

Removing Barriers – in relation to the Edinburgh Autism Plan.



Introduction

- Edinburgh Autism Plan and its impact in removing barriers in mainstream and specialist services
- brief background to developing the strategy
- six priority areas in Edinburgh
- initial impacts in these priority areas

Planning Group

- people with autism
- carers of people with autism
- Council staff – commissioning manager (lead), planning and commissioning officer, mental health social worker, children and families
- NHS staff – adult autism co-ordinator NHS Lothian
- local autism specific service providers – one-stop shop, employment service, autism support providers, carers support service
- consultation May – July 2013
- Edinburgh Autism Plan approved by Committee November 2013

Priority areas

- development of a care pathway
- housing – mainstream provision and more specialist
- employment
- individual outcomes - personalisation
- better training / better awareness of autism
- additional priority following consultation - the wellbeing of children and young people with autism

Actions / impact

- Children and Families are working with key partners to develop a children and young people's autism plan for Edinburgh (2016)
- Care pathway – completion of an integrated care pathway for young people and adults with autism (on-going)
- housing – Edinburgh Council and local housing associations to seek more supported housing for adults with autism without a learning disability
- housing – promote autism awareness training with front line housing staff

Actions / impact

- housing – Edindex form to alert housing staff
- employment – City of Edinburgh Council Project SEARCH (July 2014)
- employment – City of Edinburgh Council are developing strategies to support employees with autism in the workplace
- employment – autism awareness training to Jobcentre Plus
- outcomes – consideration of the particular needs and wishes of the person. Self Directed Support developing to deliver personalised outcomes

Actions / impact

- training for carers – positive behavioural training offered to carers. Two sessions with follow ups being planned. Further session in 2015 – building capacity in families
- training for staff – development of an elearning module on basic autism awareness available to a range of CEC and NHS staff
- raising awareness – World Autism Day 2014 and 2015.

Actions / impact

- Edinburgh Autism Champions – to build knowledge, understanding and skills in teams about working effectively with people with autism, to contribute to the development of good autism practice in the city. Building capacity in mainstream and specialist services.
- Ask of a champion – have an interest in working with people with autism, keep abreast of developments in autism services in the city, share learning and commit to building knowledge in their teams, attend autism champion briefing meetings on a quarterly basis.

Actions / impact

- Autism Champions – impact so far
- 65 Autism Champions in place across the city by April 2015
- range of services – social workers (health and social care, children and families, criminal justice, mental health, hospitals), social work day support staff, local area co-ordinators, home care, frontline housing staff, police, NHS, external service providers
- four Autism Champions network meeting annually