

Autism Strategy Update

Bi-borough Health and Wellbeing Board

23 November 2023

Autism Strategy

2020-2025

Priority 1: Planning together

Real improvement through involving autistic people, their families, providers and practitioners in the development of our strategic approach and service delivery.

Priority 2: Establishing autism friendly environments

Supporting staff and the wider community to understand autism and the needs of autistic people and their families, and that our physical locations are accessible.

Priority 3: Providing clear and accessible information, advice and guidance

Supporting autistic people, families and professionals by providing effective resources, advice and signposting.

Priority 4: Earlier identification

Identifying autism as early as possible in children, young people and adults.

Priority 5: Improving the diagnostic pathway, reducing waiting times, and providing appropriate support

Providing a high-quality health service which responds quickly to people's needs.

Priority 6: Enabling young autistic people to succeed in education

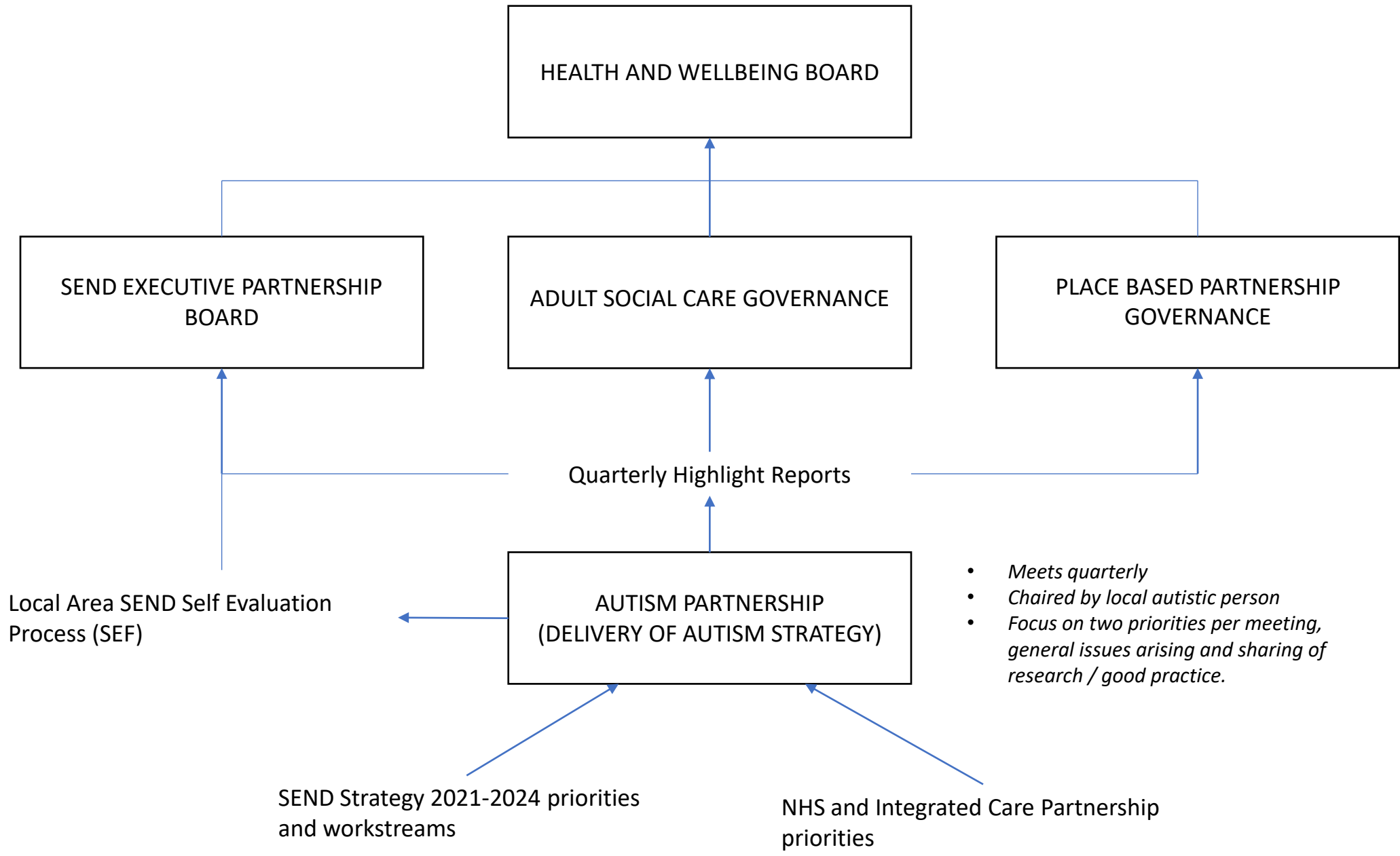
Providing effective support for autistic people to enable them to fulfill their potential in all educational settings (whether early years, school, college or at home)

Priority 7: Enabling autistic people to live independently and healthily

Working across employment, housing, health, education and social care to support autistic people to live full independent lives.

Priority 8: Providing specialist support services for autistic adults

Increasing and improving the adult support offer in our local area.



Our local Autism Partnership

- Board Responsibility: To oversee the delivery of the eight priorities
- Membership : Co-chaired by a local resident who is an Expert by Experience, representation from across the health and care system including Parent Carer Forums, Clinical Leads and Voluntary Sector.
- Frequency – Quarterly online. Core Group meets monthly.
- Next steps – Increasing service user engagement via formalised reference group and reviewing T.O.R.

1. Providing clear and accessible advice and guidance for autistic people and their families

Autism Zone

I am...

A parent wondering if my child is autistic



A parent of an autistic child



An autistic young person



Interested in Autism Training



A professional who is supporting autistic children



NEW!

Finding Support: Autistic Children and Young people



General Support for Everyone



Support for Specific Needs



Support with Specific Functional Skills



Wider Community and Life Skills



Diagnosis and Specialist Support



Other Information and Resources



Autism Strategy 2020-2025

- By law, local areas need to have a plan for supporting autistic adults.
- The Autism Strategy explains how the NHS and Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea Councils will support autistic children, young people, and adults to live happier and safer lives.
- We asked autistic people, their parents, and their carers what the local area could do to improve their day-to-day lives. You said that:

The council should create more autism friendly environments in Westminster and Chelsea. This will help autistic people to work in a place they feel comfortable and find the resources they need.

It should take less time for a person to get a diagnosis of Autism.

There should be better communication between the Council, Health Services, and autistic people when they are obtaining a diagnosis. This can be an anxious time for autistic people and their support network.

The council should have specialised employment and mental health support for autistic adults.



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA



City of Westminster



North West London
Integrated Care System

2. Enabling autistic people to succeed in education



Evidence based, unified approach to meeting needs of autistic students.

Training for all schools and colleges from authors of the model.

Pilot group for more detailed implementation and evaluation.



3. Identification and Health support – whole system approach to identification and support for all ages

- Increasing capacity within Child Development Services with ongoing investment of £1.7 million – Impact beginning to show, wider support offer improved including links to LA and VCS support.
- 2 year pilot for Adult Diagnostic services has increased numbers being assessed, aligned with improved post diagnosis support.
- Increased capacity from CAAS, pre and post diagnostic peer support for adults, reviewing CYP options across NWL
- Improving Autism awareness and availability of ‘reasonable adjustments’ in health, including mandatory training (Oliver McGowan) and GP Practices surveys.
- Supporting those most at risk of hospital admission or placement breakdown via the Dynamic Support Registers

4. Providing specialist support services for autistic adults

- The Adult Social Care Autism Strategy – extends from the All Age Autism Strategy – November 2022.
- Involving autistic adults and their families in service development and delivery. Workshops held with experts by experience, carers, providers and professionals to explore innovations to support Autistic adults.
- Improving understanding and acceptance of autism within society – training for professionals, providers and third sector organisations.
- Specialist music and art activities for autistic young people and adults through the In-Deep community-based provider
- Piloting technology to help autistic adults to have more independence - **Brain in Hand App**
- Improving pathways for transition from children's services in to adulthood.

5. Enabling autistic people of all ages to live independently and healthily

- Autism Friendly Environments and the value of community champions.
- Surveys of local venues – undertaken by autistic residents – to understand how autism friendly they are and make recommendations for improvements.
- Understanding how autism friendly our Councils are – including for autistic employees.
- Improving the experience of autistic people who are accessing our primary care settings.