

WCC & RBKC Health & Wellbeing Board

Date:

Classification:

General Release

Title:

**Changing Lives: Shaping our Autism
journey together 2021-2024**

Report of:

Bernie Flaherty

Wards Involved: ALL

**Report Author and
Contact Details:**

**Rachel Dickinson:
Rdickinson@westminster.gov.uk**

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This is the Adults Autism Strategy, Changing Lives: Shaping our Autism journey together 2021-2024.
- 1.2 This Strategy has been developed as phase 2 of the 'All Age Autism Strategy 2020' and is focused on the challenges and experiences of Autistic Adults. The Strategy is a requirement of the Autism Act 2009 and considered best practice in line with the 2015 and 2021 National Strategies.
- 1.3 The Autism Act 2009 was intended to change the way autistic people were treated by the NHS, Central and Local Government. It set a number of expectations for local authorities to support autistic people more effectively. In the Summer of 2021, the Government published updated guidance about the Autism Act and its application.
- 1.4 In 2020 an All Age Autism Strategy 2020 was produced which focused on children and young people, with a short section on support for autistic adults. In order to meet our obligations under the Act and subsequent guidance, and in line with feedback from our residents, we have created a second phase to the All Age Autism Strategy that reflects the expectations and ambitions of local autistic adults and their families.

- 1.5 The strategy has been co-produced with over 200 autistic residents and their families with support from teams across the Council, with North West London CCG, local Voluntary Sector Organisations, businesses and cultural venues. The document has been laid-out by an inclusive designer in line with best practice for autistic readers. The text is in a clear font, with muted colours, limited photographs of faces and purposeful imagery. Many of the autistic residents involved in the strategy have worked with the designer, supported by the Local Authority, to create the final designed document.

2. Background

Strategy Highlights:

- 2.1 The Adults Autism Strategy complements the structure of the 'All Age Autism Strategy' but sets out specific challenges, expectations and actions targeted at adults (with some reference to children being supported through transitions). The Strategy takes a 'whole life approach' to autism and addresses the challenges that autistic adults face across both the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster City Council.
- 2.2 This strategy is categorised under the seven pillars of the 'All Age Autism Strategy', with four key questions asked for each:
- **What works well?** This is what residents and professionals have told us was working well to support autistic people across both boroughs.
 - **What do we need to focus on?** This reflects feedback about what is not working so well, and what needs to improve.
 - **How do we achieve this?** These are ideas, suggestions and plans for different organisations and participants to improve the lives of autistic adults across both boroughs.
 - **How will we know we have achieved it?** This is based on our shared recognition of the importance of measuring and monitoring progress.
- 2.3 Under each of the seven pillars there are a number of key actions and changes to be made, a high level overview of these can be seen on page seven of the strategy.
- 2.4 This strategy focuses on deliverable actions to improve the lives of autistic adults until 2024, the actions of this strategy will be reported through the Autism Partnership.