programme is endorsed by NHS England, ADASS and LGA. It runs from July 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

***Building the right support -***

A national plan to develop community services and close inpatient facilities for people with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, including those with a mental health condition” was published on 30 October 2015 and requires local authorities and NHS bodies to deliver against Transforming Care Partnership implementation plans from 1 April 2016.

In summary, the TCP is progressing work from the original ‘Winterbourne View’ situation, where people with learning disability and/or autism and behaviours which may challenge were neglected and abused. NHS England acknowledged that individuals should not live in hospital environments. Thus, at a national level TCP is intended to reduce the number of beds provided across the country overall and ensure that when placements occur, the average length of stay is reduced to 85 days.

Each area of the country is required to devise and implement a plan to reduce the numbers of people with learning disability and/or Autism, including those with a mental health condition placed in out of area inpatient facilities due to displaying behaviour that challenges by putting in place the right support in local communities.

The Shropshire Transforming Care Partnership brings together Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council, Shropshire CCG and Telford and Wrekin CCG.

Work-streams include: Strategic communication, engagement with stakeholders; particularly families and carers, workforce development, housing/accommodation and the system service model.



## STAKEHOLDERS

***'I want the everyday services that I come into contact with to know how to make reasonable adjustments to include me and accept me as I am. I want the staff who work in them to be aware and accepting of autism'***

The Stakeholders in this strategy are:

- Any adults of 18 years of age and over with autism living in Shropshire
- Carers and family members of adults with autism
- Shropshire Council Adult Social Care
- Shropshire CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group)
- SSSFT (South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust)
- Advocacy services
- Providers of day time activities and education
- Local Authority
- 3<sup>rd</sup> sector services
- Voluntary services
- Supported employment providers
- Police, probation, prison service, and criminal justice system
- Housing providers
- Leisure services
- Carers support services
- Prison service
- Criminal justice
- Disability employment advisors
- employers

**The Shropshire Autism Partnership board** is held on a quarterly basis and is attended by representatives from the Local authority, Shropshire CCG, SSSFT, Individuals with lived experience of Autism and Asperger's, Autonomy, NAS (National Autistic Society), AWM (Autism West Midlands), STACS (Shropshire and Telford Asperger Carer's Support) Adelphi, Bromford housing and the West Mercia Police equalities and diversity officer.

## PREVALENCE DATA AND EVIDENCE

***'I want autism to be included in local strategic needs assessments so that person-centred local health, care and support services, based on good information about local needs, is available for people with autism'***

The latest prevalence studies of autism indicate that 1.1% of the population in the UK may have autism. This means that over 695,000 people in the UK may have autism, an estimate derived from the 1.1% prevalence rate applied to the 2011 UK census figures.

Estimates of the proportion of people with autism who have a learning disability (IQ less than 70) vary considerably but It is estimated that between 31% and 35.4% of people with a learning disability (IQ less than 70) also have autism.

Applying national prevalence rates to the population indicates that we would be expecting there to be around 1,816 adults (18-65) with some form of autism in Shropshire. However, we would not necessarily expect all of these people to be accessing statutory services for a variety of reasons, for example some will not meet criteria for services.

This client group will be present in a number of mainstream services:

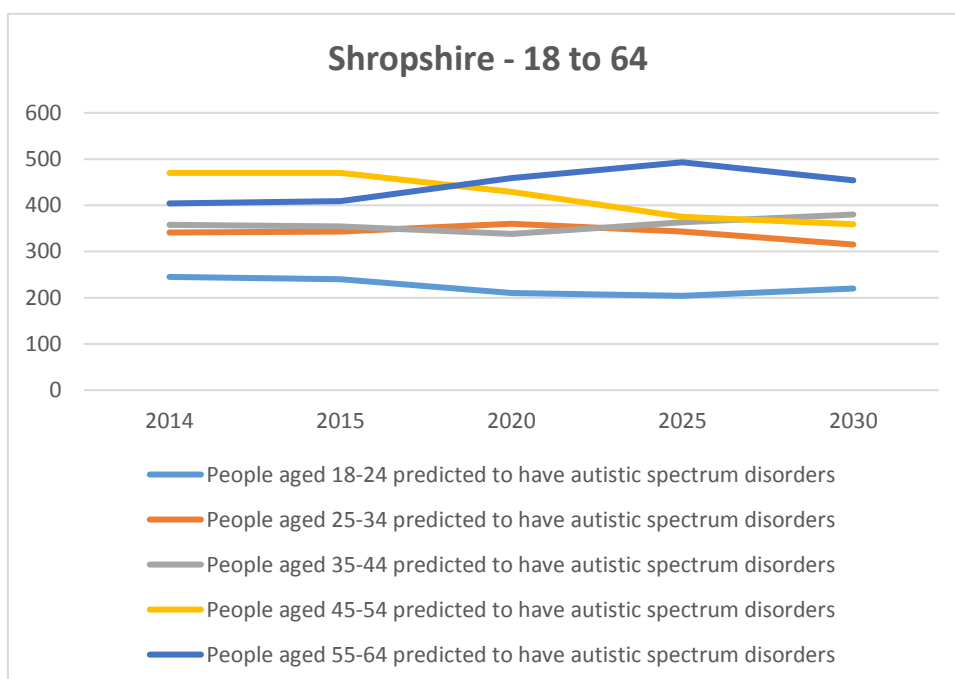
- ✓ Caseloads of learning disability social workers
- ✓ Caseloads of mental health social workers
- ✓ People within services provided by the two specialist Mental Health and Learning Disability Provider Trusts
- ✓ Caseloads of Consultant Psychologists/Psychiatrists
- ✓ Attending learning disability day services
- ✓ Attending mental health day services
- ✓ Short break and respite services
- ✓ Living in independent sector residential and nursing homes
- ✓ Living in supported tenancy schemes
- ✓ Third sector provision

This is not an exhaustive list and it is recognised that some people will not be known to any service.

## Prevalence in Shropshire

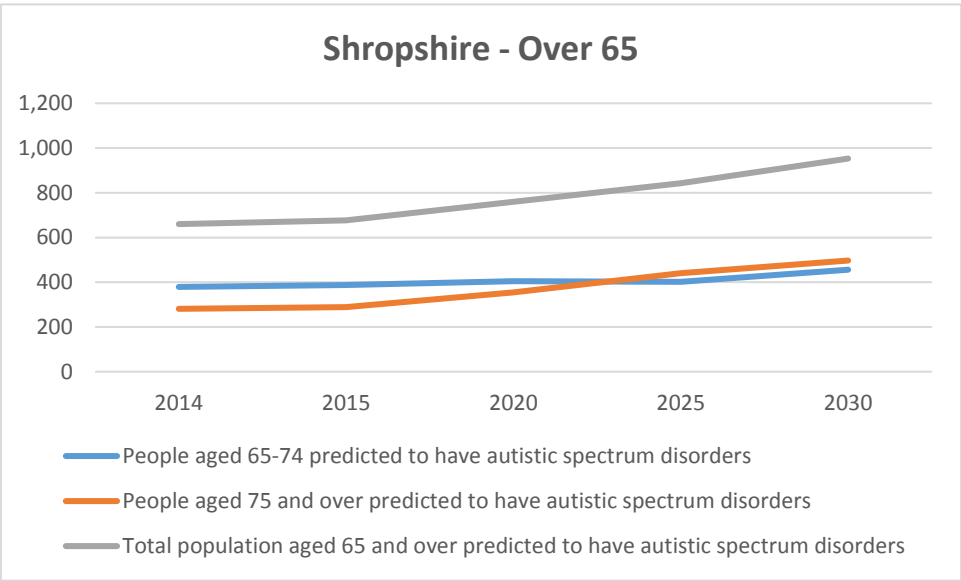
| Shropshire: Autistic spectrum disorders - all people                      | 2014  | 2015  | 2020  | 2025  | 2030  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| People aged 18-24 predicted to have autistic spectrum disorders           | 245   | 240   | 210   | 204   | 220   |
| People aged 25-34 predicted to have autistic spectrum disorders           | 341   | 343   | 360   | 343   | 315   |
| People aged 35-44 predicted to have autistic spectrum disorders           | 358   | 354   | 338   | 363   | 380   |
| People aged 45-54 predicted to have autistic spectrum disorders           | 470   | 470   | 429   | 375   | 359   |
| People aged 55-64 predicted to have autistic spectrum disorders           | 404   | 409   | 459   | 493   | 454   |
| Total population aged 18-64 predicted to have autistic spectrum disorders | 1,818 | 1,816 | 1,796 | 1,777 | 1,728 |

| Shropshire: Autistic spectrum disorders - all people                            | 2014 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 | 2030 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| People aged 65-74 predicted to have autistic spectrum disorders                 | 379  | 387  | 405  | 402  | 456  |
| People aged 75 and over predicted to have autistic spectrum disorders           | 281  | 289  | 355  | 440  | 497  |
| Total population aged 65 and over predicted to have autistic spectrum disorders | 660  | 676  | 760  | 843  | 953  |



The percentage of adults (18-64) with ASD in Shropshire will fall by 2.1% by 2030 compared to 2014 whilst the England figure is predicted to rise to 3.9% by 2030.

For those people aged 55-64 ASD in Shropshire is predicted to rise by 3.1% in 2030 compared to England at 1.7% and the gap between Shropshire and England has increased from 4.5% in 2014 to 5.9% 2030.



There are 324 adults with autism classified as receiving a long term service funded by Adult social care in Shropshire as of April 2016.  
The Carefirst client information system now specifically identifies people with Autism receiving long term support.

The Shropshire Autism Needs assessment for Children and Young People aged 0 -25 identified that there were approximately 275 children with autistic traits from 0 – 18 being supported by the CAMHS (Child and Adolescent mental health services) team in autumn 2014.

See appendix 5 for the full report.

## 2012 – 2015 STRATEGY - WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED ALREADY?

In line with the updates and guidance from the National strategy we have undertaken a review of the Shropshire strategy to reflect what we have heard from people with autism, their families and other services.

Much work has been undertaken to deliver on Shropshire's strategy and the 15 priorities; we now need to take stock and move forward.

Many things have changed in key services over the last few years. Shropshire is increasingly becoming a commissioning authority and many new organisations make up the care and support marketplace.

### Diagnostic Pathway

***'I want a timely diagnosis from a trained professional. I want relevant information and support throughout the diagnostic process'***

We had a joint diagnostic and care pathway set up in 2014 by the SSSFT with support from the CCG and Shropshire Council which involved service user groups and other organisations in its development. Diagnosis was primarily accessed through GP referral but referrals were considered for assessment wherever Autism was a consideration. There were 2 strands to the diagnostic pathway and where it was clear that the individual also has a LD (learning disability), they will be referred through the Community Learning Disability Service Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin for assessment, diagnosis and on-going case management. For the majority where no significant Learning disability presents, referral was directed to the MH (Mental Health) arm of the pathway irrespective of the presence of co-morbid MH conditions. From here, there was an automatic option of referral into the autism hub.

The plan was that pre and post diagnostic support would be made available at the hub by SSSFT champions.

Before the recent inception of this diagnostic pathway everyone was diagnosed on the LD pathway.

Since the end of 2015 this pathway is no longer being commissioned by Shropshire CCG.

There have been complications to the locally delivered pathway and as such, there needs to be a redesign. Currently access is via spot purchase but is part of a temporary pathway. A working group, led by the CCG, including experts by experience, is being convened to ensure the new pathway best meets the needs of adults with suspected autism. Diagnosis is primarily accessed through GP referral but referrals will be considered for assessment wherever Autism is a consideration. Where it is clear that the individual also has a learning disability, they will be referred through the Community Learning Disability Service Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin for assessment, diagnosis and on-going case management.

## **Carers**

***'I want to know that my family can get help and support when they need it'***

STACs hold a carers support group each week which runs concurrently with the Hub.

Under the Care Act 2014 every carer is eligible for a carers assessment; these are carried out in Shropshire by workers from Shropshire Adult Social Care.

Carers Trust for all provide Carers support services, short carer breaks, Carer emergency response service and Young carers support.

The NAS, AWM and Autonomy support carers through their networks of advice and support.

## **Training and Development**

***'I want staff in health and social care services to understand that I have autism and how this affects me'***

We would expect that all Shropshire Council workers carrying out assessments under the Care Act will have received appropriate training.

Extensive training has taken place following a pathway developed for Adult Social Care workers – social workers, assistants and occupational Therapists and CMHT social workers by Shropshire Council Joint Training.

Currently SC Joint Training now offer a progressive range of courses. Experts by experience co-deliver all of these face to face. The training framework can be found in Appendix 1.

The Joint Training Unit is currently designing a further training package of increased specialist training to staff each frontline teams to enable them to be identified as the Autism Specialist within those teams. These will include any staff involved in running the Autism hub.

Some Autism Hub members have commenced a specific training package for individuals who want to move on in life entitled 'Tools to Make a Difference' provided by Joint training and Adult Community Education at the Gateway, Shrewsbury.

SSSFT have also held 2 development days for staff who will be ASC champions within their teams co-facilitated by lived experience experts and self-advocates, SSSFT have identified two champions per locality who support the work in this area with leads in place now against Primary Care IAPT also.

Autism West Midlands have delivered awareness sessions at the Autism hub co-facilitated by a member of their staff who is on the autistic spectrum.

The West Mercia Police provide Autism awareness training for all front line staff (officers, call takers, custody, front counter staff.) In addition their Equality and

Diversity Advisor has created an aide memoire for officers for use when dealing with an individual on the Autism Spectrum. (see appendix 2)

There are a variety of awareness courses available from Autonomy, AWM, NAS and Adelphi care.

## **Hub**

***'I want to know how to connect with other people. I want to be able to find local autism peer groups, family groups and low level support'***

The Shropshire Autism hub has been running since 29th January 2015. This is a weekly service for individuals both pre and post diagnosis where trained staff offer information and advice tailored to meet their specific requirements. There is 1:1 and group support on offer and weekly information sessions largely as suggested by the service users who attend. People can self- refer or obtain information on how to access the hub through Shropshire Choices, primary care and voluntary care sector as well as many other avenues including AWM, STACS, A4U, Autonomy, the chamber of commerce and SPIC (Shropshire Partners in Care)

The core number of attendees averages between 20 and 25 per week and is increasing.

Up to 5 professionals and 5 volunteers each week.

Up to 5 carers each week.

4 Hub users have become volunteers for A4U

The hub has delivered a number of different courses and sessions including; life skills; confidence building and assertiveness; money management; cookery and bespoke personal support planning.

A recent grant from the Arts Council resulted in a drama project culminating with a performance by the group members.

18.5k capital from the DoH (Department of Health) has been spent on supporting the hub including improving IT facilities and equipment and improving the environment to become more Autism friendly.

Hub staff and volunteers have received training from SC joint training.

The hub runs its own website and Twitter account.

Bromford Housing and Autism West Midlands support hub users and there is input from Enable, Shropshire Adult Social Care and Autonomy.

Support planning sessions by Shropshire Adult Social Care, Lets talk local staff have been held at the Hub.

Local employers have visited the hub to discuss the support they can offer.

A4U, Bromford Housing and AWM meet monthly to discuss concerns and help progress Hub users to towards achieving their goal

Healthy Cooking – 4 Hub users went home having made quiche for supper and other cooking sessions proved very successful.



### Physical Activity

***‘I want to be accepted as who I am within my local community. I want people and organisations in my community to have opportunities to raise their awareness and acceptance of autism’***

Links have been made with the Inclusively fit project which aims to increase participation in sport by disabled people.

There have been taster sessions in sports and games and indoor exercise. Two Hub users were inspired by a talk from ‘Sailability’ and then went off to take part in a session on their own in Telford



Shropshire Cycling for Health has inspired some of the Hub users to cycle to the Hub, and one member set up a free service check for Hub users before embarking on a cycle ride.



## Housing

***'I want the everyday services that I come into contact with to know how to make reasonable adjustments to include me and accept me as I am. I want the staff who work in them to be aware and accepting of autism'***

Through contracts with Sustain and Shropshire Housing Support, floating support is provided by coordinating workers to people with Autism. This contract prioritises people who are vulnerable in all types of accommodation including privately rented and owned.

Support focuses on benefits, getting about, neighbour issues and will signpost to experts when appropriate.

Bromford Housing have provided regular support in the Hub and a recent pilot project has meant that a worker from Shrewsbury homes 4 All is attending the Hub for 6 months to support people with housing issues beyond the service level agreement that we have with housing providers.

Shropshire Council has commissioned a number of new properties for supported living including some purpose built units in Market Drayton in North Shropshire for people with LD and /or Autism with complex behaviours that challenge. Some individuals have returned from out of county placements.

## Safe Places scheme

***'I want to be safe in my community and free from the risk of discrimination, hate crime and abuse'***

Shropshire has a network of over 300 **safe places** (see appendix 3) in all the major towns and a number of hate crime reporting centres.

A Session on Hate crime has been delivered to hub users.

A card for people with autism to carry and use if they are involved with the police has been developed by the West Mercia Police Equality and Diversity officer with hub members and carries the WMP logo. (see appendix 4)

## Employment

***'I want support to get a job and support from my employer to help me keep it'***



Shropshire Council's disability employment service is Enable which provides a supported employment pathway for people with autism through a number of routes, including those from social care and those from Jobcentre Plus. These are:

- a. Social workers can refer service users to Enable directly and information is provided to social work teams to promote that route. This information takes the form of leaflets, posters and electronic newsletters.
- b. Shropshire Council's First Point of Contact (FPOC) social care contact centre can make referrals to Enable for people with autism enquiring about support into employment. These referrals are often for people who may not be eligible for a full social care / social work service.
- c. Shropshire Council social care has a number of social care hubs around the County all of which can send referrals to Enable. In particular, the Council also runs a county wide Autism Hub for people with autism and their carer's. Enable staff run employment surgeries at these Hubs, including that for people with autism, so that people (or their carers / families) can get information about the types of support available and refer themselves directly.
- d. Enable also sub contracts the governments specialist disability employment programme, Work Choice. Referrals can be made from the jobcentre or other sources e.g. education, to help the person with autism into employment of 16 + hours a week.  
 Enable initially carries out vocational assessments for people with autism who have been referred. This is followed by CV creation and job seeking i.e. looking for possible job opportunities for people in line with their skills, interests and experience. The latter involves both "normal" advertised job application routes and also "cold calling" employers to investigate new job roles. Extensive work is carried out with employers directly and through local Chambers of Commerce and other employer organisations to build awareness and provide high levels of support.  
 As individual's progress into work support is provided via specialist job coaches. These staff will work with the service user / employee to ensure that they develop the required work skills and liaise with the person's employer to ensure that the new employee is successful in their post. This ensures that reasonable adjustments are in place for each individual. This may include utilisation of the Access to Work programme. People are supported in employment for as long as is necessary until they are able to function independently within their job role. Where problems occur at a later date Enable staff will go back to support the person in retaining their job. Likewise, employers can also contact enable at a later date.

Enable work closely in partnership with local DWP (Department of work and pensions) /jobcentre's via the DWP Partnership Manager and the Disability Employment Advisors and other Work Coaches in Jobcentres. It also liaises routinely with Access to Work and works closely with DWP and other services (including the Council's Benefits Options service) to ensure that "better off" calculations are provided before people move into paid employment.

## **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

***‘I want my views and aspirations to be taken into account when decisions are made in my local area. I want to know whether my local area is doing as well as others’***

The Adult Autism Partnership Board will have overall responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the strategy on an annual basis and will update the rolling action plan accordingly. The Board will have meaning, be productive and worthwhile. It will have objectives and outcomes which need to be achieved.

Monitoring of progress will also be in line with the National Autism Self-assessment framework.

## **SHROPSHIRE AUTISM STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**The aims of the autism strategy are to take forward the 15 priorities outlined on page 3 and ensure that in particular:**

Staff who provide services to people with Autism are appropriately trained

A sustainable diagnostic pathway exists for adults leading to an assessment of needs for relevant services.

Appropriate planning is in place in relation to provision of services for people with Autism as they move from children to adults services.

Ensure that there is a meaningful local partnership arrangement to bring together local organisations, services and stakeholders and people with Autism.

There is preventative support and safeguarding in line with the Care Act 2014

Ensure that locally reasonable adjustments are in place to comply with Equality Act and the National health service act.

Support is available for people with complex needs, whose behaviour may challenge or who may lack capacity.

Employment is seen as a key outcome for adults and promoted as a positive outcome for the majority of those children with an EHC plan.

There is engagement between local police forces, criminal justice agencies and prisons regarding training and under the Care Act assess the care and support needs of adults who may have such needs in prisons and other forms of detention.

|    | Action  | Lead   | Target Date                                | Achievements and notes  |
|----|---|--|--|---|
| 1. | <p>Training</p> <p><b>'I want staff in health and social care services to understand that I have autism and how this affects me'</b></p>  |  |  |   |
|    | Consolidate existing Training pathway (see appendix1) and practice development including local conferences.   | Susie McLagan<br>Mary Johnson<br>Christine Scott | complete                                   | Training pathway in place   |
|    | Consideration of future specialised training around specific areas of the spectrum and or people's lives to be actioned as appropriate e.g. older people.inc discussion with SPIC | Mary Johnson<br>Christine Scott                  | Feedback to<br>Sept 17<br>Board<br>meeting |   |
|    | All primary and secondary healthcare include autism training as part of their workforce development   | Richard Kubilius                                 | ongoing                                    | This is ongoing because primary and secondary health care staff are transient. There is a work stream in the Transforming Care Partnership that is addressing training. Implementation of the new assessment service will look to include training within it. |

|    | Action  | Lead             | Target Date | Achievements and notes  |
|----|---|------------------|-------------|---|
| 2. | <p>Diagnostic pathway</p> <p><b>‘I want a timely diagnosis from a trained professional. I want relevant information and support throughout the diagnostic process’</b></p>  |                  |             |   |
|    | <p>Ensure an Integrated triangle of service delivery and pre-and post-diagnosis support for all age groups including older people</p> <p>People with Autism without LD have access to the same level of clinical support as those with LD</p> | Richard Kubilius | March 2018  | 0-25 year old will receive pre and post diagnostic support via the new Emotional Health and Wellbeing service which commenced in May 2017. For adults the Autism hub is the pivotal hub for which to build an effective pre and post diagnostic service from which is being developed in June/July with a view to testing the market August/September |
|    | Communicate current arrangements/pathway to relevant people – ensure links to ASC and to HUB are in place.  | Richard Kubilius | March 2018  | This is integral to the development of the assessment and diagnosis service   |
|    | Ensure that data related to diagnosis numbers and outcomes is collected   | Richard Kubilius | March 2018  | This is integral to the development of the assessment and diagnosis service   |

|    | Action  | Lead                        | Target Date                                   | Achievements and notes |
|----|---|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 3. | <p>Transition</p> <p><b>'I want services and commissioners to understand how my autism affects me differently through my life. I want to be supported through big life changes such as transition from school, getting older or when a person close to me dies'</b></p> |                             |   |                        |
|    | New Transition protocol to be available to board for comment and input  | Julia Dean<br>Sarah Sweeney | Take to<br>September<br>2017 board<br>meeting |                        |
|    | Invite new transition senior social worker to the Autism Partnership board.   | Gavin Bayliss               | Recruitment<br>underway                       |                        |
|    | Ensure that new 0-25 emotional health and wellbeing service includes effective pathway of care for adults 18-25.  | Richard Kubilius            | June 2017                                     | complete               |
|    | Obtain up to date numbers of people coming through transition with a diagnosis  | Richard Kubilius            | August 2017                                   |                        |



|    | Action  | Lead                                    | Target Date         | Achievements and notes  |
|----|---|---|---------------------|---|
| 4. | Partnership arrangements<br><br><b>'I want my views and aspirations to be taken into account when decisions are made in my local area. I want to know whether my local area is doing as well as others'</b> |   |                     |   |
|    | Ensure wide-ranging representation on Partnership board including representatives from Autism Hub and practitioners.  | Gavin Bayliss                           | complete            | Invite new members/guests as required                         |
| 5. | Preventative support and Safeguarding<br><br><b>'I want to know how to connect with other people. I want to be able to find local autism peer groups, family groups and low level support'</b>              |   |                     |   |
|    | Develop mission statement, action plan and aims for Hub.  | Fiona Williams<br>Jenny Allman          | End June 2017       | Mission statement complete. Quarterly meeting with hub users. |
|    | Understand barriers to attending hub and develop ways of engaging people in rural areas allowing access to local 'hub' support  | Jenny Allman<br>Fiona Williams<br>Board | End Sept 2017       | Discussion between Shropshire Council and Hub providers       |
|    | Update Shropshire choices/resource directory as appropriate.  | Gemma Jones                             | complete            | GJ regularly seeks feedback from Autism hub members.          |
|    | Ensure advocacy support is available to people with Autism in Shropshire  | Neil Evans<br>CAAN                      | CAAN review Sept 17 |   |

|    | Action   | Lead                               | Target Date | Achievements and notes  |
|----|--|------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 6. | Reasonable adjustments in health and community services<br><br><b>'I want the everyday services that I come into contact with to know how to make reasonable adjustments to include me and accept me as I am. I want the staff who work in them to be aware and accepting of autism'</b> |                                    |             |   |
|    | Development of a 'virtual autism team' within adult services to share best practice and to improve the service user journey.   | Fiona Williams<br>Lindsey Huxtable | complete    | May be further changes as CMHT makeup changes   |
|    | Public transport – discuss requirements on operators with transport commissioners.   | SC transport department            | Sept 2017   | Arriva have recently published a guide for their staff on supporting people with disabilities   |
|    | Patient Passport – design / adapt LD passport to be ASC-specific<br>Once a passport template has been decided A4U to include use with individuals at the hub   | Richard Kubilius                   | March 2018  | This is dependent on A4U and agreement of use but could be implemented as part of the development of the assessment and diagnosis service   |
|    | GP Health checks and health actions  | Richard Kubilius                   | Dec 17      | There is a pilot of which is expected to be complete by the end of the year. This is for LD not specifically autism. If the pilot is successful it will be rolled out across the county |
|    | Inventory of reasonable adjustments.   | Richard Kubilius<br>Helen Bayley   | ongoing     |   |
|    | Encourage reasonable adjustments from arts and culture, sports and leisure services.   | Autism board                       | ongoing     |   |

|    |  |                                       |                              |   |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
|    | Maintain links with Colleges re further education adjustments  | Gavin Bayliss                         | Check college offer July 17  | Last checked for 2016 SAF   |
|    | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Lead</b>                           | <b>Target Date</b>           | <b>Achievements and notes</b>   |
| 7. | Support for people with complex needs<br><br><b>'I want people to recognise my autism and adapt the support they give me if I have additional needs such as a mental health problem, a learning disability or if I sometimes communicate through behaviours which others may find challenging'</b> |                                       |                              |   |
|    | Ensure that Stakeholders feed into TCP plan and maintain links with TCP board  | Gavin Bayliss<br>Kit Roberts<br>Board | June 2017                    |   |
| 8. | Employment<br><br><b>'I want support to get a job and support from my employer to help me keep it'</b>   |                                       |                              |   |
|    | Promote self-employment as a real option/alternative for people with Autism and A Wavelength hub presence  | Ann Johnson                           | Meeting Wavelength June 17   | Shropshire council kitchen identified for catering start-ups for people with autism, mental health issues or disabilities |
|    | The transition process to include employment as a routine item in educational reviews.   | Julia Dean<br>Sarah Sweeney           | Review draft pathway June 17 |   |
|    | Enable will aim to develop awareness of the benefits of supported internships in 2017 – 18. This will be through working into education  | Jonathan Allan                        | Ongoing through 17/18        |   |

|    |   |                |           |   |
|----|---|----------------|-----------|---|
|    | <p>providers (including colleges of further education), parents and carers groups and other organisations.</p> <p>In addition, Enable, in partnership with Shrewsbury College, will support, in 2017 / 18, a number of young people with learning disabilities who are students on supported internship courses into paid employment.</p> |                |           |   |
|    | Develop links with DWP and benefits advice re PIP rollout   | Chris Westwood | Sept 2017 |   |
| 9. | <p>Engagement with CJ and police</p> <p><b>‘If I break the law, I want the criminal justice system to think about autism and to know how to work well with other services’</b></p>  |                |           |   |
|    | West Mercia Police representatives to attend hub sessions and ensure that Hate crime awareness is raised  | Katrina Gilman | complete  | Board to feedback incidences where Police response requires improvement |
|    | Ensure representation on Local disability Independent Advisory groups to the West Mercia Police   | Board          | complete  | Currently Sue Stewart   |

|     | Action  | Lead                              | Target Date                              | Achievements and notes    |
|-----|---|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 10. | JSNA and recording<br><br><b>'I want autism to be included in local strategic needs assessments so that person-centred local health, care and support services, based on good information about local needs, is available for people with autism'</b> |                                   |  |                           |
|     | Ensure up to date data is available for the Shropshire area   | Emma Sandbach                     | Complete for adults and children in 2016 | Adults based on 2014 data |
|     | Autism is considered specifically in JSNA   | Emma Sandbach                     | complete                                 |                           |
|     | Keep data for those with Autism seen by ASC, primary care, health provision and voluntary sector  | Gavin Bayliss<br>Richard Kubilius | Review in conjunction with SAF           |                           |
| 11  | Carers<br><br><b>'I want to know that my family can get help and support when they need it'</b>   |                                   |  |                           |
|     | Build on relationship with Carers trust 4 all   | Gavin Bayliss                     | A Craven to attend board                 |                           |
|     | Carers assessments  | Carers trust 4 all                | complete                                 |                           |

|     | Action  | Lead                                 | Target Date               | Achievements and notes |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 12  | <p>Housing</p> <p><b>‘I want the everyday services that I come into contact with to know how to make reasonable adjustments to include me and accept me as I am. I want the staff who work in them to be aware and accepting of autism’</b></p> |                                      |                           |                        |
|     | Ensure that Autism board feeds into any future housing support changes or developments.   | Neil Evans /<br>Gavin Bayliss        | March 2017<br>and ongoing |                        |
|     | Ensure Housing strategy specifically identifies autism  | Nick Wood                            | April 2017                |                        |
|     | Commission housing for people with a range of needs including TCP cohort  | Michelle Davies<br>Viv Hawkey<br>TCP | complete                  |                        |
| 13. | <p>Identity</p> <p><b>‘I want to be seen as me and for my gender, sexual orientation and race to be taken into account’</b></p>   |                                      |                           |                        |
|     | Identify specific support or signpost hub users to specialist organisations able to support with particular issues.   | Jenny Allman<br>Fiona Williams       | ongoing                   |                        |

## **Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| CMHT  | Community Mental Health Team                                       |
| ASC   | Autistic Spectrum Conditions                                       |
| ASD   | Autistic Spectrum Disorder   |
| AWM   | Autism West Midlands   |
| CCG   | Clinical Commissioning Group                                       |
| DoH   | Department of Health   |
| DWP   | Department of Work and Pensions                                    |
| EHC   | Education Health and Care  |
| FPOC  | First Point of Contact   |
| IAPT  | Improving Access to Psychological Therapies                        |
| JSNA  | Joint Strategic Needs Assessment                                   |
| LD    | Learning disability  |
| MH    | Mental Health  |
| NAS   | National Autistic Society  |
| SC    | Shropshire Council   |
| SPIC  | Shropshire Partners in Care  |
| SSSFT | South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust |
| STACS | Shropshire and Telford Asperger Carer's Support                    |
| TCP   | Transforming Care Partnership                                      |

## Appendix 1

Training and Development Pathway for workers carrying out assessments under the care act

| Programme   | Duration | Delivered by   | Organised by  | Who  |
|---|----------|--|---|--|
| Autism Awareness<br>Stage 1 –<br><i>‘Understanding<br/>Autism’</i>                | Half day | Joint training plus<br>expert by<br>experience         | Joint Training  | Anyone involved in assessments under<br>the Care Act<br>Including session for Autism Hub |
| Autism Awareness<br>Stage 2 –<br><i>‘Resources,<br/>knowledge and<br/>skills’</i> | Half day | Joint Training and<br>Professional<br>Development Unit | Joint Training<br>and Professional<br>Development<br>Unit | Anyone involved in assessments under<br>the Care Act                                     |
| Autism Awareness<br>Stage 3 –<br><i>‘Facilitated Learning<br/>Set’</i>            | Ongoing  | Professional<br>Development Unit                       | Professional<br>Development<br>Unit                       | Selected Social Workers, Social Work<br>Assistants, OTs, OTAs                            |
| Autism and<br>Intensive Interaction<br>Autism Event<br>Shropshire                 | Full Day | Phoebe Caldwell  | Joint Training  | All – 50 places<br>(professionals, charities and family<br>carers)                       |
| Autism for Best<br>Interest Assessors   | Full day | Mary Johnson,<br>Joint Training                        | Joint Training  | BIAs   |



|   |                 |   |  |   |
|---|-----------------|---|--|---|
| Supporting People with Autism through Assessments | Full day        | National Autistic Society – Social Work led | Joint Training and Professional Development Unit | Social Workers, Social Work Assistants, OTs, OTAs |
| <b>Programme</b>                                  | <b>Duration</b> | <b>Delivered by</b>                         | <b>Organised by</b>                              | <b>Who</b>  |
| Autism Conference, Telford                        | Two Days        | National Autistic Society Conference        | Professional Development Unit                    |   |
| Local Conference                                  | Full Day        | Guest Speakers TBC                          | Joint Training and Professional Development Unit | Social Workers, Social Work Assistants, OTs, OTAs |
| Online training                                   |                 | National Autistic Society                   | Professional Development Unit                    | Social Workers, Social Work Assistants, OTs, OTAs |
| Autism Awareness (Tailored packages available)    | Half day        | Mary Johnson, Joint Training                | Joint Training                                   | Generic audience                                  |

## Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and the Criminal Justice System

### What might you find when dealing with a person with ASC?

They may:

- have difficulty understanding you;
- repeat things you say;
- not give eye contact or stare;
- be very honest and therefore appear rude;
- appear very anxious or agitated;
- lack understanding of the consequences of the situation they are in;
- find it difficult to talk and explain themselves;
- display obsessions and repetitive behaviour;
- seem confused about what is happening;
- not respond, rock, be in great distress, withdraw due to sensory overload or meltdown;
- not understand why their behaviour or actions are wrong;
- admit to anything if it removes them from the situation.

**autism**  
west midlands

380140TPdiversity

### What can you do to improve the situation?

- Say the person's name to get their attention.
- Keep language simple and allow time for a response.
- Try to establish their favourite subject or special interest to help build up trust and calm them down.
- Provide a clear structure of what is happening and when it will happen.
- Avoid sensory overload by keeping away from noisy and crowded areas.
- Avoid touching them - sensory overload may lead to an aggressive reaction.
- Contact someone they know and ensure the right support is available.
- Don't insist they look at you when you are talking.
- Try writing things down or drawing to aid their understanding of the situation.
- Make sure they repeat information you have given in their own words to check understanding.
- Try not to present too much change - moving from room to room, large number of people.

**Autism West Midlands Information Line**  
**0303 03 00 111**

## **Appendix 3 – Safe Places**

### **Bishop's Castle**

Bishop's Castle Pharmacy  
Information Centre  
Kirsty's Cafe  
Mace  
Spar  
The Cooperative Food

### **Bridgnorth**

Barclays Bank  
Blue Cross Charity Shop  
Bridgnorth, British Red Cross  
Bridgnorth Library  
Cafe Express  
Elegance  
Innage Lane Resource Centre  
Mid Counties Cooperative  
Murray's Healthcare  
Oak Farm Ditton Priors  
Parish Rooms, Low Town  
The Brasserie

### **Broseley**

Broseley Medical Centre  
Broseley News  
Cafe in The Square  
Carol's Carpets  
Downes Greengrocers  
Edwin Davies & Son  
Four Paws  
Lady Forrester Centre, Broseley  
Miss Molly's Cafe  
Premier  
Rowlands Chemist  
Simon Gibbons Butcher  
Spar  
The Cooperative Food  
The Dog Shop  
The Friendly Bus (4 Buses)

### **Church Stretton**

British Red Cross Charity Shop  
Carding Mill Valley Café  
Chocolate Haven  
Church Stretton Library  
Family Shopper  
Hillside Pharmacy  
Holly Bush Café  
Hope House Charity Shop

Hough and Sons  
Mayfair Community Centre  
Mr Bun the Baker  
Newsworld  
Police Station  
Rowlands Chemist  
Sandford Hardware  
Scrappies  
Sweet Tooth  
The Co-operative Food  
The Dog Shop  
Teme Leisure Centre  
Visitors Information & Customer Service Point Centre

### **Craven Arms**

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre  
The Gateway

### **Ellesmere**

Cakes by Lowri (formally Talgath Tea Rooms)  
Ellesmere Library  
Ellesmere Pharmacy  
Ismay's  
Premier Convenience Store  
The Black Lion Hotel  
The Co-operative Food Store  
V Sanchi Jewellers  
White Lion Antiques

### **Highley**

Bache's Sweet Shop  
Highley Pharmacy  
The Café, Highley  
The Cooperative Foodstore.

### **Ludlow**

Boots Pharmacy  
Brown & Francis Pharmacy  
Cancer Research, 3 High Street  
Castle Lodge Buttery  
Castle Tea Rooms  
Helena Lane Day Centre  
Hope House Charity Shop  
Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors  
Loudwater Studios  
Ludlow Library  
Mobility Products  
One Stop, 9 Tower Street  
Renaissance Centre, 7-8 Tower Street  
Rockspring Centre, Sandpits  
SC Price & Sons (Bakery)

Spar  
The Cooperative Food, Foldgate Lane  
The Grape Tree  
Wesley's Café  
Working Together (Ludlow Ltd)

### **Market Drayton**

B & M  
Boots Pharmacy  
Craft Revolution  
Festival Drayton Centre  
Festour  
House of Carpets  
Jones's Coffee House  
Kids Corner  
Madalenka  
Market Drayton Library  
Meadons Insurance  
Newbold Opticians  
One Stop-Market Drayton  
Salop Mobility  
Salopion Care  
Sherwood Wholefood  
Shropshire Housing Alliance  
St. Mary's Church  
Sue Ryder Charity Shop  
The Cutting Room  
The Sewing Box  
Tudor House Hotel  
Tuesdays-Chocolate & Confectionery  
Wayfarers

### **Much Wenlock**

AJ's-Home & Garden  
Cuan Wildlife Charity Shop  
Much More Books  
Spar Supermarket  
The Copper Kettle  
The Wenlock Smoothie  
Tony's Market  
Wenlock Books  
Wenlock Pharmacy

### **Oswestry**

Age Uk Charity Shop  
Baby Bird Cafe  
Baileys  
Bromford New Century  
Cambrian Medical Centre  
Caxton Pharmacy  
Chalk

Chalk Warehouse  
Corner Patch  
Derwen College  
Foodbank  
Grape Tree  
Honey Pots  
Honeysuckle  
Jeff & Burgess Taxis  
Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors, Oswestry  
One Stop-Oswestry  
Oswestry Herbarium  
Oswestry Library  
Oswestry Mobility  
Scotty's Café  
Shropshire Housing Alliance  
St Oswald's Church  
Station Pharmacy  
The Advertiser  
The Flower Gallery  
Wilko's

### **Shifnal**

Boots  
Nan's Café Bar  
New Chapters Foster Care  
One Stop-Shifnal  
Roots and Shoots  
Shifnal Deli  
Shifnal Post Office Village Café  
The Village Café & Bistro

### **Shrewsbury**

A4U-Louise House  
Abbots Wood Day Centre  
Age UK-Mardol  
Age UK-Training Centre Riverside  
Age UK Charity Shop Riverside  
Albert Road Day Services  
Aquamira  
Barclays Bank  
Bon Bons  
British Red Cross Charity Shop  
Button and Bear  
Cafe Connect-Radbrook  
Candleglass  
Care and Share Charity Shop  
Caring Angels Home Care  
Castle Carpets  
Castlefields Digital Den  
Clarriots Care (Shropshire & Telford)  
Co Op Travel, Shrewsbury

Creations (Formally Two Fat Rascals)  
Deliciate  
Digital Den-Meole Brace  
Divine  
Ginger & Co Coffee  
Greenacres, Baschurch  
Guide Dogs Training Centre  
Headway Shropshire  
Home Essentials  
In Good Hands  
It's Epic  
Lanyon Bowdler-Shrewsbury  
Little Waitrose  
Marie Curie Charity Shop  
Mobility Homecare  
Ojoy Wellness  
Old Market Hall  
Omega End of Life Care  
One Stop -Ditherington  
Oxfam Charity Shop  
Peach Tree  
Post Office Copthorne (inside Cooperative Food Store)  
Radbrook Green Post Office  
Radfield Home Care  
Roy Fletcher Centre  
Sabrina Boat  
Sabrina Boats, Station Approach  
Scope Charity Shop  
Severnside Housing  
Shalimar Restaurant  
Shrewsbury Academies Trust, Mount Pleasant Road  
Shrewsbury Ark  
Shrewsbury Library  
Shrewsbury Street Pastors  
Shrewsbury Unitarian Church  
Shropshire Housing Alliance  
Shropshire MIND  
Shropshire Partners in Care (SPIC)  
Shropshire Trophy & Bowling Centre  
Signal Hub  
Snapdragon Wholefoods  
St Chad's Church  
Stop Coffee Shop at Shrewsbury Museum  
Stop Coffee Shop at St Julian's  
Stop Coffee at University Centre, Frankwell Shrewsbury  
Sue Ryder Charity Shop  
The Ark Charity Shop  
The Blue Lemon, Shrewsbury  
The Co operative Food Store-Bicton Heath  
The Co operative Food Store-Copthorne  
The Co operative Food Store-Heath Farm

The Co operative Food Store-Radbrook Green  
The Co operative Food Store-Sutton Farm  
The Donkey -Street Pastors Vehicle  
The Hive  
The Lantern  
The Post Office Copthorne (inside Cooperative Food Store)  
The Shrewsbury Coffee Shop  
The Uplands Nursing Home  
Theatre Severn  
University Centre Shrewsbury, Frankwell  
Visitor Information Centre  
Wenlock Farm Food Shop, Smithfield Road  
Westbury Garage  
White Orchard  
Wildlife Centre

### **Wem**

Dickin Arms  
Gemini Hairdressers  
Old Post Office Pub  
Rowland's Chemist  
Seasons Florists Ltd  
The Cooperative Food Store  
Treacle Mine  
Wem Library & Learning Centre

### **Whitchurch**

Big Red House  
Bookshrop  
Boots  
Café Bon Sol  
Cancer Research Shop  
Healing Thyme  
Janini Cafe Bistro  
Jones's Coffee House  
Original Factory Shop  
Poundstretcher  
Short Notice Care  
St Alkmond's Church  
Unique Chic  
Whitchurch Library



**Appendix 4** - The Front of the card has the persons name and if they want their diagnosis or alternatively umbrella term.

On the back will tell you some things that affect them and may assist you to help the person, also contained are their likes so you can put them at ease and know a little bit more about the person.



The front of the card template features the Shropshire Autism Hub logo in the top left corner. To the right of the logo is a large rectangular box for the person's name. Below the name box is another rectangular box for the diagnosis or umbrella term. In the bottom left corner is the West Mercia Police logo. In the bottom right corner is a box containing the website address [www.shropshireautismhub.moonfruit.com](http://www.shropshireautismhub.moonfruit.com).



The back of the card template features a large, faint Shropshire Autism Hub logo in the center. Below the logo is the text "Emergency contact:" followed by a line for writing the contact information.

# Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Children

## 2016

Autism and Asperger syndrome are both part of a range of related developmental disorders known as autistic spectrum disorders (ASD). They begin in childhood and last through adulthood and can cause a wide range of symptoms including the following:

- **problems and difficulties with social interaction** – including lack of understanding and awareness of other people's emotions and feelings
- **impaired language and communication skills** – including delayed language development and an inability to start conversations or take part in them properly
- **unusual patterns of thought and physical behavior** – including making repetitive physical movements, such as hand tapping or twisting and developing set routines that may cause distress if broken

There is no cure for ASD, although a wide range of treatments, including specialist education and behavioral programs, can help improve symptoms.

Nationally it is estimated that 1 in every 100 children has an ASD and it is more common in boys than girls. Boys are three to four times more likely to develop an ASD than girls. The following table shows prevalence estimates for ASD in Shropshire based on the national prevalence.

**Table 1 Estimated prevalence of autistic spectrum disorder in Shropshire, 2012**

|            | <b>Autism in children aged 9-10 years</b> | <b>Other ASDs in children aged 9-10 years</b> | <b>Total ASDs in children aged 9-10 years</b> | <b>ASDs in children aged 5-9 years</b> |
|------------|---|---|---|--|
| Shropshire | 25  | 50  | 75  | 255                                    |

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2012. Baird, G. et al (2006). Baron-Cohen, S. et al (2009).

The following table shows the number of children in Shropshire recorded on the school census and the pupil referral unit as having ASD. It also highlights the percentage of the prevalence estimates that the recorded figures account for. However, this may not be the total figure as only children with a school action plus or a statement have a record of their specific special educational need. Therefore, children with less severe ASD may not be identified this way.

**Table 2 Number of children recorded with autistic spectrum disorder in Shropshire, 2014**

|            |                          | Total ASDs in children aged 9-10 years | ASDs in children aged 5-9 years |
|------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Shropshire | Number                   | 58                                     | 109                             |
|            | % of prevalence estimate | 77%                                    | 43%                             |

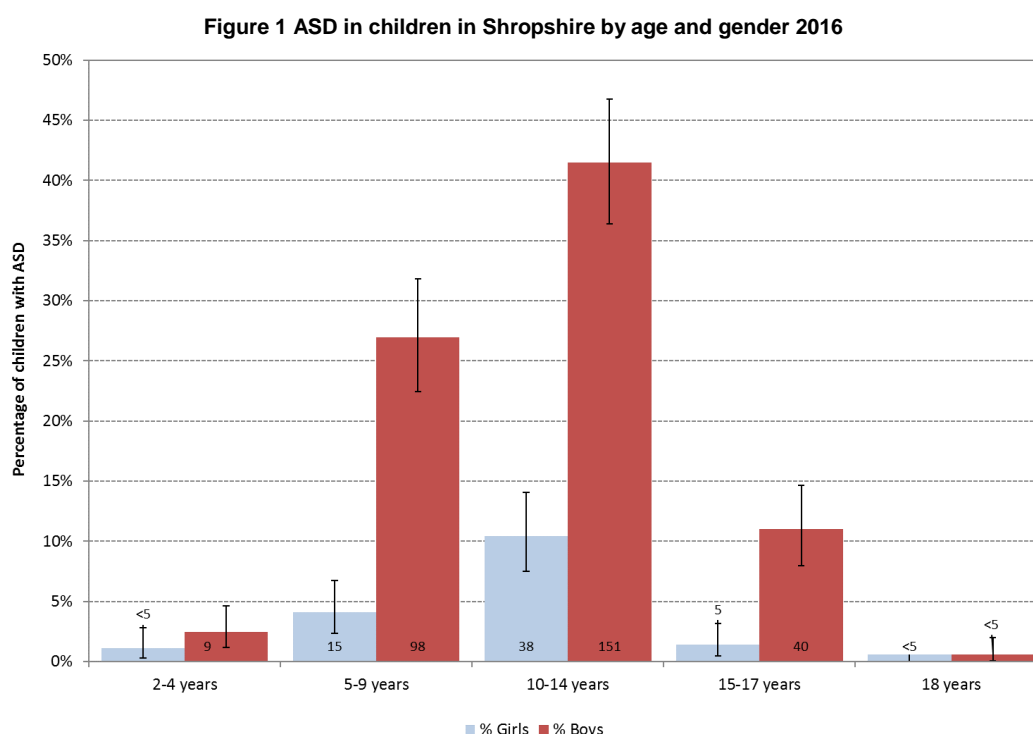
Source: School Census, January 2014, Shropshire Council

## Children with ASD in Shropshire

The following information looks at profiling children with ASD recorded on the Shropshire school census, January 2016.

### Age, gender and ethnicity

In Shropshire in 2016 82% of children diagnosed with ASD were boys compared to 18% of girls. This would support the national figures that suggest that up to four times as many boys have ASD compared to girls. The following chart shows the age and gender of all children recorded as having ASD. Boys aged 10-14 years are significantly more likely to be recorded as having ASD compared to other age and gender groups. The number of children in each category is displayed on the chart at the base of the columns.



Source: School Census, January 2016, Shropshire Council

## Ethnicity

92% of children on the school census with ASD were recorded as being white British. The remaining 8% were from a variety of different ethnic groups (3.3% being from other white groups and the remaining 4.7% either not stated or from other mixed, black and minority ethnic groups).

## Geographical and socio-economic distribution of children with ASD

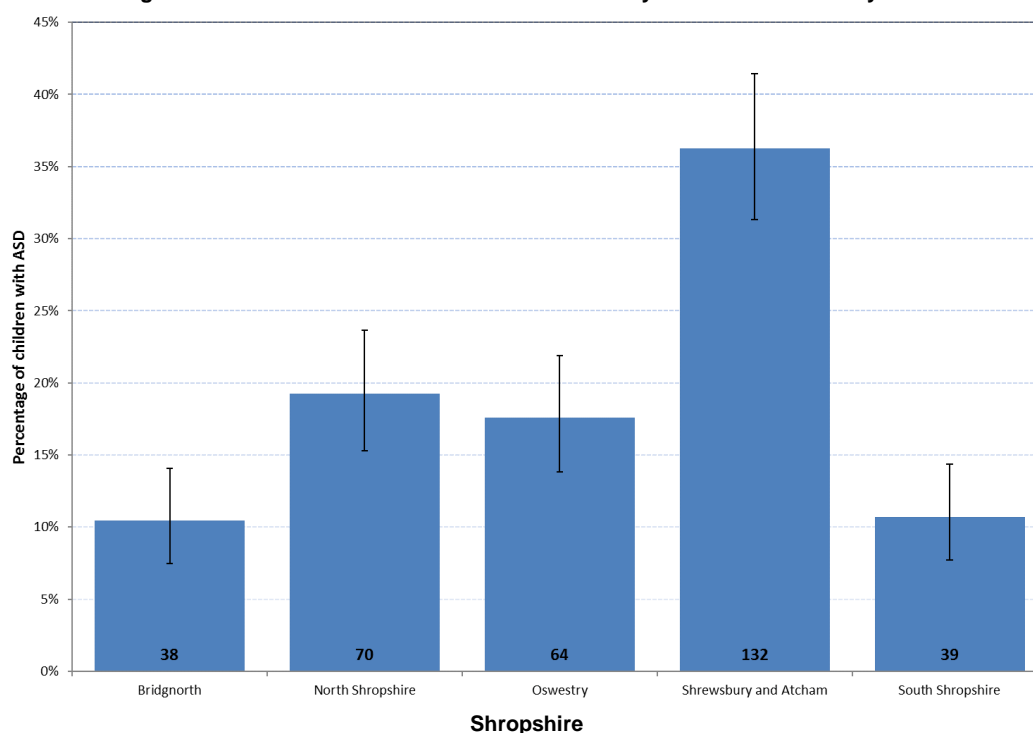
Although estimates suggest that around 1% of children on the Shropshire census may have ASD it is not distributed evenly in the population. Knowing and understanding more about the geographical and socio-economic distribution of ASD can enable more efficient and appropriate care and enable the needs of children with ASD to be better met.

Around 30% of all children on the Shropshire school census live in the most rural areas, e.g. villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings. However, 26.4% of children with ASD live in these areas, with the remaining 70.3% live in small towns and urban areas (3.3% were unknown).

## **Local Authority Districts**

The following table shows the proportion of all children with ASD in Shropshire living in each area of the county. The number of children is also highlighted in the base of each of the columns. Shrewsbury & Atcham had a significantly higher percentage compared to all the other areas, as the largest population of children live in the Shrewsbury area. Although ASD accounted for 1% of children recorded on the school census overall, the percentage in each area varied from 0.6% of children on the school census in Bridgnorth to 1.3% of children in Oswestry. The other areas were between 1% and 0.9% of children recorded on the school census.

**Figure 2 Location of where children with ASD live by former local authority 2016**



*Source: School Census, January 2016, Shropshire Council*

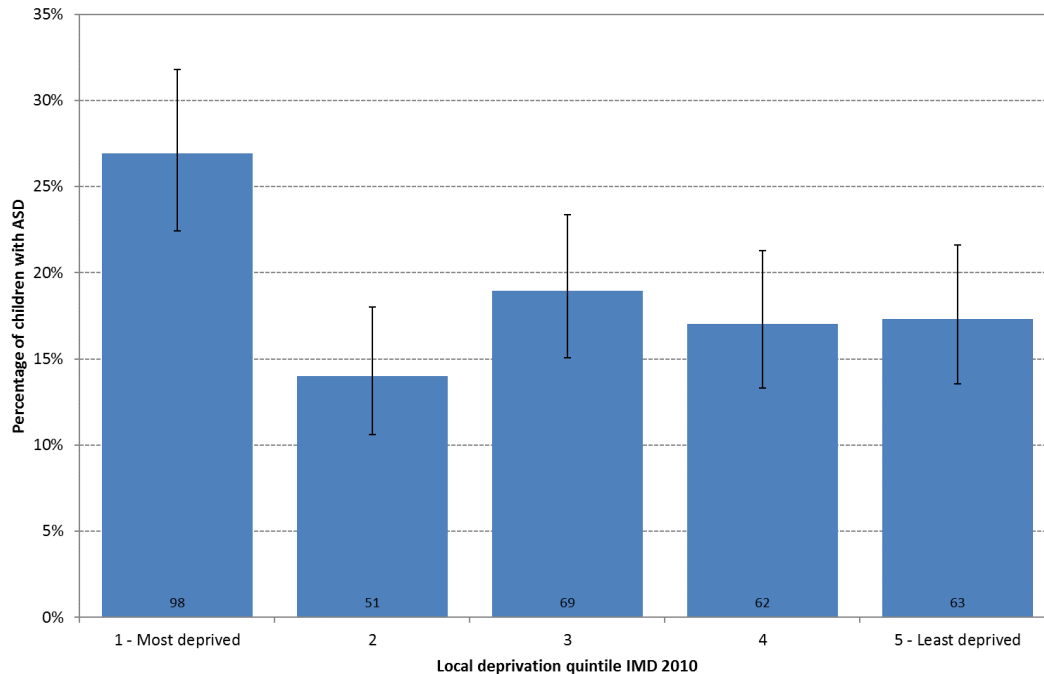
## **Place Plans**

Calculated as a percentage of the total number of children with ASD on the school census, Shrewsbury North East had a significantly higher percentage (15%) compared to all the other place plan areas, followed by Shrewsbury South (8%) and Market Drayton (8%) and are situated in some of the most deprived areas in Shropshire. When calculated as a crude rate per 1000 of the census population with an SEN there were no significant differences between the place plan areas.

## Deprivation

The following chart shows the relationship with ASD and deprivation in Shropshire. There were significantly higher proportions of children with ASD living in the most deprived area compared to the least but similar to SC3. Additionally, around 20% of children with ASD in Shropshire had free school meals at the time of the school census, e.g. recorded in January 2016 as receiving free school meals. This is compared to 9.1% of the total recorded population of children on the school census.

Figure 3 Location of where children with ASD in Shropshire live by deprivation 2016



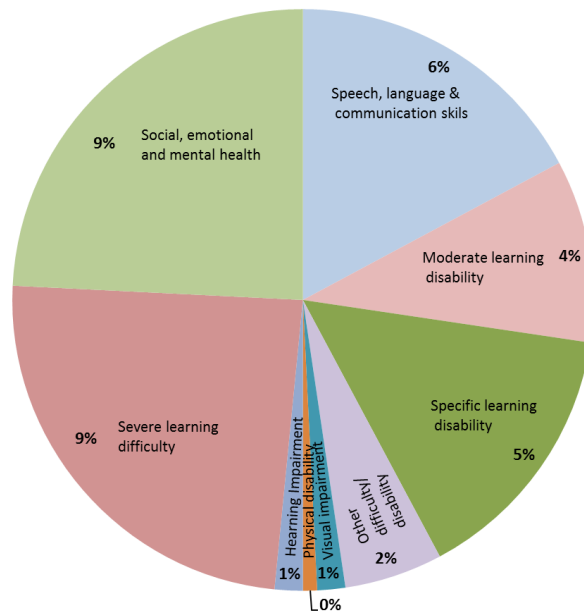
Source: School Census, January 2016, Shropshire Council

## ASD and multiple vulnerabilities

It is recognised that many people with ASD also have other conditions such as learning disabilities and sensory impairments. It is estimated that nationally 44% - 52% of people with autism have a learning disability. Overall in Shropshire 37% of children with ASD were also recorded as having another special educational need. The following pie chart highlights the type and proportion of additional special educational needs of that 37% of children recorded on the school census as having ASD in Shropshire.

The most likely additional special educational need of children with ASD in Shropshire was social, emotional and mental health needs and severe learning difficulties.

Figure 4 Additional special educational needs of children with ASD in Shropshire



Source: School Census, January 2016, Shropshire Council

### Summary

- The recorded prevalence of ASD in children is likely to be higher than that included in this report, as this is based on information from limited sources.
- Boys aged 10-14 years are most likely to be recorded as having ASD, and overall boys are more likely than girls to have ASD which is also reflected nationally.
- A significantly higher percentage of children recorded with ASD on the census came from small towns and urban areas such as Shrewsbury & Atcham Local Authority district; with a significantly higher proportion from Shrewsbury North East, Shrewsbury South and Market Drayton which are amongst some of the most deprived areas in Shropshire.
- There were significantly more children recorded as having ASD living in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas.
- 37% of children recorded as having ASD in Shropshire also have a special educational need, with social, emotional and mental health needs being the most likely.