



All Age Autism Strategy 2021-2026



Surrey Autism
Partnership Board



Introduction

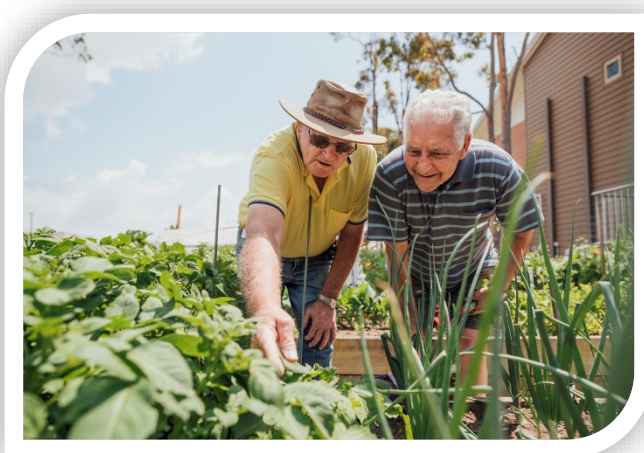
This strategy has been brought together by autistic children, young people, adults and family carers together with professionals from across Surrey's service system, to make our joint ambitions clear.

We want to achieve an autism friendly approach across the County in education, health, social care, work and communities. We want services to have a more joined-up, proactive, timely and autism-accessible offer so that autistic people have equality of access.

The Strategy will promote a cultural shift so that community and service settings are understanding and welcoming for autistic children, young people and adults.

The Strategy uses the term autistic people to refer to children, young people and adults on the autism spectrum. We have agreed to use identify-first language (eg "autistic person" rather than "person with autism") as this was the preference of most autistic people we spoke to.

This document presents our ambition, an overview of the workstreams we are putting in place to deliver the change that is needed, and our strategic priorities for Year 1 (September 2021 / August 2022)



Our Vision

Our vision is for Surrey to be a place that offers opportunities for people to live healthy and fulfilling lives, where people's contributions to their local communities are welcomed, supported and valued, and no-one is left behind. These opportunities should extend to all autistic children, young people and adults in Surrey. All organisations involved in developing and implementing this strategy are committed to ensuring that the vision and aims will be delivered in full for autistic people.

The development of the strategy has been centred around involvement of autistic people and family carers. The implementation of the strategy will continue this, with a commitment to ongoing involvement and engagement with Surrey's community of autistic people and family carers.



Contents

Introduction.....	1
Our Vision.....	2
Contents.....	3
National Autism Strategy.....	4
Context.....	5-8
What is Autism?.....	5-6
Co-occurring conditions.....	7
The Local Picture.....	8
Why do we need a strategy.....	9
Outcomes of our consultation.....	10-13
Our Principles.....	14
Our Plan.....	15
Making our plan happen.....	16-17
Workstream 1: Information, Awareness and Understanding of Autism.....	18-19
Workstream 2: Education and Preparation for Adulthood.....	20-21
Workstream 3: Health and Social Care Support.....	22-24
Workstream 4: Housing.....	25
Workstream 5: Employment.....	26
Further information.....	27

Government: National strategy for autistic children, young people and adults 2021 to 2026

The Government has recently published the new National Strategy which replaces the previous Think Autism strategy for Adults.

The strategy focuses on the following aims:

- 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 and supporting people in inpatient care
- improving support within the criminal and youth justice systems

Alignment between the national strategy and Surrey County Council's All Age Autism Strategy

“Our All Age Autism priorities in Surrey are well aligned with the Government's vision. The national strategy will help to raise awareness of the needs of children, young people and adults with autism and support the aims of Surrey County Council's strategy.

The All Age Autism strategy is grouped into the following workstreams based on the key areas identified in our public consultation:

1. Information, Awareness and Understanding of Autism
2. Education and Preparation for Adulthood
3. Health and Social Care
4. Employment
5. Housing and Independent Living

The members of these workstreams will continue to adapt and deliver change within the 5 year length of the strategy.”



Rachael Wardell
Executive Director
for Children,
Families and Lifelong
Learning

The National Disability Strategy

The government released a National Disability Strategy that aims to improve the everyday experiences of disabled children, young people, adults and family carers in these areas: while at home, while commuting, at work or in education, when shopping or getting about, when accessing public services online and in feeling connected to others.

Surrey County Council feels passionate about raising awareness of all disabilities so that no one is left behind. We will endeavour to make changes so that all people in Surrey can live fulfilling lives and this strategy makes a significant contribution to delivering this objective.

Context

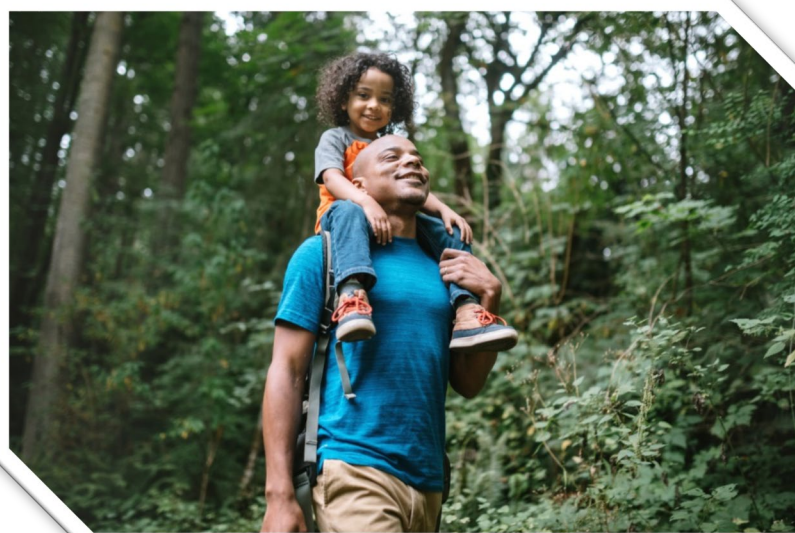
What is Autism?

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. There are several names used to describe the autism spectrum, including Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Autism Spectrum Condition, and others which have been used to describe a part of the spectrum, such as Asperger Syndrome or Classic Autism. In this strategy we use the term 'autism' to refer to the whole autism spectrum and the strategy recognises that autism is one of a wider range of neurodiverse conditions.

The diagnostic criteria for autism include social communication and interaction challenges, and repetitive and restrictive patterns of behaviour or interests. However, the way that autistic people experience their environment can lead to areas of strength or difficulty that vary between individuals and may not be immediately obvious. For

example, autistic children, young people and adults can have:

- Strong attention to detail
- Above average technical or creative skills.
- Character strengths, such as honesty and loyalty
- Differences in sensory processing, including over- and under-sensitivity
- Difficulty predicting what is going to happen next
- Difficulty knowing or understanding what other people think or feel.



The autism spectrum is not linear - it is not possible to line autistic children, young people and adults up in order of being more or less autistic. Different features of autism vary from individual to individual, as well as over the lifespan. How an autistic person appears in a particular environment may not be representative of how they appear in other environments.

Babies, infants, children and adolescents all develop at different rates, and this does not always indicate a neurodevelopmental condition. This means autism can become evident in different individuals at different ages. When a child or young person has additional needs such as autism, it is important to identify this early, signpost to advice and support, and put the right interventions in place to support the child's ability to thrive.

We know that not everyone who is autistic has had or would like a diagnostic assessment. Our aim is that changes promoted by this strategy will benefit autistic and other neurodivergent children, young people and adults whether or not they have a diagnosis.



Co-occurring conditions

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) estimates that around 70% of autistic people have an additional condition, which is “often unrecognised”. The main conditions that co-occur more frequently in autistic people compared with the general population include:

Mental health conditions

Research suggests that 70% of autistic people have a mental health condition, and that 40% have two or more. Autistic people are up to four times more likely to have anxiety disorder, and twice as likely to have depression.

Research has shown that autistic people are more vulnerable to negative life experiences, which may also impact mental health. Compared to the general population, autistic people report having a lower quality of life. Research indicates that suicide is a major cause of early mortality in autistic people.

Neurodevelopmental conditions:

These are caused by differences in early brain development, and affect the way that a person processes information, thinks, or learns. Autism is one such condition, and it is common for autistic people to have other neurodevelopmental conditions. These include general learning disabilities (affecting between 15% and 30% of autistic people), specific learning difficulties (such as dyslexia and attention-deficit hyper-activity disorder), and other conditions such as epilepsy. Delays in language development are common in autism, and up to 30% of autistic people are non-speaking (completely, temporarily, or in certain contexts).

Autism affects people of all ages, ethnicities and genders. Inequalities experienced because of disability may interact with discrimination and barriers based on ethnicity, beliefs, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy and maternity, marital status and socio-economic disadvantage. We have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment that sits alongside this Strategy and summarises how we aim to address these issues.

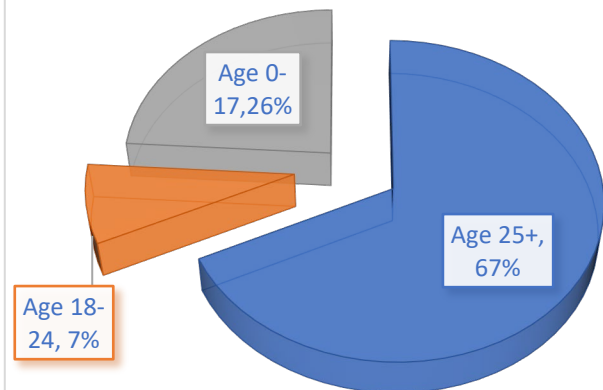
The Local Picture

Surrey's population in 2021 is projected to be 1.23 million so, our best approximation of our autistic population is 12,300 people, made up of:

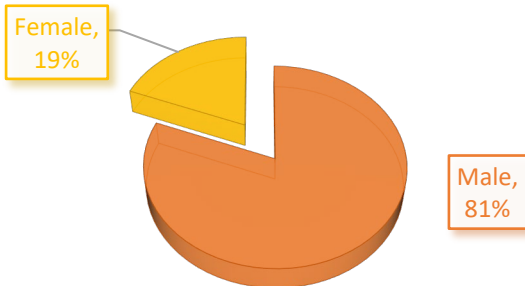
- 3,200 children aged 17 and under
- 900 young people aged 18-24
- 8,200 people aged 25 and over

Currently autism is thought to be three times more common in males than females. This ratio may change as understanding of the way autism presents in women and girls improves. Research has suggested that autism may be under-diagnosed in females, gender-fluid and non-binary people (UK Parliament Postnote #612, January 2020).

AUTISTIC PEOPLE IN SURREY - ESTIMATE BY AGE GROUP



EHCPs WITH AUTISM AS PRIMARY NEED 2020 - BY GENDER



Autistic Children and Young People in Surrey:

The total number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for young people up to the age of 25 in 2020 was 10,762. 3,653 or 34% of these had a primary need of autism as follows:

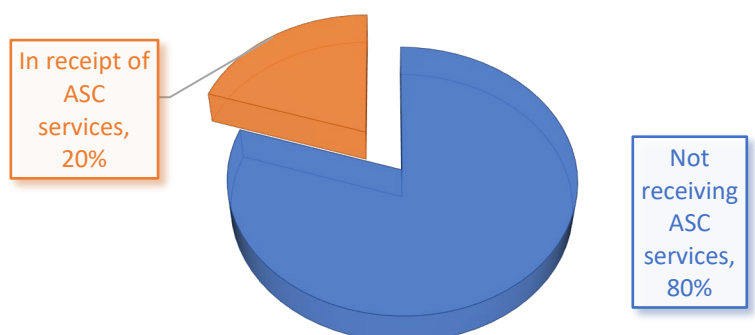
- Male – 2,958
- Female – 695

Adult Population / People 18 and Over in Surrey:

National data shows the number of autistic people aged 18 and over in Surrey in 2021 is about 9,100.

20% of these people (1,834 people) are in receipt of a service from Adult Social Care (ASC), and a fifth of these are women.

PROPORTION OF AUTISTIC PEOPLE AGED 18+ RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM ASC



Why do we need a Strategy?

Autistic children, young people, adults and family carers have told us that there are significant barriers to achieving our vision across the service system and the wider community.

Addressing these barriers will require better understanding of autism, and culture change across Surrey's services and community.

These are not quick things to deliver, but we know that with focussed leadership across the system over time, autistic children, young people and adults in Surrey can be supported to achieve better outcomes.

The work of the strategy will need to be embedded in organisations and the wider community so that it is sustained and can be built on.

We want to identify autistic people's needs earlier and improve their physical and mental health. This will help better understanding of the inequalities autistic people face, such as the causes for the gap in life expectancy, so we can take the right actions to improve people's health outcomes.

We are committed to bringing the right people together to break down barriers to community access and use our resources effectively to deliver the support that people need. Our strategy is here to focus the action of all the partners across Surrey who will work together to make the changes we need to see.



Outcomes of our consultation

We carried out a public consultation in 2020. Autistic children, young people, adults, families, carers and professionals developed a set of questions to ask people about their experiences and how things could be improved in Surrey.



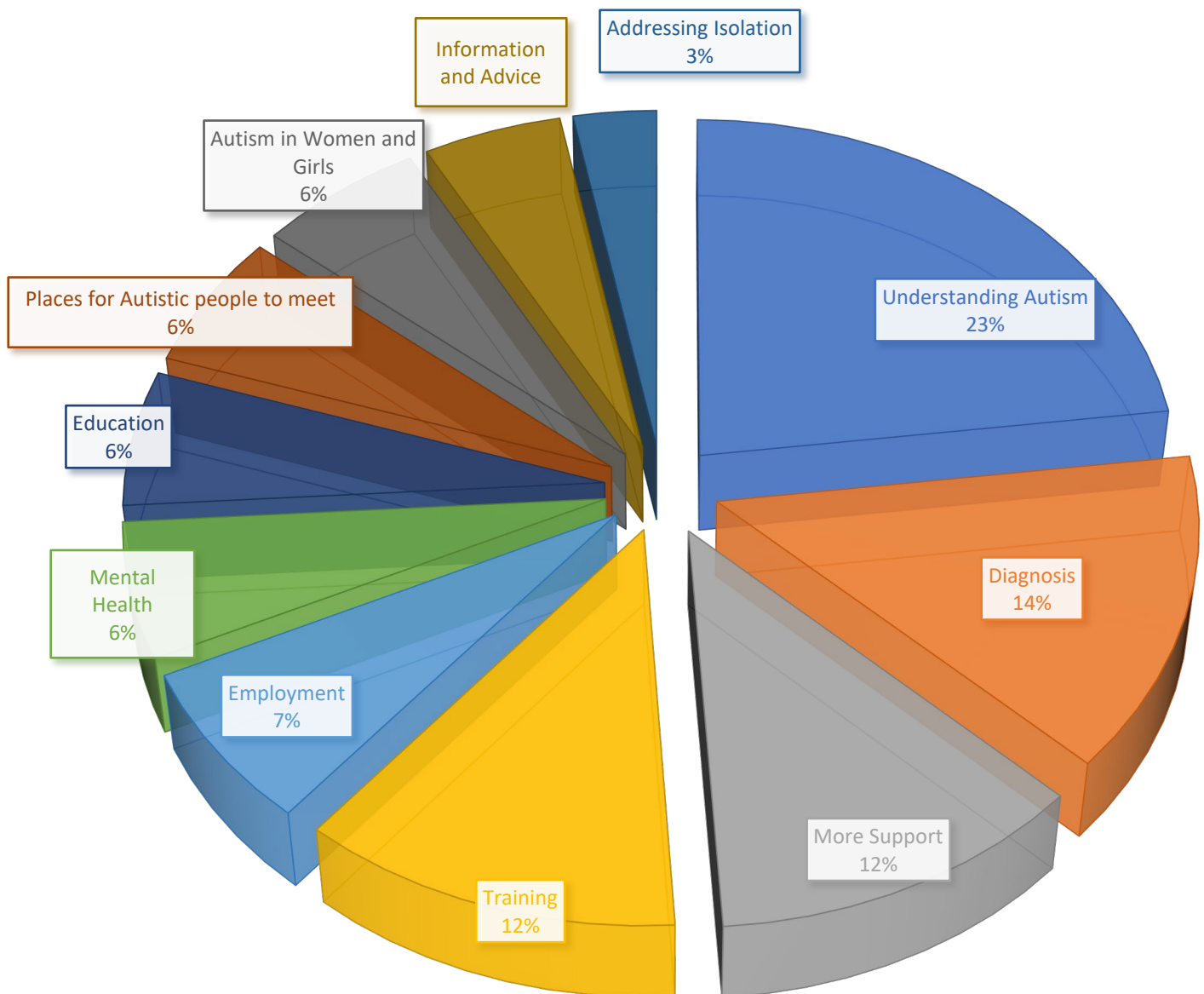
We received 1,165 detailed responses:

- 109 autistic people,
- 756 family members, carers or partners of autistic people,
- 237 professionals; and
- 63 'others'

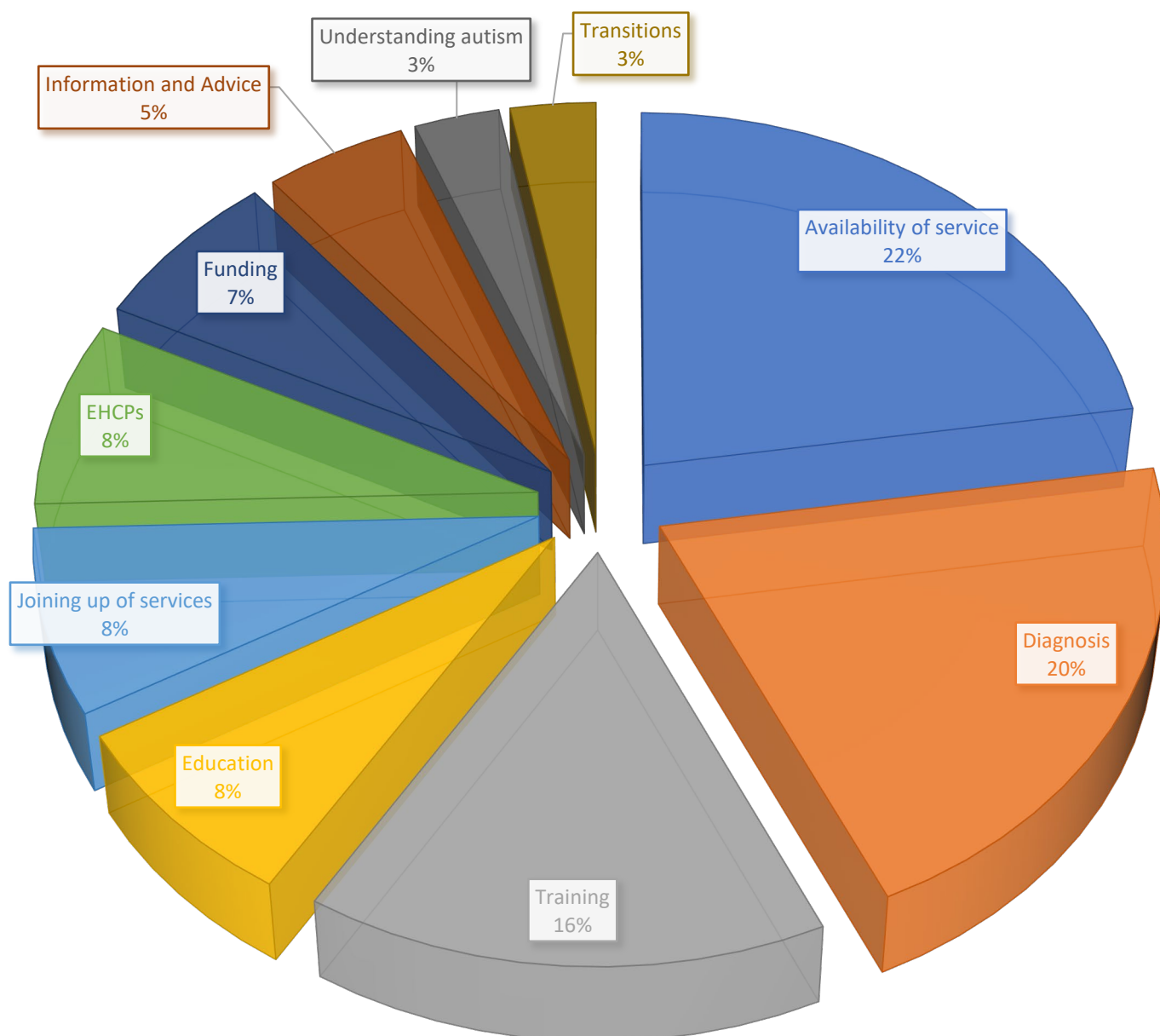
We have worked with London South Bank University to analyse the responses and draw together the key themes. We have checked the themes with autistic young people and adults, families, carers and professionals through a series of online workshops.

Please find responses from our consultation in the next pages.

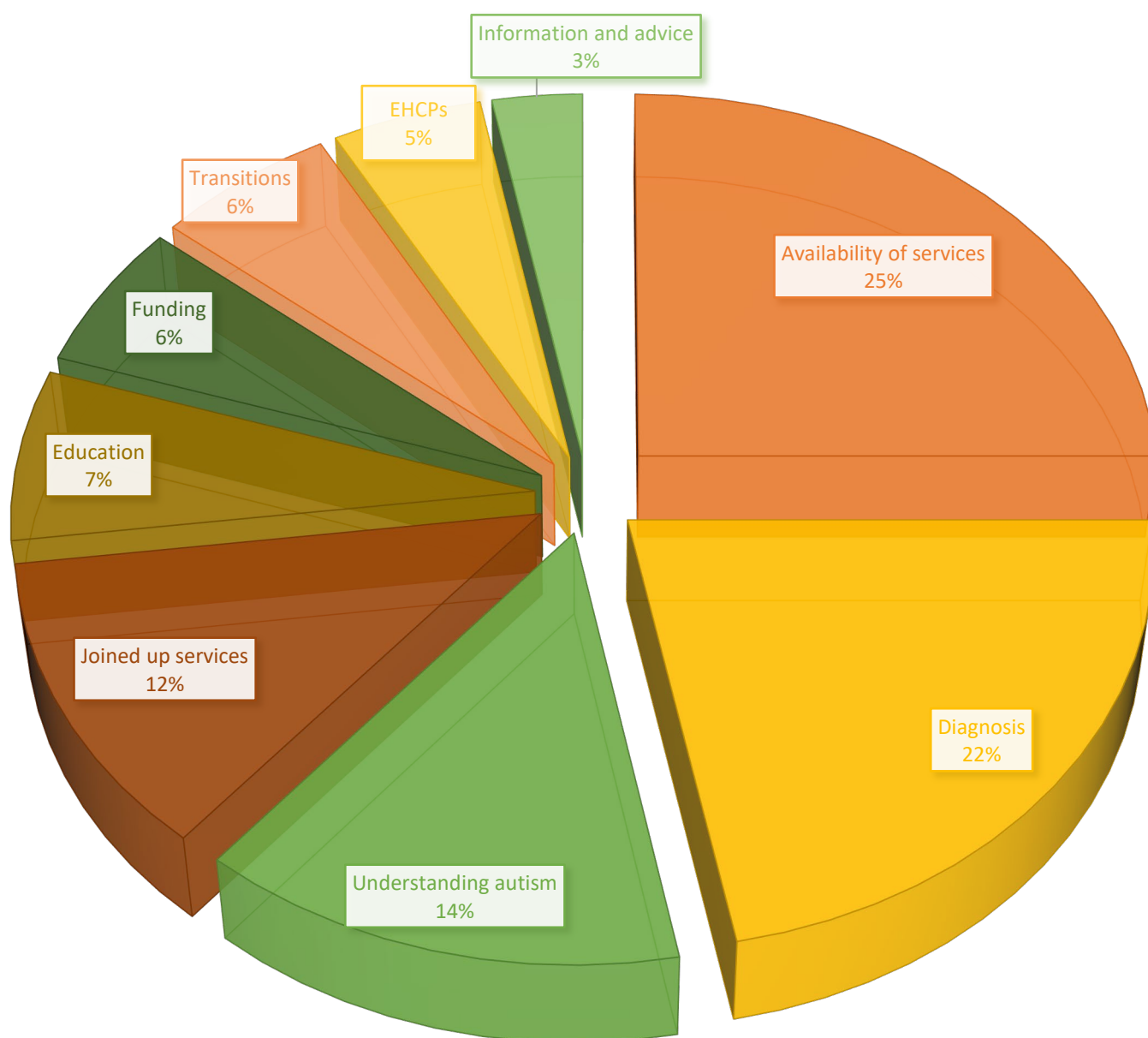
PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY AUTISTIC PEOPLE:



PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY FAMILY MEMBERS AND PARENT/CARERS OF SOMEONE AUTISTIC:



PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY PEOPLE WHOSE JOB INVOLVES SUPPORTING AUTISTIC PEOPLE:



Our Principles



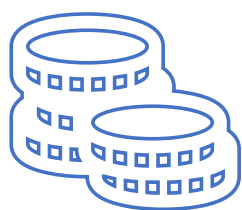
My Voice - Work on developing and implementing the strategy will involve autistic people and family carers. Nothing About Us Without Us - We make fair and strong decisions together.

Partnership Working – Many different agencies and organisations will be involved in delivering this strategy. We will work together towards the common goals outlined here.



Strengths-Based Approach – We intend to build on strengths of individuals, organisations and communities

Closer to Home – We aim for autistic children, young people and adults to be included and supported in their local communities as far as possible. When people require specialist support that cannot be delivered in every locality, we aim for support to be in-County wherever possible.

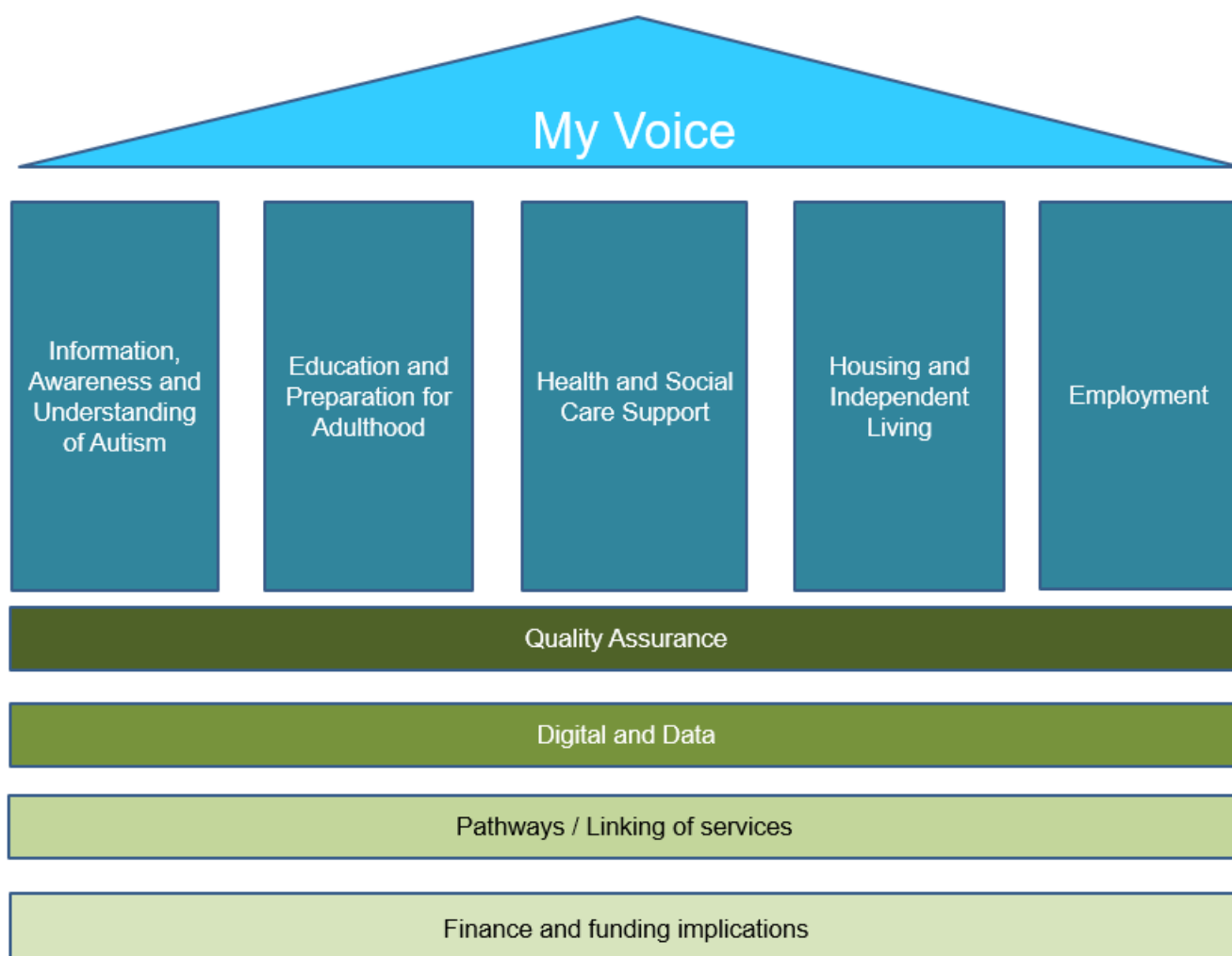


Efficient use of Resources – We know that services have limited resources, and this strategy is ambitious in aiming for widespread change, but does not come with extra funding.

However, to ensure the change can be as wide as possible we will work to use the resources available in the most effective way. Where available we will bid for funding that may become available through the national autism strategy, or other routes. Making the system more joined-up, inclusive and accessible will prevent crises for autistic children, young people and adults and their families and improve efficiency across the service system.

Our Plan:

Over the next 5 years, bringing people together to develop and implement work plans focusing on the following priority areas:



The work carried out to implement the plan will report back through the Children's and Adults' Autism Partnership Boards and the decision-making bodies for Surrey County Council and the NHS in Surrey.

Making our plan happen:

The strategy sets out priorities based on the outcomes of a wider consultation in 2020. The priority themes have been structured into five workstreams as follows:

- Information Awareness and Understanding of Autism
- Education and preparation for adulthood
- Health and social care support
- Housing and independent living
- Employment

Each workstream has had an autistic person and/or a parent co-leading the work, with people with lived experience and partners across the service system shaping the proposed actions and recommendations for the 5-year delivery of the strategy.

Each section will be backed up by an action plan developed and monitored by people from services working with autistic people and family carers.



To implement our overarching principle of “My Voice”, in Year 1 we will:

- Establish a Children’s Autism Partnership Board to support involvement of autistic children and young people.
- Develop a Reference Group of autistic young people / family carers to support development and implementation of the strategy
- Maintain and build on autistic people and family carers’ involvement in the Adults’ Autism Partnership Board.
- Develop the Reference Group of autistic adults to support development and implementation of the strategy.
- Ensure involvement of experts by experience in each of the strategy workstreams

Our plan includes four underpinning pieces of work:

1. **Quality Assurance** – All workstreams will evaluate their work to demonstrate the quality of what they deliver.
2. **Digital and Data** – We need better data about autistic people in Surrey to inform service planning. We know that not all services currently collect good data about autism. Workstreams will seek to improve autism data collection, and to find ways to share data effectively while maintaining good information governance.
3. **Pathways and linking of services** – Autistic people have told us that they experience “falling through the gaps” between services. All workstreams will seek to address this disjointedness by partnership working, building links between services, understanding where gaps cause problems for autistic people, and working to make people’s experience more joined up.
4. **Finance and Funding Implications** – Improving access for autistic people is the right thing to do and is also likely to be more cost effective for services and the support system. This strategy does not come with extra funding but is ambitious in making change across the system. All workstreams will seek to use the limited resources available in the most effective way. This may include bidding for external funding or making business cases to deliver services more efficiently.

Workstream 1: Information, Awareness and Understanding of Autism

What we want to achieve:

Autistic People

- Autistic children, young people and adults are supported to understand what their autism means for them, their strengths and skills and so that they can live fulfilling lives

Community

- Autistic people are understood, welcomed and can access community services, for example transport, leisure facilities, shops, youth clubs and community events.
- Tackling stigma attached to autism in the community
- Autistic people and family carers can live a fulfilling life in the community.
- Facilities available in the community make reasonable adjustments to be autism accessible. This means that there are services and supports available to autistic people whether or not they are eligible for statutory services.

In line with the National Autism Strategy:

- To improve public understanding and acceptance of autism, and that autistic people feel more included in their communities and less lonely and/or isolated.

Information and Navigation

- Information about where to find advice, signposting and support across education, health, care and the community is easily accessible to all.
- Autistic people and family carers are able to find information and support which helps them to live an active life.

Family Carers

- Family carers will be able to access training at the right time, to enhance their understanding of how autism affects their family member and explore practical ways to support them.

Services

- Specialist and mainstream services across the system, from Health, Social Care, Education, Housing, Leisure, Police, Criminal Justice and others are inclusive, accessible and helpful for autistic people and family carers.

How will we do this? Year one

- ✓ **Develop options and approaches for an autism training offer across services and the community.**
 - Engage with stakeholders to identify the need for training and understand the audience size and priority groups for training.
 - Co-design training with people who have lived experience and carers
 - Begin implementation of this training for priority groups
 - Monitor autism training delivered to priority groups
- ✓ **Develop and deliver autism training offer for autistic people and family carers**
- ✓ **Work to promote “Autism-Friendly Communities”**
 - Identify an appropriate location to pilot development of an Autism Friendly Community
 - Engage with community facilities, universal services and voluntary sector organisations to support reasonable adjustments
 - Start work on developing and evaluating this to inform adoption of approaches that work in other areas across the County.
- ✓ **Review and revise current information and advice content held across agencies.**
 - Engage with autistic residents to understand the need for information in suitable formats.
 - Develop online and paper-based information that is accessible, reliable and designed in a way that is inclusive for autistic people.

Workstream 2: Education and Preparation for Adulthood

What do we want to achieve?

Inclusive educational provision which enables children and young people to be taught within their local community.

What will be different?

- All education settings will receive autism training
- Autistic children and their family carers will know what they should expect from their education settings
- More children will be able to go to school closer to their home

Children and young people will feel supported at school with a focus on anti-bullying policies

What do we want to achieve?

Autistic children have their additional and special educational needs met at the earliest time.

What will be different?

- All education settings will be supported by their multi-agency Team around the School
- All partners will understand the different pathways available to support early intervention
- All partners will understand when a child might require an education health and care needs assessment

What do we want to achieve?

The child's voice, hopes and aspirations will influence all planning and decisions made about them

Family carers will be actively involved in all matters concerning their child and plans will be co-produced.

What will be different?

- Children will be heard, listened to and supported to achieve their identified outcomes
- Family carers will report increasing participation in, and satisfaction with planning processes and outcomes for their children

How will we do this? – Year one

- ✓ Co-design and roll out the delivery of a robust training programme for all education settings starting with schools.
- ✓ Co-produce guidance explaining what support and adjustments should be made for autistic children to support early intervention and inclusion in education settings.
- ✓ Commission a range of local provision so that children can go to school within their local community.

How will we do this? – Year one

- ✓ Ensure that services work together, in partnership with family carers and the young person; providing early and additional support when needed.
- ✓ Mapping activity to identify any gaps in provision
- ✓ Provide clear information and guidance on the Local Offer
- ✓ Provide guidance and training for SENCOs
- ✓ Co-design, implement, evaluate and roll out a new neurodevelopmental assessment and intervention pathway.

How will we do this? – Year one

- ✓ Co-produce guidance for children, family carers and SENCOs to support participation
- ✓ Ensure co-production is embedded in the SEND teams development programme.
- ✓ Establish a quality assurance framework and audit cycle to drive continuous improvement

What we want to achieve:

- Autistic children young people and adults have good mental health and wellbeing, and access to universal or specialist Mental Health services as required.

What will be different?

- Deliver a dynamic programme of autism training to upskill the workforce.
- Reasonable adjustments in universal Mental Health services
- Review mental health pathways
- In-patient accessibility

How will we do this? – Year One

- ✓ Establish clear ways of working and protocols across health, social care and education to support effective planning
- ✓ Strengthen collaborative commissioning arrangements to ensure children and young people are supported at the right level across education, social care and health
- ✓ Pilot new ways of working in social care for the Children with Disabilities and Transition Team to plan with young people and their family carers at a much earlier age

Develop new mental health pathways across health, social care and education to ensure young people with a mental health need experience a smooth transition to adulthood

What we want to achieve?

Autistic children and young people go on to live rich and fulfilling lives in their own communities

What will be different?

- Pathway choices for young people will be outcome focussed and appropriate for their level of need
- There will be more choice for support focussed on developing independence and life skills
- Plans will be put in place in good time for young people in residential and education settings out of county that will return to Surrey as adults

How will we do this? – Year One

- Develop an information and careers advice offer for young people with additional needs to help prepare them for future choices
- Expand vocational options to support young people onto an employment pathway, including recruiting a number of autistic apprentices with additional needs into the county council
- Develop education and accommodation options for young people who are currently in out of county provision, to ensure that they can be supported as close to home as possible, as they transition to adulthood

In line with the National Autism Strategy:

- We want education settings to provide better and more inclusive support to autistic children and young people.
- We want transitions into adulthood to improve for autistic people

Workstream 3: Health and Social Care Support

Assessment & Diagnosis

What we want to achieve:

- To engage everyone involved to improve health and wellbeing for autistic children and adults
- Families and autistic children, young people and adults will know how to access support, have an assessment of their needs, and be able to live a fulfilling life
- To have robust and personalised neurodevelopmental assessment pathways for children, young people and adults
- Diagnosis will happen at the time appropriate for the individual

What will be different?

- Reduced waiting times and improved pre and post diagnostic support
- Support for autistic children, young people and adults, whether they have a diagnosis or not

How will we do this? – Year One

- ✓ Submit bid for NHS England funding for Children's and Adults' services.
- ✓ Develop a business case for investment to improve pre- and post- diagnostic support:
 - Assessing needs earlier to signpost people to the right support
 - Peer support
 - Develop an Autism Navigator role
 - Peer Expert Network
 - Waiting times for assessment will be reduced and pre- and post- diagnostic support for children, young people, adults and their families will be available.
- ✓ Mapping, Gap analysis and benchmarking

Forensic Support: Including Police, Prisons and Criminal Justice

What we want to achieve:

- Surrey Police recognise the needs of autistic people and make reasonable adjustments.
- The criminal justice system, including the courts and court liaison, and prisons recognise the needs of autistic people whether they are victims, witnesses, suspects or perpetrators of crime, and make reasonable adjustments.
- When autistic people are at risk of being affected by criminal activity, they can get support from services that understand their autism (e.g Advocacy Services, Youth Offenders Service, Forensic Services).

What will be different?

- Understanding of autism and reasonable adjustments throughout Surrey Police
- Understanding of autism and reasonable adjustments in Advocacy Services, Youth Offending Services, Courts, Court Liaison, Probation and the criminal justice system

How will we do this? – Year One

Build on the current Pegasus scheme and Police autism training to ensure autism accessibility and extend current good practice.

- ✓ Mapping:
 - of services in the forensic system
 - of autistic children, young people and adults supported by services in the system
- ✓ Work with prisons and youth offending services to develop and agree a best practice document reflecting planning leading up to release, improving multi-agency information sharing / what a good support package looks like

Market Management

What we want to achieve:

- A suitable range of autism accessible health and social care support in Surrey that children, young people and adults can use. This includes:
- Support when autistic people struggle with their mental health
- Support for older autistic people
- Low-level support for people to live in the community and avoid escalating levels of needs
- Specialist support when things go wrong, to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions and facilitate timely discharge.

How will we do this? – Year One

- ✓ Develop commissioning intentions that promote autism inclusiveness and awareness
- ✓ Ensure autism needs and strength-based approaches are reflected in expectations of provider services.
- ✓ Market development of autism-accessible in-county support for autistic children, young people and adults with complex needs
- ✓ Market development of autism-accessible support and reasonable adjustments delivered by universal and community providers including Districts & Boroughs, and the private, voluntary and independent sector.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

What we want to achieve:

Autistic children young people and adults have good mental health and wellbeing, and access to universal or specialist Mental Health services as required.

What will be different?

- Deliver a dynamic programme of autism training to upskill the workforce.
- Reasonable adjustments in universal Mental Health services
- Review mental health pathways
- In-patient accessibility

How will we do this? – Year One

- ✓ Design and deliver a robust training programme to relevant teams to ensure autistic people are cared for.
- ✓ Universal Mental Health services make reasonable adjustments to improve accessibility for autistic people and to adjust pathways depending on the primary need.
- ✓ Co-morbid diagnosis - develop clear integrated dual diagnosis and post-diagnosis pathways for autistic children, young people and adults with Mental Health need.
- ✓ Ensure autism is included within Surrey's Suicide Prevention agenda (adults and children)
- ✓ Review autism accessibility within in-patient / hospital provision.
- ✓ Develop sensory aware clinical environments to enable autistic people to receive assessment and treatment in sensory aware spaces

Health and Social Care Teams

What we want to achieve:

- Health and social care teams and Surrey CC Contact Centre understand autism and respond appropriately
- The Health and Social Care teams most likely to be supporting autistic people and family carers will be sources of autism expertise for the County.
- The teams will use a strengths-based approach, planning proactively around skills development for independence

What will be different?

- Workforce planning & development
- Build links between teams with good understanding of autism

How will we do this? – Year One

- ✓ Map all public-facing teams/functions and roles across health and social care to establish that we have the right roles with the right skills in the right place along the pathway
- ✓ Design and deliver a robust training programme to all public-facing health & social care teams
- ✓ Promote multi-disciplinary approaches and create opportunities for bridging divides.
- ✓ Establish a Surrey autism Community of Practice

Health Inequalities

What we want to achieve:

Mainstream health services such as GPs, dentistry, optometry, audiology, chiropody etc make reasonable adjustments to ensure autistic people get access to the health support they need, in line with the national NHS Long-Term Plan and NICE guidance.

What will be different?

Workforce education and skills development to improve access to services

How will we do this? – Year One

- ✓ Autism training packages for primary care providers to improve accessibility of services
- ✓ Improve take up of primary care services by ensuring professionals make reasonable adjustments to improve people's experiences
- ✓ Identify and train an Autism lead in each Integrated Care Partnership
- ✓ Implement the national mortality review programme (LeDer) for autistic people
- ✓ Set up health programme board monitoring and delivering health improvement for autistic peoples

In line with the National Autism Strategy:

- Autistic people will be able to access a high quality and timely diagnosis, as well as the support they need following diagnosis.
- We will have also made progress on improving early identification of autism, so more children and young people can get the support they need at an early age.

Workstream 4: Housing and Independent Living

What we want to achieve:

Preparation for Independence

- Young people are better prepared for work and independent living when they leave education

Adult Social Care Independent Living

- Housing and support is available and accessible for autistic people eligible for Adult Social Care Support

District & Borough Housing

- For District and Borough Housing staff to understand autism and make reasonable adjustments so that housing processes are autism accessible.
- For borough housing stock to be autism accessible.

Building Standards

- Autism accessibility is considered in all new buildings.

In line with National Government Strategy:

- Improve autistic people’s access to housing that meets their needs
- Increase the provision of supported housing.

How will we do this? – Year One

- ✓ Research/data gathering across schools and colleges to understand the current independent living training offer, how this supports young autistic people to live independently and to identify gaps in provision and consistency across Surrey
- ✓ Approach Districts & Boroughs to identify pilot areas. Action Plan and recommendations agreed with districts and boroughs to ensure that housing processes and pathways are accessible.

Independent Living framework:

- Review specifications to ensure schemes have staff who are skilled in supporting autistic people
- Influence design of new builds at planning stage so housing is designed to be autism friendly.



Workstream 5: Employment

What we want to achieve:

Preparation for Adulthood

Autistic children and young people leave education with the skills and understanding they need to get employment.

Work Opportunities

More job opportunities for autistic people in Surrey

Leading by Example

Councils and the NHS in Surrey and organisations we commission leading by example in employing autistic people.



How will we do this? – Year One

- ✓ **Increase work experience opportunities for young people still in education**
 - Colleges/Schools to ensure all employability courses include an element of work experience
 - Improve employment outcomes by working with Surrey Choices, Apprenticeships, Employers and Job Centre Plus
 - Explore funding opportunities for supported pre-employment and employment spaces
 - Support employers by raising awareness and providing information on reasonable adjustment
- ✓ **HR to report on numbers of people identifying as autistic in quality data**
 - Find methods to capture data on employee disability type
- ✓ **Autistic young people should learn skills for independence including travel training and expectation of employment**
 - Positive Role models who can share their stories – Surrey Choices to explore the Kickstart programme and other methods to pay for people with lived experience to tell their stories
 - Use of positive Role models in education setting

In line with the National Autism Strategy:

- Improve the support autistic people can access to find and stay in work

For employers to have become more confident in hiring and supporting autistic people, and that autistic people's experience of being in work has improved.

If you need more information please contact us by:

Email: contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk

Telephone: 03456 009 009

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, on CD or in another language please contact us on:

Textphone (via Text Relay): 18001 0300 200 1005

SMS: 07527 182 861 (for deaf or hard of hearing)

Email: contactcentre.adminhub@surreycc.gov.uk

Nëse dëshironi që ky dokument të jetë me shkronja të mëdha, në kasetë ose në një gjuhë tjetër, ju lutemi n'a telefononi në një nga numrat e mësipërm.

إذا كنت ترغب بالحصول على هذه الوثيقة في طباعة مكبرة، أو على شريط مسجل أو في لغة أخرى، فنرجو الاتصال بنا على أحد الأرقام المدونة أعلاه.

আপনি যদি এই ডকুমেন্ট বা নথি বড় ছাপার অক্ষরে, টেপে বা অন্য কোন ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে উপরের যে কোন একটি নম্বরে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

Si desea este documento impreso en letra grande, en casete o en otro idioma, rogamos que se ponga en contacto con nosotros llamando a uno de los números anteriores.

如您索取本文的大字體版本、錄音帶版本或另一語言版本，請撥以上任一個電話號碼，與我們聯絡。