Wirral All Age Autism Strategy

2024 - 2029

Easy Read Supporting Document

DRAFT

In partnership with

WIRRAL

Contents

Contents

About this Document

This document has been written to help you understand a strategy:

Wirral All Age Autism Strategy

2024-2029

It is an overview and not the full strategy.

About the Strategy

The strategy was created in with autistic people, carers and people who work with autistic people.
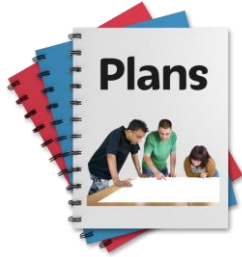
It is a strategy that is about people of all ages.

We asked people about the words we should use in the strategy.

They said they would like to be called '**autistic people**' so these words will be in the strategy.

Why is the Strategy Important?

The strategy supports the Government's plans for autistic people.

We will work with other local organisations to help achieve the aims of the strategy.

This is to make sure we can help people as best as possible.

Another important strategy this strategy will work with is the **All Age Disability Strategy**.

The Aims of the Strategy

- For autistic people, their families and carers to get the right support at the right time

- For autistic people to have better access to healthcare and other services

- For autistic people to choose the help they want

- For everyone to have the chance to experience a good life

The Aims of the Strategy

- For staff to have the right training to support autistic people

- Help people have better understanding about autism

- For autistic people to face less isolation and exclusion

What We Know

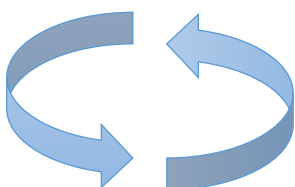Autism describes the way that some people communicate and experience the world around them.

Autistic people have a range of different experiences, and autism can affect them in different ways.

Autistic people may:

- Interact and communicate with others in a different way

- Prefer things to be predictable and repetitive

What We Know

Autistic people may:

- React differently to sensory experiences

- Be very focused on their hobbies

- Find planning and organising difficult

What We Know

Research shows that autistic people face challenges in the following areas:

➢ Employment and Education

➢ Housing

➢ Wellbeing

What We Know

Diagnosis is an important step for autistic people.

It helps autistic people to access the right support, at the right time.
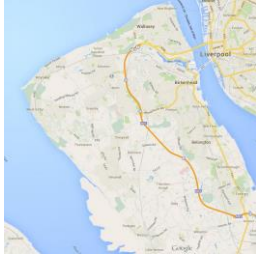
It is important that people working in health and social care have the right skills and training to support diagnosis.

Autistic people should have personalised care and support plans.

What We Know

Where we are in Wirral (2024)

There are a lot of people waiting for an Autism assessment.

This means that people are waiting a long time for an assessment.

We are working with colleagues in the local Integrated Care Board to reduce waiting times for people.

What We Know

Autism assessments for adults are currently on hold.

We will keep good communication until the list opens again.

We encourage adults wanting a referral to speak to their GP about 'Right to Choose':

https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/a-national-framework-to-deliver-improved-outcomes-in-all-age-autism-assessment-pathways-guidance-for-integrated-care-boards/

What We Know

Organisations need to work together to help protect people.

Better understanding and awareness of autism will help autistic people.

As part of the **Equality Act 2010,** all public organisations should make services accessible to disabled people, including autistic people.

There was an inquiry into the experiences of autistic people with the criminal justice system.

What We Know

The report from the inquiry made recommendations that:

- There should be better training for people working in the criminal justice system, including autism specific training
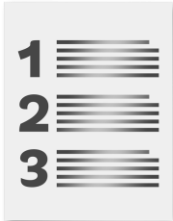
- Autistic people should have access to the right support, such as **Appropriate Adults**

An **Appropriate Adult** helps people who have been arrested to understand what the police are saying.

Key Priorities

There are three key priorities for this strategy:

1. Autistic people have the right to information and support

2. Autistic people live fulfilling lives with access to education, employment, volunteering and social opportunities

3. Autistic people are safe and protected

17

Key Priorities

We will focus on the main areas autistic people have told us about:

➢ Housing and the Community

➢ Employment and Education

➢ Health equality and improvement

Key Priorities

➢ Autism and Mental Health

➢ Co-produce and Continually Listen to People's Experience

Key Priorities

1. Autistic People have the right to information and support

Our Aims:

- Increase awareness and understanding of autism

- Improve access for autistic children and young people into education, and support a positive transition into adulthood

- Improve health and care for autistic people including mental health services

Key Priorities

- Provide the right support in the community and for people in inpatient care

2. Autistic People live fulfilling lives with access to employment, volunteering and social opportunities

Our Aims:

- Support more autistic people into employment and volunteering opportunities

- Work with local transport providers to improve access to public transport

Key Priorities

- Improve information about opportunities for autistic people

3. Autistic People are safe and protected

Our Aims:

- Work in partnership with the Criminal and Youth Justice Systems to improve support for autistic people

- Provide Safe Environments for Autistic People

Key Priorities

- Making sure people have the right adjustments, and that they are treated

- Offering help and protection for autistic people when needed

Making The Plan Happen

The **All Age Disability Partnership Board** will make sure that the plans in the strategy happen.

Thank You

We would like to thank the autistic people, their families and carers, and organisations who have helped create the strategy.

This Easy Read document has been created by Wirral Council