

inverclyde autism strategy

Action Plan 2014-2024

Inverclyde
council

INVERCLYDE
CHCP
Community Health
& Care Partnership

NHS
Greater Glasgow
and Clyde



Nine themes were identified in the Strategic Report:

- 1 **Understood, Valued, and Safe** - We want to be understood, valued and safe in the community in which we live.
- 2 **Independence and support** - We want the opportunity to have meaningful, independent active lives, using mainstream services when we can, but accessing support to overcome barriers when we need it
- 3 **Social networks** - We want opportunities to develop positive, supportive and enabling social networks
- 4 **Training Plan** - We want a coordinated Autism Training Plan for Inverclyde so that people with autism, their families and carers, and those people working with them all have the attitudes, knowledge and skills they need
- 5 **Pathway for Diagnosis** - We want equal and timely access to a standard evidence-based pathway for assessment, diagnosis and the support that follows
- 6 **Information and Advice** - We want a coordinated system for information and advice about autism, that allows people not only to access good quality printed and electronic information when they need it, but also allows people to speak to others about how autism affects their lives.
- 7 **Coordinated services based on accurate data** – We want coordinated services that speak to each other and that identify and meet the needs and aspirations of people with autism in Inverclyde.
- 8 **Included and Involved** - We want to be involved in decisions that affect our lives, and to play a role in implementing the Inverclyde Strategy for Autism.
- 9 **Evaluation** - We want services to check on a regular basis that they are doing a good job for people with autism in Inverclyde.

These themes can be arranged into six priority areas for action:

- A. Assessment and Care Pathways
- B. Communication Planning
- C. Training Planning
- D. Transitions, Independent Living and Social Networks
- E. Stakeholder Involvement
- F. Measuring Performance

It is proposed that:

- An Inverclyde Autism Strategy Implementation Group (IASIG) is formed, chaired by a senior manager and with representatives from carers and people with autism, to oversee the implementation of the action plan.
- An Inverclyde Autism Coordinator should be appointed to drive forward the action plan and ensure that the work proceeds in a coordinated way.
- An Inverclyde Autism Reference Group, made up of people with autism, is formed to give expert advice and guidance on how the plan should be implemented.
- Six working groups are formed to address each of the six priorities for action, reporting to the IASIG. The groups should refer to the appropriate sections of the Strategic Report and set goals for two years, five years and ten years so that progress can be measured.
- Early intervention, prevention, co-production, multi-agency working and the coordination of services are integral to the delivery of all priorities for action.

A ASSESSMENT AND CARE PATHWAYS					
Our 10-Year Vision	How will we get there?	How will we know that we have got there?	Strategic Fit	Who will be involved?	Timescale
All mainstream services will be aware of the signs of autism and how to signpost people to appropriate diagnostic services.	Establish an Inverclyde-wide Autism Diagnosis Group to look at earlier recognition, referral pathways, equity of service, information and best practice guidelines and to ensure that best practice is at the core of services in Inverclyde.				
Autism diagnostic services will be available to all people in Inverclyde who need it and waiting times kept to a minimum.					
A diagnostic and care pathway that is evidence-based and standard across Inverclyde, wherever you receive your assessment.					
A pathway that is no longer and more complex than necessary but which involves gathering information from all stakeholders.					
There is regular audit of compliance with pathway and the pathway is adapted in the light of findings.					
All people and carers who receive a diagnosis of					

<p>autism receive standard high-quality information pack after diagnosis that is appropriate to their needs.</p>					
<p>Clear pathways exist with transparent eligibility criteria so that people who need support do not fall through gaps.</p>					
<p>There are good links between statutory bodies and other organisations to improve post-diagnostic support.</p>					
<p>Autism-aware crisis intervention support is available to people with autism and their families when they need it.</p>					

B COMMUNICATION PLANNING					
Our 10-Year Vision	How will we get there?	How will we know that we have got there?	Strategic Fit	Who will be involved?	Timescale
Raised awareness and acceptance of people with autism across the community, but especially within Inverclyde Council and CHCP services.	A coordinated communication plan on how autism awareness can be promoted and sustained across Inverclyde. The plan should also include coordination of the sourcing and distribution of information resources, so that people with autism and their carers/families have easy access to accurate information and advice when they need it.				
Local businesses and organisations take responsibility for making sure that they are accessible to people with autism, with a network of supported Autism Champions in organisations across Inverclyde					
Raised awareness of autism in older people's services in the light of high levels of undiagnosed autism.					
Wider awareness of the Autism Alert Card					
People with autism and their carers/families have easy access to good quality information and advice on autism and local services – both physical and online - including the ability to speak to someone who can tailor the advice to their specific circumstances					

<p>The agencies involved in supporting an individual with autism work closely together and share information, while protecting the individuals' right to confidentiality.</p>	<p>A review of communication channels - between different agencies, between statutory bodies and third sector and voluntary organisations and between all agencies and people with autism and their carers - and how these can be made to work more efficiently.</p>				
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C TRAINING PLANNING					
Our 10-Year Vision	How will we get there?	How will we know that we have got there?	Strategic Fit	Who will be involved?	Timescale
There is a coordinated programme of training relating to supporting people with autism in Inverclyde.	<p>A coordinated training plan that maps ALL training needs against current and future training provision for:</p> <p>People with autism Parents and carers Practitioners supporting people with autism Mainstream students Mainstream services Autism specialists/diagnostic teams</p> <p>There should be a focus on coordination to prevent any gaps or duplication and quality assurance.</p> <p>The plan should take into account the need for local services that people with autism and their carers/families can access easily.</p>				
People with autism have the opportunity to attend groups that help them to understand autism and how it may impact on their lives.					
People with autism have the knowledge and skills they need to lead active, independent lives and to access the community safely.					
The carers of people with autism have the knowledge and skills they need					
People with autism of all ages are supported by staff who have the right mindset, the right knowledge and the right skills					
Students in mainstream schools will have a better understanding of autism and a more					

positive inclusive attitude towards people with autism					
People with autism and their carers are involved in the design and delivery of autism training.					
A Training calendar is produced so that those wishing to attend have plenty time to make arrangements.					
Best practice and minimum standards for services for people with autism rolled out across Inverclyde	Formulation of best practice standards and agreements with service providers across the lifespan re provision of training in return for commitment to introduce best practice standards in working with people with autism.				
Specialists will receive support from other specialists working within Inverclyde and have access to specialist training as required.	Establish circle of support to keep up with research evidence and new developments				
There will be a mechanism in place to ensure that after training, the receiving organisation takes responsibility to take action and sustain change in relation to their practice with people with autism.	Explore options for school- and service-wide autism friendly protocols.				

D TRANSITIONS, INDEPENDENT LIVING AND SOCIAL NETWORKS					
Our 10-Year Vision	How will we get there?	How will we know that we have got there?	Strategic Fit	Who will be involved?	Timescale
Individuals with autism of all ages will be able to access support with transitions and challenges, when they need it, throughout their lives	<p>A wide-ranging review of support across all agencies and across the lifespan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support at school • Access to therapies, e.g. communication support, sensory support • transition services • addressing common barriers and challenges relating to independent living for people with autism and their carers • building capacity through social networks • best model of service delivery – e.g. making better use of current services, specialist team, one stop shop. 				
There are close links between children and young people’s services and adult services.					
Individuals with autism will be supported to develop coping strategies and their own solutions to problems to promote independence.					
There is equity of service relating to transitions across Inverclyde with individuals with protocols in place so that all people with autism receive the support they need, regardless of whether they access mainstream or specialist provision.					
All people with autism will have access to meaningful activity, depending on their individual needs and aspirations, and personal development opportunities, with the level of support they need.					

More people with autism experiencing success in employment, work placements, voluntary work, education or training					
People with autism are able to access support with independent living skills, when they need it.					
People with autism are given access to housing services that understand their needs.					
People with autism are given support to make friends, access social activities and deal with social situations					
Carers of people with autism will have their needs assessed.					
Carers and the families of people with autism have social activities and networks that support them in their daily lives					
Carers of people with autism are able to access respite support, when required.					

E STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT					
Our 10-Year Vision	How will we get there?	How will we know that we have got there?	Strategic Fit	Who will be involved?	Timescale
There is good communication between service providers and people with autism and their carers.	Development of an Autism Involvement Plan, highlighting mechanisms for user and carer involvement in the design, delivery and evaluation of services for people with autism				
There is an Inverclyde Autism Reference Group, made up of people with autism, who give expert advice and guidance on service design.					
The views of people with autism and their carers are identified and taken into account in the design of services for people with autism in Inverclyde.					
Visual communication supports are routinely used to ensure that people with autism are empowered to express their views and have these views heard.	Development and distribution of visual aids that will make it easier for people with autism to express their views.				
Where appropriate, people with autism should have access to independent advocacy.					
The views and needs of people with autism and their carers are taken into account in all local strategies and policies.					

F MEASURING PERFORMANCE					
Our 10-Year Vision	How will we get there?	How will we know that we have got there?	Strategic Fit	Who will be involved?	Timescale
We know about people with autism in Inverclyde, their needs and aspirations and those of their carers.	Review current data gathering systems and establish a robust data gathering system in Inverclyde for people with autism of all ages.				
We have evidence that we are making a positive difference to the lives of people with autism in Inverclyde.	Establish a robust system for measuring outcomes for people with autism and a process for monitoring these outcomes				
Our services for autism have protocols to ensure that they are following best practice and evaluating their performance on a regular basis.					