

# **Aberdeen City Strategy for Autism:**

## **Action Plan 2014 – 2024**



The Aberdeen City Action Plan 2014 – 2024 outlines plans based on the Scottish Strategy's 10 indicators of Good Practice set against 2, 5 and 10 year timeframes. In keeping with the Mapping Exercise indicators 2 and 4 and 7 and 10 have been grouped together.

The 10 Indicators of Good Practice are:

#### Indicator 1

A local Autism Strategy developed in cooperation with people across the autism spectrum, carers and professionals, ensuring that the needs of people with ASD and carers are reflected and incorporated within local policies and plans.

#### Indicator 2 & 4

Access to training and development to inform staff and improve the understanding amongst professionals about ASD.

An ASD Training Plan to improve the knowledge and skills of those who work with people who have ASD to ensure that people with ASD are properly supported by trained staff.

#### **Indicator 3**

A process for ensuring a means of easy access to useful and practical information about ASD, and local action, for stakeholders to improve communication.

#### Indicator 5

A process for data collection which improves the reporting of how many people with ASD are receiving services and informs the planning of these services.

#### **Indicator 6**

A multi-agency care pathway for assessment, diagnosis and intervention to improve the support for people with ASD and remove barriers.

#### Indicator 7 &10

A framework and process for seeking stakeholder feedback to inform service improvement and encourage engagement.

A self-evaluation framework to ensure best practice implementation and monitoring

#### **Indicator 8**

Services that can demonstrate that service delivery is multi-agency in focus and coordinated effectively to target meeting the needs of people with ASD

#### **Indicator 9**

Clear multi-agency procedures and plans which are in place to support individuals through major transitions at each important life-stage

A local Autism Strategy developed in cooperation with people across the autism spectrum, carers and professionals, ensuring that the needs of people with autism and carers are reflected and incorporated within local policies and plans.

Goals	<ul> <li>To establish a robust and sustainable multi-agency planning process to ensure people with autism have lifelong access to consistent levels of appropriate support</li> <li>To embed Aberdeen City's Autism strategy in local policies and plans</li> </ul>		
Lead Partners	<ul><li>Aberdeen City Council</li><li>NHS Grampian</li></ul>	<ul><li>Emergency Services</li><li>Voluntary Services</li></ul>	<ul><li>Families and Carers</li><li>People across the autism spectrum</li></ul>

Action 2014 -2016	By Whom	Progress
Establish a cross-sector steering/consultation group	Key Services	✓
Establish a cross-sector implementation group, with responsibility for taking forward the Autism Strategy	Key Services	<b>√</b>
Organise a cross-sector implementation workshop to explore possible pathways forward with the people most concerned. Collate responses to be actioned	Implementation     Group	In progress
The implementation group develops links with local planning groups	Implementation     Group	To be done
Implementation of the Autism Strategy is informed by stakeholder feedback	Implementation     Group	Allocated
All mainstream services ensure they are autism friendly	All Services	To be allocated
Overview taken of specialist services for autism to ensure people can access what they need when they need it	Implementation     Group	To be allocated

Action 2014 -2016	By Whom	Progress
<ul> <li>A plan is made for disseminating information about local developments of the Autism Strategy and Action Plan to people with autism, their parents and carers and professionals. This would include developing and maintaining a database of recipients</li> </ul>	Implementation Group	To be allocated
Action 2016 - 2019	By Whom	Progress
Development of a communication strategy to inform all relevant people of Action Plan progress	Implementation     Group	To be allocated
Actions implemented in the Foundations stage are sustained	Implementation     Group	Allocated
All Mainstream services have plans in place for capacity and awareness raising	Implementation     Group	To be allocated
Action 2019 - 2024	By Whom	Progress
Key services work together alongside central and local government to develop an overarching autism strategy ensuring lifelong access to consistent levels of appropriate support	<ul><li>All key services</li><li>People with autism</li><li>Parents and carers</li></ul>	To be progressed by Implementation Group
Communication strategy is in place and functional	All Key Services	To be monitored by Implementation Group
Information on developments is circulated to all concerned	All Key Services	

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#### **Indicator 2**

Access to training and development to inform staff and improve the understanding amongst professionals about autism.

#### **Indicator 4**

An autism Training Plan to improve the knowledge and skills of those who work with people who have autism to ensure that people with autism are properly supported by trained staff.

Goals	<ul> <li>To develop and establish a Training Plan with multi-agency representation to consider the following:</li> <li>Audit of current training needs and provision available</li> <li>Development of a 3-tiered approach:         <ul> <li>Basic awareness: presented to all professionals and frontline workers</li> <li>Specialist areas: available as required</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Lead Partners	<ul> <li>Certificate: to create centres of specialist knowledge and experience and inform policy and practice.</li> <li>All services</li> <li>People with autism, parents and carers</li> </ul>

	Action 2014 -2016		By Whom	Progress
•	Conduct an audit of expertise and availability of training providers – develop a database	•	Implementation Group	To be allocated
•	Devise a Training Plan and Strategy	•	Implementation Group	To be allocated
•	Develop appropriate training tools, e.g. information for parents; basic awareness, information about Asperger Syndrome, etc.	•	Implementation Group	To be allocated

Action 2010 - 2010	Action 2016 - 2019	By Whom	Progress
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Action 2016 - 2019	By Whom	Progress
<ul> <li>Develop training based on Stakeholder feedback identifying priorities, e.g:         <ul> <li>Training, awareness and understanding of Asperger Syndrome, especially for Health professionals in the adult sector</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Implementation     Group	To be allocated
<ul> <li>Education and Children's Services will take forward actions as part of the Inclusion Review:         <ul> <li>Training for all school staff, teaching and non-teaching</li> <li>Opportunity for more specialist training for all staff</li> <li>All schools to work towards autism-friendly environments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Education and Children's Services	In progress
<ul> <li>Training for people in mainstream settings, especially where social activities are involved</li> <li>Training for Health Professionals</li> <li>Training for public sector workers, e.g. bus drivers, public services</li> </ul>	Implementation     Group	To be allocated
Action 2019 - 2024	By Whom	Progress
Database of needs analysis and training provided is maintained and monitored	Implementation     Group	To be allocated
The Training Pan is developed and refined based on feedback from professionals, parents, carers and people with autism	Implementation     Group	To be allocated

A process for ensuring a means of easy access to useful and practical information about autism, and local action, for stakeholders to improve communication.

Goals		egic plan for the location and dissemination of practical information about autism across Aberdeen City across all sectors have access to appropriate information when they need it		
Lead Partners	<ul><li>Aberdeen City Council</li><li>NHS Grampian</li></ul>	<ul><li>Emergency Services</li><li>Voluntary Services</li></ul>	<ul><li>Families and Carers</li><li>People across the autism spectrum</li></ul>	

Action 2014 -2016	By Whom	Progress
Develop a communication strategy	Implementation     Group	To be allocated
<ul> <li>Information is targeted to improve the positive inclusion of children, young people and adults with autism by raising awareness and understanding of autism within mainstream services, mainstream settings and the general public</li> </ul>	Implementation     Group	To be allocated
Aberdeen's services, organisations, parents, carers and people with autism consider how they can raise community awareness of autism	All services	To be allocated
Time is allocated to consider how communication can be improved at all levels, e.g. parent/school, employer/employee, professional/professional	Implementation     Group	To be allocated
Raise awareness of the importance of transition planning	<ul> <li>All Services including Further and Higher Education</li> </ul>	To be allocated
The work of the One Stop Shop and other centres is supported and advertised.	Implementation     Group	In progress
Action 2016 - 2019	By Whom	Progress

Action 2016 - 2019	By Whom	Progress
Continued support given to centres providing information	All Services	In progress
Sustainability of the One Stop Shop is considered a priority	Implementation     Group	To be progressed
The Communication Strategy is reviewed and refined based on feedback from professionals, stakeholders and people with autism	Implementation     Group	To be progressed
Action 2019 - 2024	By Whom	Progress
• Continued support given to centres providing information	Implementation     Group	Progress  To be progressed
	Implementation	To be

A process for data collection which improves the reporting of how many people with autism are receiving services and informs the planning of these services.

Goals	To ensure that children, young	To develop an overview plan of service data collection to inform service planning and support transitions  To ensure that children, young people and adults with autism in Aberdeen City are recognised and their needs recorded. These records are used to identify need, both met and unmet, to plan capacity and to commission appropriate services		
Lead Partners	<ul><li>Aberdeen City Council</li><li>NHS Grampian</li></ul>	<ul><li>Emergency Services</li><li>Voluntary Services</li></ul>	<ul><li>Families and Carers</li><li>People across the autism spectrum</li></ul>	

	Action 2014 -2016	By Whom	Progress
•	Prepare an overview of data collected currently	Implementation group	To be allocated
•	Identify gaps	Implementation group	To be allocated
•	Identify key stages where data is required	Implementation group	To be allocated
•	Develop a multi-agency process for using data to inform planning	Implementation group	To be allocated

Action 2016 - 2019	By Whom	Progress
Key agencies refine a process for information sharing, particularly at key transition points such as before and after diagnosis	For children and young people:  GP's  Mental Health  Education and Children's Services  Social Care  Voluntary Services  For adults:  GP's  Mental Health  Social Care  Employment Service  Further Education  Voluntary Services	To be allocated
Agencies assume responsibility for providing support and information post diagnosis	All services	To be allocated
Action 2019 - 2024	By Whom	Progress
Development of a multi-agency database	All Services	To be started

To be started

• All services

• Refinement of the process developed to ensure planning for people with autism is well-informed

A multi-agency care pathway for assessment, diagnosis and intervention to improve the support for people with autism and remove barriers.

Goals	To develop multi- agency assessment, diagnosis and intervention process used consistently and based on assessment of need	<ul> <li>To Identify and address barriers in the current process, e.g. eligibility criteria for services</li> <li>To remove barriers in the current process, e.g. eligibility criteria of services</li> </ul>	To embed the identification of a 'Named Person' in practice for children and young people up to the age of 18 years to support communication and planning between diagnosis and intervention	To establish a care pathway for people with Asperger Syndrome, post school	To embed Early Intervention in multi- agency practice
Lead Partners	<ul> <li>NHS Grampian</li> <li>People across the autism spectrum</li> <li>Aberdeen City Council</li> <li>Families and Carers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>NHS Grampian</li> <li>People across the autism spectrum</li> <li>Aberdeen City Council</li> <li>Families and Carers</li> </ul>	Pre 5: NHS Grampian Post 5: Mental Health Education	NHS Grampian     Aberdeen City     Council:     Social Care (SDS)     Education     Employment     Scotland	All frontline staff, e.g. GP's; Education staff

Action 2014 -2016	By Whom	Progress
Establish a working group to identify a process which can be used to identify a care pathway for any age of individual	Implementation group	To be allocated
Identify and address barriers in current process, e.g. eligibility criteria of services	Adult Services	Further planning and discussion
Identification of a 'Named Person' is embedded in practice for children and young people up to the age of 18 years to support communication and planning between diagnosis and intervention	<ul><li>NHS Grampian</li><li>Mental Health</li><li>Education</li></ul>	In progress

Action 2014 -2016	By Whom	Progress
Adult services collaborate to establish a care pathway for people with Asperger syndrome	<ul><li>NHS Grampian</li><li>Aberdeen City Council</li></ul>	In progress
Early intervention is embedded in multi-agency practice	<ul> <li>All frontline staff, e.g. GP's; Education staff</li> </ul>	In progress
Action 2016 - 2019	By Whom	Progress
A multi-agency care pathway is embedded in practice for all ages	<ul><li>NHS Grampian</li><li>Aberdeen City Services</li></ul>	To be developed
A multi-agency care pathway is established for people with Asperger Syndrome	<ul><li>NHS Grampian</li><li>Aberdeen City Services</li></ul>	To be developed
Frontline staff, in particular GPs have improved knowledge of autism resulting in early identification and referral for diagnosis	GPs and frontline services	To be developed
Action 2019 - 2024	By Whom	Progress
Quality Assurance is embedded in practice	All Services	To be developed
Processes for early identification, assessment, diagnosis and intervention are reviewed and refined	All services	To be developed

A framework and process for seeking stakeholder feedback to inform service improvement and encourage engagement.

## **Indicator 10**

A self-evaluation framework to ensure best practice implementation and monitoring.

Goals	<ul> <li>To establish a sustainable framework and process for seeking stakeholder feedback to inform service improvement and encourage engagement</li> <li>To establish a self-evaluation framework to monitor and plan services for children, young people and adults with autism based on the Scottish Governments 10 indicators of best practice.</li> </ul>
Lead Partners	All services

Action 2014 -2016	By Whom	Progress
<ul> <li>Collate existing information from the One-Stop-Shop consultations; The Scottish Government's Mapping Exercise and the Transitions Project's self-evaluation to inform service planning and practice</li> </ul>		In progress
To develop and implement a self-evaluation framework	Implementation group	To be allocated

Action 2016 - 2019 By Whom Progre	ss
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Action 2016 - 2019	By Whom	Progress
Regular stakeholder events are embedded in multi-agency practice	All services	To be done
The self-evaluation process is embedded in multi-agency practice	All services	To be done
Action 2019 - 2024	By Whom	Progress
Regular stakeholder events are embedded in multi-agency practice	All services	To be done

Services that can demonstrate that service delivery is multi-agency in focus and coordinated effectively to target meeting the needs of people with autism

Goals	To develop, for all ages, a seamless multi-agency process for assessment of need based on information and views collated during assessment and diagnosis. Services are organised and developed to meet need appropriately
Lead Partners	All services

Action 2014 -2016	By Whom	Progress
For Children and Young People actions will be taken forward within Education and Children's Services as part of the overarching Inclusion Review		
<ul> <li>Autism friendly educational environments are developed across all Aberdeen City's school settings with particular attention to sensory issues</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Education and Children's Services</li> </ul>	In progress
Children and young people with autism benefit from social skills experience and training	<ul> <li>Education and Children's Services Transitions Project</li> </ul>	In progress
<ul> <li>Services are developed for young people with Asperger's Syndrome, which focus specifically on social communication skills and social activities both before and after leaving school</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Education and Children's Services</li> <li>Transitions Project</li> <li>Commissioned services, e.g. VSA, NAS</li> <li>Social Care</li> <li>Implementation Group</li> </ul>	In progress
<ul> <li>Self Directed Support is used creatively, for those eligible, to develop pathways for young people with autism in preparation for leaving school</li> </ul>	Employment Scotland	In progress
<ul> <li>Multi-agency planning is consolidated and embedded in practice for all children and young people with autism, within the GIRFEC staged intervention process as appropriate</li> </ul>	Education and Children's Services, and related services	In progress

	Action 2014 -2016	By Whom	Progress
0	Links between diagnosis and intervention are strengthened to ensure that educational provision is informed by assessment and developed in partnership with parents/carers and young people	<ul><li>Mental Health</li><li>Education and Children's Services</li><li>Parents/Carers</li></ul>	In progress
0	A social/life skills programme is developed for young people in the 18-25 year age group	<ul> <li>Implementation Group</li> </ul>	To be done
or Adult	S		
0	Assessments are in place for those who are eligible in terms of need. A Self Directed Support pathway process is developed to agree personal outcomes, budgets and making a support plan.	Adult services/Care Management	To be done
0	Development of the commissioning service to identify and meet agreed outcomes and develop the Self Directed Support process	Adult services/Care     Management	In progress
0	Existing links between Social Care and Communities, Housing & Infastructure Service at strategic and operational level are consolidated	<ul> <li>Social Care</li> <li>Communities, Housing &amp; Infastructure Service</li> </ul>	In progress
0	Consideration is given to developing a Housing Needs Assessment process for people with High Functioning autism and Asperger Syndrome	<ul><li>Social Care</li><li>Housing</li></ul>	In progress
0	Communities, Housing & Infastructure Service consider autism-related issues such as sensory needs and safety when allocating housing.	Communities,     Housing &     Infastructure     Service	In progress
0	Creative use of Self Directed Support to create pathways particularly at points of transition	Social Care	In progress
	nunity Planning consider 'autism friendly' adjustments to mainstream provision and activities nema screenings; use of public transport; community and sports centres	Community     Planning	In progress
	gement with key professionals in the criminal justice system to improve the experience of with autism and to inform practice	Implementation group	In progress

Action 2014 -2016	By Whom	Progress
	<ul><li>Legal representatives</li><li>SPS</li><li>Police Scotland</li></ul>	
Consolidation of the Autism Alert card scheme	<ul><li>Police Scotland</li><li>All services</li></ul>	In progress
Building on the existing GIRFEC framework, multi-agency planning for adults with Asperger syndrome is discussed as a priority	children, young people and group	To be done
<ul> <li>Post-school action plan is developed to address the needs of you Syndrome/High Functioning Autism, leaving school:         <ul> <li>Post school transitions</li> <li>Awareness raising of autism in colleges and universities arrangements</li> <li>Preparation for employment/raised awareness of employers</li> <li>Social activities</li> <li>Social/life skills training</li> <li>Use of Self Directed Support</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>/ consolidation of support</li> <li>Education and Children's Services</li> <li>Further Education</li> <li>Social Care</li> </ul>	To be done

Action 2016 - 2019	By Whom	Progress
<ul> <li>Children, young people and adults have easy access to an appropriate assessment of need process. Those eligible for services, can report positive outcomes within reasonable budgetary constraints and/or are signposted to alternate opportunities within their communities</li> <li>There is increased community capacity within Aberdeen for all, offering people with autism reduced dependency on services, leading to improved outcomes as active citizens</li> <li>People with autism are confident to use and have improved access to universal services</li> </ul>		To be done

	Action 2016 - 2019	By Whom	Progress
•	Services collaborate to collate feedback from service users to inform practice accordingly	All services	To be done
	Action 2019 - 2024	By Whom	Progress

Clear multi-agency procedures and plans which are in place to support individuals through major transitions at each important life-stage.

Goals	<ul> <li>To ensure key transitions are well-planned for and managed to allow the individual with autism to cope with major changes in their lives. This involves transfer of information from one establishment or agency to another, good communication and application of data, personalised induction processes and involvement of the individual and their families</li> <li>To develop multi-agency processes, where appropriate, to facilitate transition planning at key stages for children, young</li> </ul>
	people and adults with autism  To embed person-centred planning in multi-agency practice
Lead Partners	All services

Action 2014 -2016	By Whom	Progress
For Children and Young People		
<ul> <li>Transition processes are further developed for key stages, i.e. pre-school/P1, P7/S1 and post school. Existing processes are consolidated.</li> </ul>	Education and Children's Services	In progress
For Adults		
<ul> <li>Supports are developed for young people entering employment</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Implementation group</li> <li>Social Care</li> <li>Careers Scotland</li> <li>Employment Scotland</li> </ul>	To be progressed
<ul> <li>For school leavers with learning disabilities processes are developed to ensure a smooth transition from children's to adult services</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Social Care</li><li>Education and Children's Services</li></ul>	In progress

	Action 2014 -2016	By Whom	Progress
	<ul> <li>Young people with Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism have access to appropriate support and information</li> </ul>	Implementation group	To be allocated
Action 2016 - 2019		By Whom	Progress
•	Children and young people experience transitions at key stages which are smooth, individualised and well supported by the involvement of their families	<ul><li>Education and Children's Services</li><li>Related services</li></ul>	In progress
•	Young people leaving school are signposted to appropriate information and support	<ul> <li>Education and Children's Services</li> <li>Social Care</li> <li>Skills Development Scotland</li> </ul>	In progress
•	Creative use of Self Directed Support	<ul> <li>Education and Children's Services</li> <li>Social Care</li> <li>Skills Development Scotland</li> </ul>	In progress
•	Universities and the College develop their provision for young people with autism	<ul><li>Universities</li><li>College</li><li>Educational Psychology Service</li></ul>	In progress
•	Information sharing protocols are established to ensure effective planning for people involved in the criminal justice system	<ul> <li>Education and Children's Services</li> <li>Social Care</li> <li>Police Scotland</li> <li>Prison Service</li> </ul>	In progress
	Action 2019 - 2024	By Whom	Progress
•	Children and young people experience transitions at key stages which are smooth, individualised and well supported by the involvement of their families	<ul><li>Education and Children's Services</li><li>Related Agencies</li></ul>	To be reviewed

Action 2019 - 2024	By Whom	Progress
<ul> <li>Young people leaving school have access to appropriate information and support through Further Education and into employment</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Education and Children's Services</li><li>Social Care</li><li>Skills Development Scotland</li></ul>	To be reviewed
Individuals with autism receive a service from staff who are autism aware	<ul> <li>Autism Action Plan Group</li> <li>Police Scotland</li> <li>Legal Representatives</li> <li>SPS</li> </ul>	To be reviewed
Adults with autism receive appropriate support to facilitate significant transitions in their lives	<ul><li> All services</li><li> Families/carers</li></ul>	To be reviewed
Processes for early identification, assessment, diagnosis and intervention are refined	All services	To be done
Quality assurance is embedded in practice	All services	To be done