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Integrated Autism Service (IAS) West Wales Update- May 2019



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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board



Partneriaeth Gofal Gorllewin Cymru
West Wales Care Partnership



Cyngor Sir
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Background to the IAS

Many autistic individuals fall between eligibility for mental health and learning disability services and so cannot access emotional, behavioural, low level mental health and life skills support.

In response the Welsh Government has committed £13 million up to 2021 to develop an Integrated Autism Service across Wales. The IAS will provide new adult diagnostic services; lifelong support for autistic individuals (children and adults) their families and carers; help with transition from child to adult provision and training for professionals.

IAS ethos and functions

The ethos of the service is to ensure autistic individuals and carers are able to access the advice, support and interventions needed to enable them to reach their full potential where these are otherwise unavailable.

The IAS will provide the following functions:

- Assessment of adults without a learning disability or with a mild learning disability who do not have a known moderate to severe mental health difficulty.
- Consultation in relation to the diagnostic assessment and support of adults with a known moderate to severe mental health difficulty or moderate to severe learning difficulty, to the professionals involved in their care.
- Support for adults with autism without a learning disability or with a mild learning disability without a known moderate to severe mental health difficulty.
- Support for parents, families, partners and carers of individuals with ASD and the professionals that support them.
- Advice/training and support for agencies linking with people with ASD.



The service will not provide:

- Emergency / crisis intervention
- Respite care
- Rapid response

For those with more complex needs (where other services such as mental health support is needed), staff from the IAS will work with other professionals to ensure they are able to provide 'autism-friendly' support.

Delivery and Development across West Wales

In West Wales the service is hosted by Hywel Dda University Health Board working directly in partnership with Carmarthenshire County Council, Ceredigion County Council and Pembrokeshire County Council.

The creation of the IAS is supported by an IAS Strategic Group, comprising of representatives from across children and adults' health, social care, education and third sector organisations. The IAS Strategic Group reports to The West Wales Regional Partnership Board.

The West Wales IAS held engagement events for service users in November and December 2018 across the three counties. The information and suggestions made have been used to shape the IAS and inform service delivery. Events were held for professionals in February 2019 prior to the service becoming operational to inform professionals about the service and referral process.



Current Work-streams

The IAS became operational from the 1st March 2019 and is accepting referrals for diagnostic assessment and support. Referral forms and further information can be found on the www.ASDinfoWales.co.uk website.

Recruitment- the Team Leader, 2 Specialist Practitioners and a Speech and Language Therapist are currently in post and will be working towards providing diagnostic assessments and support across the three counties. There are three Specialist Support Workers also in post with one for each local authority area. The Occupational Therapist post is currently going through the recruitment process. The Clinical Psychologist is currently on maternity leave.

Location- Work is currently under way to identify a central base for the team. The vision is to have one central base and satellite venues in each local authority area. Diagnostic assessments and support sessions are being held in community settings around West Wales.

Underspend projects- Projects included training from Birmingham Food Refusal Service, ASD and Mental Health training for Adult Mental Health Services, Local Primary Mental Health Services, Community Mental Health Teams, Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Team, ward staff and Adult Social Services.



Further information

ASDinfoWales: www.ASDinfoWales.co.uk

Integrated Autism Service: www.ASDinfoWales.co.uk/integrated-autism-service

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