

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

27 JUNE 2018

REPORT OF HARTLEPOOL AND STOCKTON ON TEES CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER PATHWAY

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 This report is to provide the Health & Wellbeing Board with an update as to the work being undertaken:

- to address the number of children and young people waiting for a clinical assessment for autism
- To progress the development of a new needs led ASD pathway.

2. Background

2.1 At the CCG's last presentation to the Health & Wellbeing Board on the Autism waiting list we outlined pieces of work which were on going into the underlying issues which had created the waiting list and how we proposed to take this work forward.

2.2 Considerable work has been undertaken to move this work forward and we would like to acknowledge the input, both financially and through staff capacity, which Stockton Borough Council has put into this work.

2.3 There has also been consistent involvement from the Stockton Parent Carer Forum through consultations, meetings and attendance at the Steering Group.

2.4 A paper was presented to the Executive on the 17th April 2018, highlighting the co-morbid issues we were experiencing with the Children's Autism Pathway.

- Waiting list with 700 children & young people
- Escalating diagnostic waiting times and a pathway which offered no support to children & their families whilst they waited
- Poor communication
- Ad hoc signposting
- Inconsistent support offered from local authorities and schools resulting in a lack of co-ordinated care.

- 2.5 Resource was requested from the Executive to enable a waiting list initiative to be undertaken to address the position with both current providers involved in the delivery of the pathway (Tees, Esk & Wear Valley (TEWV) and North Tees & Hartlepool Foundation Trust (NTHFT)) in order for them to recruit additional staff to address the waiting list position.
- 2.6 Executive agreed on the 17th April to support this initiative and supported the further work to implement a new service model and begin to cost up a Neurodevelopmental Pathway.

3 Actions to date - Waiting list

- 3.1 Following the Executive meeting held on the 17th April discussions were commenced both internally regarding contractual options and externally with providers to ascertain what could be achieved in relation to the waiting list within the secured resource.
- 3.2 There were also discussions with other ASD providers who have specialised in waiting list work, to identify if they were able to clear the list within the finances that had been secured. However the costings that they provided were in excess of the original envelope that had been requested.
- 3.3 Negotiations with both TEWV and NTHFT eventually resulted in an agreement to clear their respective waiting lists as at May 2018, within the financial envelope and within a 12month period.
- 3.4 We are currently in discussions to enable the waiting list work to commence in September 2018. This allows time for the providers to recruit the required staff, the requirements are detailed in the table below:

Pathway	Actions	Outcomes	Timescales
Under 5yrs	North Tees to recruit an additional ASD specialist SALT	Increase the number of Multi Agency Assessment Team (MAAT) clinics-	Post to commence in September 2018
	North Tees to recruit/increase the number of paediatrician sessions	Increase the number of MAATs	Post to commence in September- acute paediatrician to shadow community from the end of June
	Tees Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) to recruit additional ASD co-ordinator	To allow for the increase in co-ordination to ensure all CYP on the waiting list are seen within the 12 month period	Post to commence in September 2018
	TEWV to recruit additional psychologist	Increase the number of MAAT's	Post to commence in September 2018 PLEASE NOTE – this post was not part of the original costings and therefore negotiations have recommenced with

			TEWV.
Over 5yrs	TEWV to recruit additional ASD Co-ordinator	To allow for the increase in co-ordination to ensure all CYP on the waiting list are seen within the 12 month period	Post to commence by September 2018
	TEWV to recruit a ASD SALT specialist	Increase the number of MAATs	Post to commence by September 2018
	TEWV to recruit a psychologist	Increase the number of MAATs	Post to commence by September 2018
	TEWV to recruit administrator	Reduce the amount of clinical time taken with administering the pathway	Post to commence by September

3.5 Service specifications have been drawn up and are in the process of being discussed with the providers and varied in through Contract Management. It is predicated that they will be varied in by the end of July 2018.

3.6 We have worked with TEWV to agree to produce a communication that will be sent to all families on both the under and over 5yrs pathway waiting list. This will be released once NTHFT confirm that they will be able to recruit the additional staff and be ready to start the waiting list work in September 2018.

3.7 TEWV have been requested to:

- Work with the CCG to train identified professionals in completing a referral form which will be introduced for new referrals from September.
- Introduce a referral only process for the assessment of CYP suspected as having an ASD

4. Actions to date - Development of the Future Model

4.1 As highlighted in our previous paper, we are keen to learn from other areas, especially those who have been highlighted as best practice through their SEND inspections. We therefore presented the St Helen's model to the ASD Steering Group and it was well received.

4.2 The St Helen's model is an integrated pathway based on meeting the need of the child as those needs are identified. This is very similar to what had been developed through the steering group. Therefore St Helen's were invited to come up and meet with member of the Steering Group

4.3 Both the transformation lead and the Multi-Agency Assessment Team (MAAT) lead came up and met with representatives from; CCG, Hartlepool Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council TEWV, Speech & Language, OT, paediatrician all from NTHFT, Catalyst and the Stockton Parent Carer Forum.

4.4 St Helen's had experienced 4 years waits before transforming their pathway, thus were able to share their learning. As a system they were able to share details around the MAAT process, multiagency training and upskilling, transforming and developing services within the ASD system, joint commissioning and integrated working.

4.5 They also spoke about the necessity to ensure there were services in place to help meet the needs of children and their families at the earliest opportunity. The services which they

introduced reflect the needs which have been identified by parent carers as currently not being met in Stockton – family support and sensory training.

5. Ongoing work with Stockton Borough Council

- 5.1 As previously stated the work to date with the local authority has been really positive and the partnership working has greatly increased.
- 5.2 Financial contributions have been made to both the waiting list work and to the development of new services to support the transition to a new model.
- 5.3 Through joint commissioning, which is essential for the SEND agenda, we are working in partnership to develop a support service for families which will also look to work with professionals so we increase the awareness around autism across Stockton.
- 5.4 This service will be available to families when a need is identified and will hold weekly drop in sessions to allow for rapid access.
- 5.5 We are also exploring expanding the current sensory offer available through NTHFT to allow for parents and professionals to receive training throughout the year and for drop in sessions to be held. We are looking to jointly commission this service within the financial envelope available from Stockton Borough Council.
- 5.6 To move to an integrated needs led model, we are working together to look at what services the local authority has which could support the needs of children and their families to enable a consistent approach to be offered.
- 5.7 Therefore agreement had to be sought as to how these services could be embedded more efficiently/effectively for both the waiting list work and the development of the new model. Initial actions agreed focused on identifying the training required to upskill the work force to enable them to identify and meet needs at the earliest opportunity. This workforce analysis is to be completed by the end of June.
- 5.8 There are further actions required with all the different strands of Early Help to map what their future service offer will look like, to ensure that the ASD pathway development is future proofed.
- 5.9 Work with the education team and schools needs to be accelerated as, at present, there is an inconsistent approach from schools as to the support they offer to children and young people who are presenting with traits of autism.
- 5.10 A further key piece of work to be taken forward, the benefits of which were highlighted by St Helen's, is the development of a training programme for all key front line staff who have regular contact with children & young people.
- 5.11 The availability and provision of training is paramount for system change.
- 5.12 A lead has been nominated from Stockton Borough Council and meetings have been diarised to ensure a comprehensive plan is in place to move this project forward.
- 5.13 A multi-agency oversight group is to be convened to provide governance over the action log and to hold agencies to account. This will report into the Future in Mind governance structure.

6.0 Next Steps

- Work with contract management to vary in the service specifications to existing contracts
- Continue to meet with the Stockton Borough Council to build and implement their service offer.

- Develop KPI's in partnership with TEWV and NTHFT to monitor the waiting list work.
- Continue to work with the Parent Carer forums to bring their expertise into the development of the service specification for the Sensory and Family services
- Work with Local authorities to approach schools as to the new referral mechanisms
- Develop a training offer across Stockton & Hartlepool.
- Continue to build the actions plans with partners to move to a Neurodevelopmental Pathway

7. Recommendations

7.1 The Board is asked to:

- Acknowledge the report and the complexities of the work
- Support the future actions outlined in the report