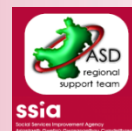


# The ASD Strategic Action Plan for Wales



public newsletter

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## The ASD Strategic Action Plan for Wales

We are pleased to provide you with the 2<sup>nd</sup> public newsletter which is aimed at people with ASD, parents / carers and professionals. There are so many ASD developments underway in Wales as a result of the implementation of the ASD Strategic Action Plan for Wales that we have had to produce this newsletter ahead of schedule! Please feel free to share this newsletter with others.

### Local ASD Action Plans

Each local authority area in Wales has an ASD action plan. These plans set out the way in which services for Autism will be developed or delivered locally. Many people have been involved in developing the action plans locally including individuals with ASD, parents / carers, the local ASD lead and a wide range of other professionals. The ASD regional support team are helping to support the development and the implementation of the plans. Each plan is different and they have a variety of actions that will benefit individuals with ASD. There are many common themes that are in many but not all of the action plans across Wales, including:

- Increasing training for professionals
- Creating a clear assessment pathway
- Keeping a record of the number of people with ASD
- Seeking out what services there are for people with ASD
- Supporting the transition from children's services to adult services
- Increasing public awareness of ASD

### Evaluating the Impact of the ASD Strategic Action Plan for Wales

During the autumn the Welsh Assembly Government, with the support of the ASD regional support team, is to undertake an evaluation of the impact so far of the ASD Strategic Action Plan for Wales and we will be seeking views from across Wales. However, please note that as yet we have not issued any details or activities relating to our evaluation, but rest assured you will be hearing about these shortly.

### Awareness Raising Materials

Work is continuing on the Welsh Assembly Government's ASD Awareness Raising Materials and these will be launched by the Deputy Minister during the autumn. These materials will raise awareness of ASD for a wide range of professionals and also includes information for families. For example awareness-raising will be delivered to all schools and GP surgeries in Wales; throughout the Criminal Justice System; to High Street outlets such as Dentists, Opticians, and Chiropodists etc.

## **New Actions Relating to Adults**

A number of new projects for adults with autism in Wales will begin this year and are being supported by £1.7m of WAG funding for the next three years. These actions include the development of an All-Wales approach to the assessment and post-diagnostic support of adults with autism within the NHS, and the establishment of regional community support programmes throughout Wales for those adults with ASD requiring fairly low levels of support, including those with Asperger syndrome. There will also be activities in relation to employment and we hope to report in the next newsletter more on this area. As agreed last year the Welsh Assembly Government's ASD Adults Task & Finish Group is now working on 5 other key areas : Further and Higher Education; The Criminal Justice System; Mental Health; the impact of the DWP welfare reforms; and Older People; and a report from the work of this group will be submitted to Ministers in around 6 months time.

## **Collaborative Regional Projects Developed by Local ASD Planning and Funded by the Welsh Assembly Government starting in 2010/11**

The Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Local Government Association have supported the development of 22 regional projects. Some projects have already been started. The other projects will start in the next few months. If the projects are successful, the results will help to develop ASD services across Wales. The projects are:

### ASD Emergency Services Card Scheme: SE Wales

Working with Autism Cymru, the current scheme operating with the four Police Forces throughout Wales will be expanded to involve autism awareness raising and training for fire and ambulance staff across the South East Wales Region.

### ASD Outcome Focussed Workshops: SE Wales

Parents / carers told us they need more advice. These workshops will help parents/carers to learn things that may help them to manage behavioural problems. The workshops will be run in each local authority area across South Wales.

### Awareness Raising Targeted at Leisure Providers: SE Wales

This project will aim to raise awareness of the needs of individuals with ASD when accessing leisure activities. It is hoped that this will make it easier for people with ASD to use leisure centres in the region.

### Post Diagnostic Support Package: SE Wales

This package will provide written information, advice and contact information for parents and carers of children and young people with ASD. It will be provided to all carers in South East Wales at the point of diagnosis.

### Parent / Carer Training Programme: SE Wales

A number of health staff will receive training so that they will be able to run training programmes for parents / carers. In some areas this will mean that this programme is available for the first time.

### Developing Support for Children with Sensory Needs: Mid & West Wales

This project will enable speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists or specialist teachers in the region to undertake post graduate training in sensory integration therapy, in order to improve the assessment and support of children with sensory needs in school.

### Creating a Social Networking Site for Parents / Carers: Mid & West Wales

This project will aim to increase support for parents and carers of individuals with ASD across Mid and West Wales. The service will mean that parents / carers will be able to easily access support, from other parents / carers, information and advice from their own homes or local libraries.

### Developing a Social Networking Site for Young People with ASD: Mid & West Wales

This has already proven to be a success in Bridgend, providing a safe area for young people with ASD to develop social networks online. The scheme will be expanded so that young people from across the Mid and West Wales region can benefit from it.

### Developing Access to Sport, Recreation and Leisure Provision: Mid & West Wales

This project will work on developing the ASD knowledge and skills of staff in activity centres in West Wales. This will help children with ASD and their families to access this activity.

### Development of an ASD Shared Care Provision: Mid & West Wales

An existing building will be developed and refurbished to create an environment that is suitable for individuals with ASD. This will then form a shared care provision that will provide respite care for children with ASD in Pembrokeshire.

### Social Use of Language Programme: Mid & West Wales

Social use of Language Programme (SULP) is a programme that helps with personal, emotional and social development. This project will involve staff from Mid and West Wales working with Wendy Rinaldi, the programme's creator, to translate the programme into Welsh. The bilingual programme will help children with ASD to develop their social use of language.

### Tier 3 Education Project: Mid & West Wales

The Mid and West Wales Education Consortium will embark on a scoping exercise to evaluate the standards of tier 3 education provision for children with ASD across the region.

### ADOS and 3Di Training: Mid & West Wales

These projects will enable clinicians to develop skills and use evidence based tools in the assessment and diagnosis of ASD across the Mid and West Wales Regions.

### Developing Autism Friendly Secondary Schools: North Wales

This project will develop the Autism Friendly nature of secondary schools across North Wales. This will help secondary schools to support pupils with ASD.

### Prevalence of Adults with ASD Development Project: North Wales

This proposal is for a 6 month clinical research project which will look at how many adults with ASD live in North Wales. It will also try to find out what the needs of these adults are. This information will help to ensure services for adults with ASD are developed in the way that is needed.

### Follow Up Study of a Cohort With ASD: North Wales

This project will follow up individuals who have been diagnosed with ASD in North Wales since 1988. The project will look at level of language and autism in order to see how they impact on long term quality of life.

### TEACCH Training: North Wales

This project involves training for professionals. The main aim is to help to prepare people with Autism to live and work more effectively at home, school and in the community. The course will run in North Wales.

### ADOS/ADI-R Training for Clinicians: North Wales

This project will enable clinicians to develop skills and use an evidence based tool in the assessment and diagnosis of ASD. The training will take place in North Wales.

### 'Socialeyes' Facilitator Training: North Wales

Developed by the National Autistic Society 'Socialeyes' is a programme that can help people with ASD to develop social skills and social understanding. Training facilitators will mean the programme will be available to individuals in North Wales.

### ELKAN ASD Training: North Wales

This training will enable teaching assistants to support children with ASD's speech and language development in the classroom across North Wales.

### Smiles Project: North Wales

Smiles is an activity based group for children with ASD and their families currently based within one of Conwy's Leisure Centres. It provides physical activities as well as art and craft. It helps to improve social communication skills and relationships as well as create a social network for children with autism and their families.

## **Share Your Thoughts / Comments**

We welcome your thoughts, comments or ideas about this and future editions of this newsletter:

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