

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022-2026

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 For the Health and Wellbeing Board partners to support the ambition of the North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022-26 and the key priorities and areas for further development as set out in the plan, enabling good outcomes for autistic people.
- 1.2 For the Health and Wellbeing Board to support the publication of the North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022- 2026.
- 1.3 The report demonstrates that the North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022-2026:
- Listens and responds to the voices of autistic people of all ages, enabling and supporting them to achieve successful outcomes.
 - Promotes equality of opportunity enabling autistic people to enjoy good health and wellbeing.
 - Empowers and facilitates autistic people to live in a place they call home and play an active part in their own communities enjoying purpose and fulfilment in their lives.
 - Has a focus on personalised support, enabling people to self-care and have control over their lives.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In July 2021 the Government published the new National Strategy for autistic children, young people and adults, setting out a vision for what the Government wants autistic people and their families' lives to be like in 2026.
- 2.2 In response to the new national Autism Strategy, the North Lincolnshire Autism Plan has been refreshed in collaboration with autistic children, young people and adults and their carers. A Multi-agency Autism Plan Working Group with colleagues from North Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust and North Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust, has led the co-development of the plan.

The plan has a focus on the six priority areas included in the national strategy:

- Improving understanding and acceptance of autism within society.
- Improving autistic children and young people's access to education and supporting positive transitions into adulthood.
- Supporting more autistic people into employment.

- Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people.
- Building the right support in the community.
- Improving support within the criminal and youth justice systems.

2.3 The ambition of the Autism Plan is for North Lincolnshire to be the best place and for all residents to be safe, well, prosperous and connected. The plan states that the intent is for autistic people in North Lincolnshire to:

- Feel safe in their homes, education, employment, and communities.
- Enjoy good health and emotional wellbeing.
- Have excellent education and improved skills and access to employment.
- Live fulfilled lives in a place they call home within flourishing communities with people they care about.

The plan details the outcomes of safe, well, prosperous, and connected for autistic people and translate them into key priorities and areas for further development, which are being further expanded in a delivery plan, providing the detail on how autistic people will be enabled and supported to achieve successful outcomes.

- 2.4 Between April and June 2022, a final working draft of the North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022-2026 was shared with autistic people, their carers, and partner agencies including through a range of forums and partnerships, for final consultation. The members of the Multi-agency Autism Plan Project Group also took responsibility for sharing and confirming support for the plan within their individual organisations. The feedback received was positive and, in response to some of the recommendations, final adjustments were made to the plan.
- 2.5 The plan has been supported by the SEND Standards Board and North Lincolnshire Place Planning and Coordination Group (previously the Integrated Commissioning and Quality Executive).

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 For the Health and Wellbeing Board partners to support the ambition of the North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022-26 and the key priorities and areas for further development as set out in the plan, enabling good outcomes for autistic people.
- 3.2 For the Board to support the publication of the North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022- 2026.
- 3.3 The contents of the report and the North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022-26 should be considered in relation to planning, commissioning and budget setting.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022-2026 has been co-produced with autistic children, young people and adults, their carers, and partner agencies and has been supported by the SEND Standards Board and Coordination Group (previously the Integrated Commissioning and Quality Executive).

- 4.2 The plan includes key priorities and areas for further development, supporting successful outcomes for autistic people in North Lincolnshire.
- 4.3 The Autism Plan has been aligned with place and organisational plans and strategies supporting the resourcing of the delivery of the Autism Plan. The Autism Plan is a four-year plan, and the delivery plan will determine the implementation detail including timeframes.
- 4.4 The oversight and governance of the implementation and delivery of the North Lincolnshire Autism Plan will be through the SEND Standards Board, Integrated Children's Trust, and Integrated Adults Partnership, on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board partners.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 The plan details key priorities and areas for further development, including:

- To develop innovative models of accommodation with agile care and support options, which enable people to be independent.
- To further enhance access to mental health provision and CAMHS services and overall mental health support.
- To review and further develop the skills and employability offer.
- To further work with partners across the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board footprint to explore and develop options for a sustainable model for autism diagnosis, including pre and post diagnosis support.
- To continue to increase investment in aids, adaptations and new technologies which support independent living.
- To continue to support people with complex health, care and educational needs to access services and support close to home so they can remain with their family and within their community.

5.2 Through the co-development of the Autism Plan these areas of development have been aligned with place and organisational plans and strategies supporting the resourcing of the delivery of the Autism Plan. The Autism Plan is a four-year plan, and the delivery plan will determine the implementation detail including timeframes.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 The North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022-2026 is aligned to the ambitions and priorities of North Lincolnshire Council Plan and with the North Lincolnshire Strategic Intent.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 A programme of engagement and consultation with autistic children, young people and adults, their carers, and partner agencies took place between October 2021 and January 2022.

During April and May, a final working draft of the North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022-2026 has been shared with autistic people, their carers, and partner agencies including through a range of forums and partnerships for final consultation. This included:

- SEND and Inclusion Partnership and SEND Standards Board.
- Parents Forum (PiP)
- Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) subgroups.
- Children's Multi-Agency Resilience and Safeguarding Board (CMARS) subgroups.
- Integrated Adults Partnership
- Learning Disability Partnership

There will be further engagement opportunities as we continue to listen, learn, adapt, and review.

8.2 There are no conflicts of interests to declare.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board partners support the ambition of the North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022-26 and the key priorities and areas for further development as set out in the plan, enabling good outcomes for autistic people in North Lincolnshire.

9.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board support the publication of the North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022- 2026.

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Appendix:

North Lincolnshire Autism Plan 2022-2026