



National Autism Team Work Plan 2019 – 20

Final (version 4)

The following work plan for 2019/20 sets out the high-level priorities for the National ASD Development Team produced by the team for WG review and agreement. It is supplemented by a more detailed activity work programme, including allocated tasks and a budget breakdown and will be available by mid July following approval of this initial outline work plan.

The National Autism Team supports the delivery of the ASD Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan in conjunction with key stakeholders. The team has worked with **partners** across Wales in response to **engagement** with **autistic individuals** and **parents and carers**, together with **professionals**, to produce an extensive set of **resources** to increase awareness of autism and to support autistic adults and children, professionals and service providers. In 2018/19 the team produced new resources including resources for Further Education and Work Based Learning settings to increase awareness of autism and to support providers in strategies to support autistic students and employees, as well as advice for students themselves. The autism guidance for Housing and Homelessness was refreshed and the Emergency Services training reviewed ready to pilot. Therefore 2019/20 will provide the opportunity to **implement and rollout these resources**, among others. The WG published a draft **Code of Practise for Autism Services** in November 2018, the National Autism Team will be working closely with WG to ensure full engagement in the revised Code of Practise.

The 2019/20 work plan and work programme are a further **consolidation** of the 2018/19 work and include the ambition to rollout out the resources across Wales in a more effective way with the support of partners and stakeholders. The work plan builds on a foundation of a number of years of work among partners with a commitment to supporting and responding to the needs of autistic individuals and children and their parents and carers. Some of the work will inevitably continue into 2020/21 and 2021/22. The implementation of the **Integrated Autism Service** across Wales is a further key priority and the team will be working with the 7 Regional Partnership Boards (Social Care and Health) to support the effective delivery of these services for the benefit of

autistic individuals, children with autism and their parents and carers in the context of existing services. The resources referenced above represent an important underpinning of the IAS delivery.

The priorities in the work plan are based on a combination of priorities identified by Welsh Government; on-going discussions and informal feedback from stakeholders; the Evaluation of the IAS and ASD Strategic Action Plan Final Report and the knowledge and experience of the National Autism Team. During 2018/19, the team undertook to engage proactively with autistic people and parents and carers to ensure that resources were developed that reflect the “**voice**” of autistic people.

The 2019/20 work plan is supported by a revised structure of the National Autism Team (including a change of name) following the informal review of the role and structure of the National ASD Development Team.

Purpose – What is the National Autism Team for?

The purpose of the National Autism Team is to help improve the lives of autistic people in Wales.

Objectives – What does the Team aim to achieve?

The main objectives of the work of the National Autism Team can be summarised as follows:

- To increase awareness and understanding of autism across Wales among the public and across all sectors of public, private and voluntary services.
- To produce high quality resources to create a greater knowledge and understanding of autism which reflect the voice of the autistic person and parents and carers
- To train and support other people to increase awareness and understanding of autism across Wales
- To inform policy and statutory guidance (including the Code of Practise for Autism Services) which reflects the needs of autistic people and parents and carers and professionals working with autistic people

Approach - How do we do it?

This is achieved through close partnership working with the **network of ASD Leads** in each of the Local Authorities and oversight of the 7 **Integrated Autism Services**, as well as close partnership working with key stakeholders in the public and third sectors. Significantly, the National Autism Team continues to engage with autistic people to inform our work, so we are “**doing with and not doing to.**” Importantly, we link in with **parents and carers of autistic children, young people and adults** to ensure our resources and approach is responsive to and meet their needs. **Professionals** play a significant part in our work to ensure that it is clinically appropriate, realistic and deliverable and together we can change and shape practice across Wales.

Activity – What does the National Autism Team do?

The work of the National Autism Team can be summarised under five headings:

1. Increased awareness and understanding of autism
2. Resources
3. Training
4. Integrated Autism Service
5. Facilitating networks & working with partners and stakeholders, including Welsh Government

These areas of activity are underpinned by cross cutting themes which are explained below.

1. Increased Awareness and Understanding of Autism	
1.1 <i>p</i>	To support the increased use of ASD training and support materials that have been developed by the National Autism Team in partnership and attending/ supporting events e.g. Learning with Autism, Working with Autism
1.2 <i>p</i>	To recommission the provider of the ASDinfoWales website as an integral resource for autistic people, parents and carers and professionals and use the opportunity to further develop the web resource
1.3 <i>p</i>	To launch and implement the Further Education and Work Based Learning resource in partnership with key stakeholders including FE colleges, Colegau Cymru, Work Based Learning Providers and the National Training Federation for Wales
1.4	To publish the Autism Housing and Homelessness Guidance and agree an Implementation Plan for rollout of the guidance to housing professionals and other relevant stakeholders
1.5	To produce an Implementation Plan with WG for the consistent rollout of the Employment resource through engagement with DWP Job Centre Plus in Wales

1.6 <i>p</i>	To relaunch the "Can You See Me" Campaign, following the production of a Strategic Plan, with incremental rollout
1.7	To scope a "Ble Mae Teifi?" campaign as part of the Early Years Resources in the Learning with Autism programme
1.8 <i>p</i>	To produce a Communications Plan for the National Autism Team

2. Resources

2.1 <i>p</i>	To make necessary adjustments to resources and materials taking into account feedback from stakeholders and those who have used and continue to use the resources
2.2	To maintain, reprint, store and distribute free bi-lingual autism resources
2.3 <i>p</i>	To further develop post diagnostic support for the parents / carers of autistic children/ young people (the Guide)
2.4 <i>p</i>	To review the relevance and content of the post diagnostic support guide for Adults ("the blue book"). This will shape the function and contents of the future information guide for autistic adult
2.5	To research existing resources relating to concerning behaviour training for parents/professionals and consider links with existing resources and identify the development of new resources if appropriate
2.6 <i>p</i>	To commence the pilot evaluation of the Learning with Autism scheme
2.7	To produce a series of film clips (short) of the experience of autistic people, parents and carers and professionals to underpin training resources and presentation materials

3. Training

3.1	To support the roll out of the National Training Framework
3.2	To pilot the Emergency Services training programme with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Dyfed Powys Police (train the trainer model)

3.3	To review and evaluate the pilot of training of Welsh Government staff in 2018/19 in autism awareness with a view to producing a strategic implementation plan of priority groups to receive awareness training (train the trainer model)
3.4 <i>p</i>	To commission specialist training and to develop new resources in relation to increasing knowledge and understanding of co-occurring mental health and autism in Children and Young People (within CAMHS and Children's Social Services / Education teams)
3.5	To evaluate the adult mental health training in autism to inform future work
3.6	To revise and update the generic Autism Awareness and Understanding training / e-learning package, including the rollout of the "What is Autism?" film

4. Integrated Autism Service

4.1 <i>p</i>	To further support the effective implementation and future development of the IAS across Wales
4.2	To oversee and support the implementation of the data / performance monitoring system, including the use of the Outcome Star planning and assessment tool
4.3 <i>p</i>	To review the IAS Guidance and publish with associated materials (including review of "IAS leaflet template")
4.4 <i>p</i>	To continue to increase awareness and understanding of the IAS across Wales including the highlighting of good practice by coordinating a case studies library

5. Facilitating networks & working with partners and stakeholders, including Welsh Government

5.1 <i>p</i>	To support the development of the WG Code of Practice (relating to the Health Social Care and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the NHS Act) on the delivery of autism services and support in Wales and work with local authorities, health boards and other partners in implementing the requirements of the Code when published
5.2	To explore the implications of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act (2018) with reference to the Code of Practice for Autism Services and explore how to make connections most effective
5.3	To facilitate the National ASD Leads Forum

5.4	To facilitate the National IAS Lead's Network
5.5	To facilitate the Community of Practice for adult diagnosis and IAS implementation
5.6	To continue to build close working relationships with the Third Sector with a view to increasing joint delivery of services with the sector, for the benefit of autistic people and parents and carers of autistic people
5.7	To continue to work closely with Cardiff University's School of Psychology and the Wales Autism Research Centre
5.8	To maintain strong links with the 7 Regional Partnership Boards for Health and Social Care and ongoing work at local and regional levels on autism and engage with the Autism Champions on each RPB
5.9 <i>p</i>	To progress new governance arrangements/advisory board to oversee delivery of work of the National Autism Team and to drive improvements in identified priority areas for autism (Management Group and Management Board)
5.10	To support National, European and International Exchange of Good Practice
5.11 <i>p</i>	Development and delivery of workshops and seminars as key themes emerge from the Work Plan's implementation
5.12	Continuing Professional Development and team development of the National Autism Team to ensure resilience and responsiveness within new team structure

Cross Cutting Themes

- A. **Engagement and Participation** The National Autism Team published an Engagement and Participation Strategy in 2018/19, which it consulted on and it will underpin the work of the team going forward. Key pieces of work referenced above will be progressed through close engagement and participation with autistic people, parents and carers and professionals. Individuals have expressed an interest to be part of the strategy and the National Autism Team will work with existing stakeholder groups to continue this approach. Note that each activity area listed above with "*p*" alongside specifically includes participation and engagement of autistic people and where relevant, parents and carers of autistic children, young people and adults.
- B. **Monitoring and evaluation** will be further cross cutting theme given the importance of outputs and outcomes being quantified in the National Autism Team's delivery.
- C. **'Once for Wales'** underpins the work of the National Autism Team whereby the team will work with partners to produce resources which can be used in any part of Wales.

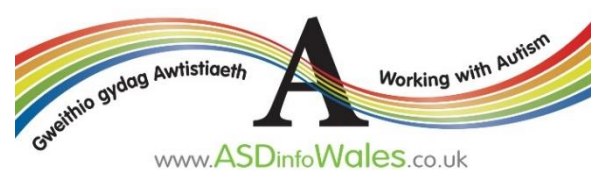
D. **'Valuing Diversity'** it is often said that 'when you have met one autistic person you have met one autistic person'. Therefore, as a team we acknowledge that 'one size does not fit all', and in order to respond to as many people's needs as possible, the Team will endeavour to engage with as wide a cross section of the autistic community as possible. The team will explore the most effective way of working with a range of stakeholders over the next three years.¹

17 June 2019

National Autism Team

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¹ The National Autism Team has been approached by a variety of specialist and distinct groups eg autistic parents who are seeking specialist support around parenting, maternity and post-natal support, autistic people with co occurring conditions eg significant anxiety, and the Chinese community, who feel their needs are not currently being met. Therefore the team will explore the most effective way of working with a range of stakeholders over the next three years to help address some of these issues

