

Social & Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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| Date of Meeting | 18 th July 2019 Thursday, 18 July 2019 |
| Report Subject | North Wales Integrated Autism Service |
| Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Social Services |
| Report Author | Chief Officer (Social Services) |
| Type of Report | Strategic |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is estimated that Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) affect 1 in 100 people.

For Flintshire, this could mean 1,500 people.

It was recognised by Welsh Government that there was a gap in service for this client group and in response the Welsh Government has committed £13 million of Integrated Care Fund (ICF) up to 2021 to develop an Integrated Autism Service (IAS) across Wales.

Welsh Government also fund a small national team to lead this initiative. This team has recently secured funding until 2022, and there are indications that the fund will continue after 2021.

The North Wales region has an annual allocation of £ 615.800

The IAS provides:

- New adult diagnostic services
- Support for autistic adults to meet defined outcomes
- Support for families and carers
- Training, consultation and advice to professionals in other services supporting autistic individuals.

The aim of the service is to ensure that individuals with autism, their family and carers are able to access the advice, support and interventions needed to enable them to reach their full potential where these are otherwise unavailable.

**IAS Supporting Guidance (Welsh Government, 2017)*

Flintshire County Council is jointly hosting the North Wales Integrated Autism Service with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) on behalf of the region.

This report will give an overview of the Integrated Autism Service in North Wales and outline the progress made to date.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | Note the update on the North Wales Integrated Autism Service. |
| 2 | Elected members are assured that progress has been made during the year to meet our duties on behalf of the region. |
| 3 | To note the difference this has made to people with Autism. |

REPORT DETAILS

| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE NORTH WALES INTEGRATED AUTISM SERVICE |
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| 1.01 | For North Wales the Integrated Autism Service (IAS) service is jointly hosted by Flintshire County Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB). The creation of the Integrated Autism Service (IAS) is supported by an IAS Strategic Group, comprising of representatives from across children and adults' health, social care, education, third sector organisations and people with Autism. This Strategic group is supported by an Operational group. |
| 1.02 | The IAS Strategic Group reports to the North Wales Leadership Group and to the Regional Partnership Board. |
| 1.03 | The North Wales IAS has an annual budget of £615.800 in the main this is made of staffing costs for the service, including social care and health staff. As staff were not in place from April '18, when the budget became available, an under spend has accrued. IAS colleagues are working with the Strategic and Operational groups to build a plan for effective use of this funding in line with the wider aims of the IAS and ICF funding. The underspend options will be approved by the WLGA National Autistic Team and Welsh Government this comes via the Integrated Care Fund (ICF), |
| 1.04 | <p>What the IAS does:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess people who present with ASD, for example they will assess people who don't have multiple conditions such as a Learning Disability or a known mental health difficulty. • Support for adults with Autism. • Provides Information, advice and support for parents, families, partners and carers of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the professionals who support them. • Provides advice, training and support for agencies linking with people with ASD. |
| 1.05 | <p>What the IAS doesn't do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social work assessments or Care management type functions, for example they will not commission or provide care packages. • Emergency or crisis intervention • Does not provide Respite care |

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|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid response • Direct Payments • The service does not commission services | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.06 | <p>The North Wales Integrated Autism Service Launch Conference took place on 27th June 2018. The event was jointly chaired by Neil Ayling Chief Officer, Social Services and Jill Timmins, Director of Operations and Service Delivery at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Boards' Mental Health.</p> <p>The Conference was a great success and provided the 255 people attending an opportunity to gain a better insight into the North Wales IAS, as well as how it will interact with other existing services, e.g. those who already work with individuals with autism and their families across North Wales.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.07 | <p>We appointed a Practitioner Manager on 20th August, 2018. The service became operational. The team comprises of the following posts, working across North Wales, along with one support worker per Local Authority area.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Practitioner Manager (Social Worker)</td><td>Christine Burns</td></tr> <tr> <td>Administrator</td><td>Kathy Cocking</td></tr> <tr> <td>Support Worker * 8</td><td>Across NW one per LA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Education Practitioner</td><td>Vacant at this time</td></tr> <tr> <td>Occupational Therapist 0.5</td><td>Catherine Seals</td></tr> <tr> <td>Speech and Language Therapist 0.5</td><td>Tricia King</td></tr> <tr> <td>Psychologist * 2</td><td>Freya Spicer –White and Simon</td></tr> <tr> <td>Nurse</td><td>Lynda Marl</td></tr> </table> | Practitioner Manager (Social Worker) | Christine Burns | Administrator | Kathy Cocking | Support Worker * 8 | Across NW one per LA | Education Practitioner | Vacant at this time | Occupational Therapist 0.5 | Catherine Seals | Speech and Language Therapist 0.5 | Tricia King | Psychologist * 2 | Freya Spicer –White and Simon | Nurse | Lynda Marl |
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| Nurse | Lynda Marl | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.08 | <p>BCUHB health staff receive clinical supervision within BCUHB, however, the day to day running of the service sits with the Practitioner Manager. Flintshire County Council is the host authority on behalf of the North Wales region.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.09 | <p>How the service operates</p> <p>Referrals –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct to the IAS or via the Single point of access. • These are triaged by the IAS Practitioner Manager in line with the guidance from Welsh Government. • Prioritised dependant on presenting need. • Allocation to relevant worker, e.g. health or social care or both. • There is no waiting list for social support, there is however a wait list for psychology assessment. • Following feedback from individuals with Autism and advisors to the service, the referral form has been streamlined and process have been updated. • All staff are making contact with individuals referred within 48 hours of allocation. • The busiest areas are Flintshire and Denbighshire. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.10 | <p>The Support Workers are in the process of developing a series of 'drop-ins' across the region where individuals with Autism, and their carers can make contact with the IAS in their own localities. Drop in locations include job centres, leisure centres, libraries and other community based venues.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| 1.11 | County Engagement Events are also being scheduled. These will have an autism focus and will include a 'marketplace' of services as well as workshops and speakers from the local area. These follow on from Events last October which were held at Ty Pawb and Deeside Leisure Centre. | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1.12 | The Support Workers across the region are also promoting the resources available online. The ASDInfoWales website. This includes the 'Can you see me Campaign'. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.13 | IAS staff have raised awareness and trained other staff on the "Can you see me Campaign" in a variety of setting including Connah's Quay Job Centre, Asda and shops on the Broughton retail Park. The staff working in shops and the job centre are currently completing an Autism Awareness online course and will then complete 'Can You See Me' Training. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.14 | Support Workers are mapping resources, partners and facilities available in each county to ensure we are able to provide services close to where people with Autism live. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.15 | The team are current based at Greenfield, however, they are soon to relocated to Ty Dewi Sant, Ewloe. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.16 | Partnership working is key to the IAS, and we have from available slippage money in 2017/18 been able to support Community Voluntary Council's across the region to develop a number of localised programmes to support individuals, their families and carers. These range from supported volunteering programmes, training and awareness raising, small grant schemes, activities and community and business events. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.17 | The IAS works collaborative with Social Worker's and other professionals and the consultancy element of the service is strengthening. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.18 | <p>Performance Data</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>Aug 18- Mar 19</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Assessment for Diagnosis</td><td>193</td></tr> <tr> <td>Support for adults</td><td>179</td></tr> <tr> <td>Support for parents</td><td>73</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Referrals</td><td>445</td></tr> </tbody> </table> | | Aug 18- Mar 19 | Assessment for Diagnosis | 193 | Support for adults | 179 | Support for parents | 73 | Total Referrals | 445 |
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| Support for parents | 73 | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | The annual budget for the North Wales region is £651.800 up to 2021, however there are indications that the service will likely be funded beyond this point. |
| 2.02 | The ICF budget allocation funds the staffing structure along with travel expenses. Due to the regional nature of the service, mileage costs could be a challenge, however the service is monitoring this closely. |

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| 2.03 | Welsh Government brought forward the funding and made it available for the North Wales region early than expected, as a result the staffing structure was not fully established. The consequence is a current underspend. WG have confirmed that will support a plan for the under spend across the region, so IAS colleagues are working with the Strategic and Operational groups to build a plan for effective use of this funding in line with the wider aims of the IAS and ICF funding. The underspend options will be approved by the WLGA National Autistic Team and Welsh Government. |
| 2.04 | The service also benefits from some addition planning and development officer time. Until March 2020. |

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| 3.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT |
| 3.01 | The service continues to be developed with involvement from people with Autism. |
| 3.02 | There is a standard Service Specification in development by Welsh Government, this should be available in the autumn. |
| 3.03 | The IAS is developing a volunteer programme where autistic individuals will co-present training and support staff at events. |
| 3.04 | Spectrum voices will continue to offer advice and guidance and represent users in all aspects of the work undertaken by IAS. |

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| 4.00 | RISK MANAGEMENT |
| 4.01 | This is a relatively new service and staff are working hard to ensure everyone has a clear understanding of what the service will provide, that said , on occasion the IAS receives requests for services e.g. a package of care and support , these are re directed during the screening process. |
| 4.02 | The team manager continue to have regular and ongoing conversation with colleagues and in particular Community Mental Health Teams with regard to the team remit. |
| 4.03 | This service will have a significant role to play in supporting autistic individuals to access services that they may have had difficulty in doing so before, promoting equality and contributing to the anti-poverty agenda. |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | How we have made a difference |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | ASDInfoWales Website - Here you will find information about Autism Spectrum Disorders (including Autism and Asperger Syndrome), service details, training opportunities and updates on the implementation of the ASD Strategic Action Plan for Wales. You will also find downloadable resources that can be shared with individuals with ASD, their family and carers. This |

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| | site is aimed at those working with children and adults with ASD. https://www.asdinfowales.co.uk/home |
| 6.02 | North Wales IAS pages on the above website – This includes drop in information, and information leaflets. https://www.asdinfowales.co.uk/north-wales-integrated-autism-service |
| 6.03 | Can you see me?’ Campaign - This awareness raising campaign provides individuals with autism with a wristband, card and screensaver for their mobile device so they are able to let you know in a discrete manor, that they have autism. https://www.asdinfowales.co.uk/can-you-see-me |
| 6.04 | IAS Facebook Page - https://www.facebook.com/NW-Integrated-Autism-Service-Gwasanaeth-Awtistiaeth-Integredig-GC-1879852932047031/ |
| 6.05 | IAS Youtube Channel - This resource contains videos made with local autistic individuals and staff. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZzMF0IFN7aDpDfXiS7ZmHQ |
| 6.06 | Contact Officer: Emma Murphy, Planning & Development Officer, Social Services Telephone: 01352 701463 E-mail: emma.murphy@flintshire.gov.uk |

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| 7.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| 7.01 | Autism - Autism is a ‘hidden disability’, meaning it is not easy to recognise when someone has the condition. Autistic individuals may experience difficulties in social communication, social imagination and flexibility of thought, social interaction, repetitive patterns of behaviour, activities and interests and unusual sensory responses. |
| 7.02 | Autistic Spectrum Disorders – On one end of the spectrum, autistic individuals may have an additional learning disability and be more severely impaired. At the other, individuals may have an above average intellect and may function at a higher level. |