

# Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10am, Tuesday, 16 April 2013

## Towards an Edinburgh Autism Strategy – A Plan for People with Autism who do not have a Learning Disability

Item number	7.5
Report number	
Wards	All

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Council outcomes	<a href="#">CO3</a> , <a href="#">CO9</a> , <a href="#">CO11</a> , <a href="#">CO12</a> , <a href="#">CO13</a> , <a href="#">CO16</a>
Single Outcome Agreement	<a href="#">SO2</a> , <a href="#">SO3</a>

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## Towards an Autism Strategy Consultation

### A plan for people with autism who do not have a learning disability

#### Summary

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Autism is a lifelong developmental disorder, people experience problems with: communication, understand others and restrictive repetitive behaviour. The severity of the disorder varies, some people can live independently and others need specialist support.

The Government published The Scottish Strategy for Autism in 2011, one of its indicators for best practice is the development of local autism strategy for each area. From May to July, the Council and NHS Lothian will be consulting on a draft plan for services for people with autism in Edinburgh. The plan has been developed in partnership with people with autism, their carers, NHS Lothian and local service providers. It focuses on people with autism who do not have a learning disability as there are significant gaps in provision and specific needs for this group.

The draft plan outlines a range of proposals including the need to raise awareness across services including for example identifying 'autism champions', improving the care pathway for people with autism, improving housing services, increasing access to employment and support for carers.

The outcomes of the consultation and final plan and recommendations will be reported to Council in due course.

#### Recommendations

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1. To note that the Council and NHS Lothian will be consulting on a plan for autism services in Edinburgh from May to July 2013.

#### Measures of success

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Completion of consultation and production of an Autism Plan for Edinburgh.

## **Financial impact**

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The Government has made £35,000 available to develop a plan for Edinburgh. This funding gives an opportunity to embed the Autism Champions proposal.

The level of investment to date in services for people with autism without a learning disability is small in comparison to the identified needs.

Some proposals in this plan will be achieved through better co-ordination of services, others will require investment from the Council, NHS and other partners. The final strategy will set out the financial requirements.

## **Equalities impact**

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There are no direct impacts at this stage an Equalities and Rights Impact Assessment will be completed and submitted with the final plan, the consultation phase will help inform this. It is anticipated that the main impacts will be in relation to the Right to health, productive and valued activities and right to individual, family and social life. The final plan will also set out a range of proposals that will have a positive impacts to advance equality of opportunity.

## **Sustainability impact**

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No direct impact.

## **Consultation and engagement**

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A range of stakeholders have been involved in developing this plan. We now want to consult on it more widely from May – June 2013.

## **Background reading / external references**

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Scottish Strategy for Autism

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/11/01120553/2>

## Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	<p>P1 - To ensure that every child gets the best start in life</p> <p>P14 - Strengthen Council housing allocation policy to give recognition to good tenants and to encourage responsible tenant behaviour and responsibilities</p> <p>P29 - Ensure the Council continues to take on apprentices and steps up efforts to prepare young people for work</p> <p>P32 - Develop and strengthen local community links with the police</p>
<b>Council outcomes</b>	<p>CO3 - Our children and young people at risk, or with a disability, have improved life chances</p> <p>CO9 - Edinburgh residents are able to access job opportunities</p> <p>CO11 - Preventative and personalised support in place</p> <p>CO12 - Edinburgh's carers are supported</p> <p>CO13 - People are supported to live at home</p> <p>CO16 - Well-housed – People live in a good quality home that is affordable and meets their needs in a well managed Neighbourhood</p>
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<p>SO2 - Edinburgh citizens experience improved health and well being, with reduced inequalities in health</p> <p>SO3 - Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential</p>
<b>Appendices</b>	<p>None</p>