

Update on the East Sussex Autism Plan

30 May 2012

This statement is to be read alongside the Comprehensive Needs Assessment produced in 2011.

A recent Comprehensive Needs Assessment has helped to focus Adult Social Care's priorities on supporting local people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions, working towards an environment where local need can be met in an inclusive way, whilst recognising the need for specialist support through partnership working. Since the needs assessment was completed, Adult Social Care has appointed an Autism lead to initiate a plan. A draft plan, which we would like to develop through an autism workshop as part of our wider consultation launched on 11 June, will focus on a number of priority outcomes, which currently include:

- Increased understanding of local need
- Promoting awareness and understanding of the needs of people with Autism across East Sussex services. This could include improved information about autism and local services and training and development support for local practitioners and clinicians.
- improved support for young people, adults and carers, including support to employment
- a clear local plan with leadership arrangements in place. This could involve establishing a number of themed stakeholder groups focusing on specific development areas.

You can read more about our consultation at

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay

Our aim is to ensure that the plan is informed by local stakeholders who are well placed to tell us about local need and local solutions, and is one that is supported by strong local leadership to effect change across agencies which results in improved outcomes for local people. Part of the summer's engagement will help shape our thinking about the most effective ways to involve and engage people in developing support for people with ASD.