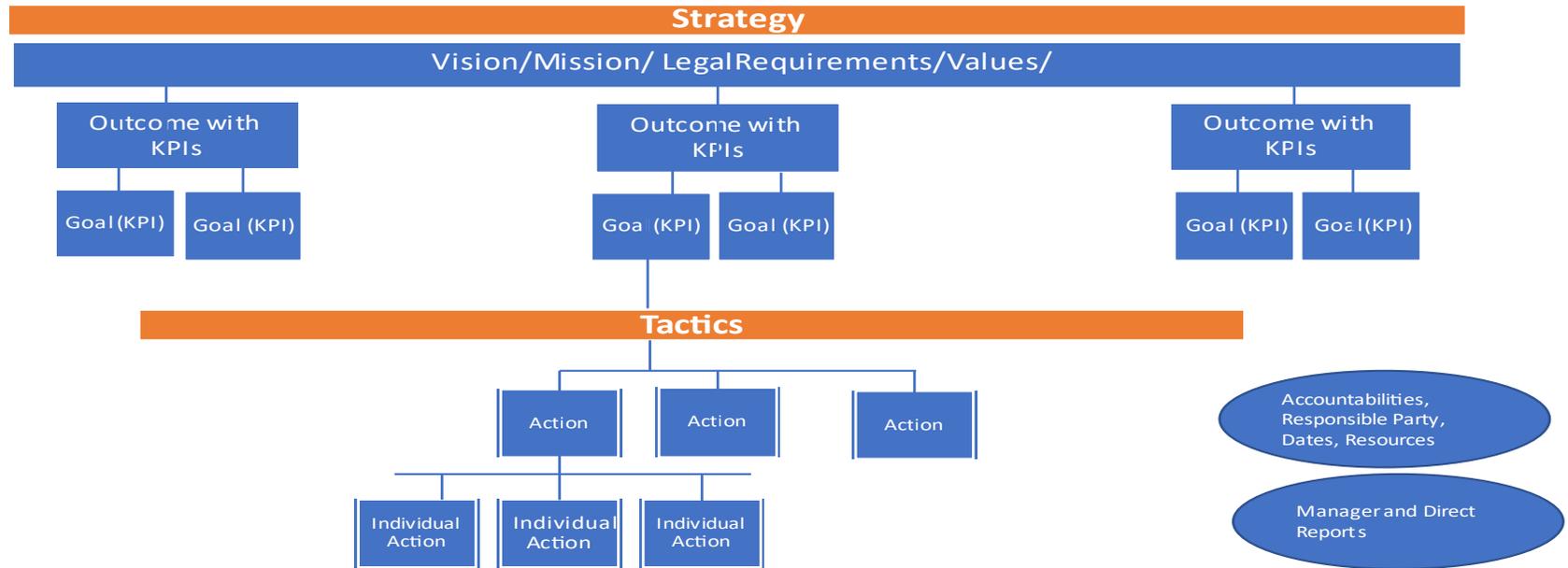


Draft Action Plan



Need to add timeline and responsibilities when agreed.

Outcome 1

Planning and Governance that delivers Improved outcomes.

Goal	Recommendation	Actions	Measures of success
Multi-Agency Strategy Group Leadership	Establish/Identify a multi-agency strategy group to lead the service organisation and delivery of care, fostering effective governance arrangements that oversee the implementation of the strategy and ensure comprehensive partnerships are in place to deliver high-quality local services and support, in line with NICE and Statutory Guidance.		
Strengthened Partnerships and Communication:	Enhance communication between departments on commissioning and funding, fostering effective partnerships with service providers to ensure outcome-based commissioning and best value for all partners, promoting a collaborative and transparent approach to financial management and resource allocation.		
Co-Design and Co-Production:	Actively listen to and engage with individuals with disabilities and their families, ensuring their central participation in decision-making processes at both individual and strategic levels, fostering a culture of co-design and co-production that values the insights and experiences of the autistic community.	<p>1.Develop a Participation, Engagement Strategy utilising the definitions below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement: An active and participative process enabling individuals to shape and influence policies and services, involving diverse methods and techniques to foster inclusive participation. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation: A formal process that solicits the views and input of interested groups and individuals, facilitating open communication between policy makers and service providers. • Participation: Active involvement of individuals in collaboration with policy makers and service planners at the early stages of policy and service development and review, fostering a sense of ownership and inclusion. • Co-production: A collaborative relationship where professionals and citizens share decision-making power in planning and delivering support, recognising the vital contributions of all stakeholders in enhancing the quality of life for communities. This approach emphasising meaningful engagement at all stages, emphasising the value of inclusive design, delivery, and evaluation. <p>2. Facilitating Support Networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing support networks and forums where caregivers, professionals, and individuals on the autism spectrum can come together to share experiences, exchange knowledge, and contribute to the development of a more inclusive and responsive support system. <p>3. Collaborative Solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate collaborative solutions among different service providers, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and a shared vision for a more integrated and cohesive support system that addresses the diverse needs and challenges of individuals on the autism spectrum. 	
--	--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

<p>Continuous Learning and Innovation</p>	<p>Foster a culture of continuous learning, innovation, and positive risk-taking, actively seeking opportunities for improvement and transformation within the support system, learning from best practices and experiences of other authorities, and actively involving the community in building on existing assets and successful initiatives.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of Learning Communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create learning communities comprising professionals, caregivers, and individuals with autism to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaborative problem-solving. • Encourage open dialogue and the exchange of ideas to foster a culture of continuous learning and mutual support within the community. 2. Research and Development Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate resources for research and development initiatives focused on exploring innovative approaches and best practices in autism support and intervention. • Foster partnerships with research institutions and universities to stay updated on the latest advancements in the field of autism research and incorporate evidence-based practices into the support system. 3. Regular Training and Professional Development Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise regular training programs and workshops for professionals and support staff to enhance their skills and knowledge in the field of autism support and intervention. • Encourage participation in conferences, seminars, and webinars to facilitate the exchange of new ideas and approaches among professionals in the field. 4. Pilot Programs for Innovative Interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch pilot programs to test innovative interventions and support strategies aimed at improving the overall well-being and quality of life for individuals with autism. • Collaborate with local authorities and community organisations to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of 	
-------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

		<p>these initiatives and gather feedback for further refinement and expansion.</p> <p>5. Integration of Technology and Digital Solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the integration of technology and digital solutions, such as virtual therapy platforms and assistive communication tools, to enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of support services for individuals with autism. • Foster partnerships with technology companies and startups to leverage cutting-edge innovations in the development of user-friendly and inclusive tools for the autism community. <p>6. Community Engagement and Co-Creation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve the community in the co-creation of support programs and initiatives, fostering a sense of ownership and collective responsibility for the well-being of individuals with autism. • Organise community forums and focus groups to gather input and feedback on existing support services and to identify areas for improvement and innovation. <p>7. Monitoring and Evaluation of Innovations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the impact and effectiveness of innovative interventions and initiatives within the support system. • Utilise data-driven insights and feedback from stakeholders to refine and scale successful innovations, while discontinuing practices that prove to be less effective or sustainable. 	
--	--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

<p>Financial management</p>	<p>Implement a comprehensive financial management strategy that prioritises outcome-based commissioning, fosters strategic partnerships with service providers, and encourages innovation and positive risk-taking. Navigate the challenges posed by limited resources and evolving demographics, fostering sustainable and impactful support services for individuals on the autism spectrum.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outcome-Based Commissioning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish clear and measurable outcomes for individuals within the autism support system, ensuring that commissioned services align with these defined goals and contribute to the overall well-being and development of individuals on the autism spectrum. • Emphasise the importance of delivering tangible and impactful outcomes that reflect the needs and priorities of the community. 2. Strategic Partnerships and Value Optimisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster strong partnerships with service providers and stakeholders, emphasising the delivery of best value for all partners involved. Encourage collaborative initiatives that prioritise cost-effective solutions, resource optimisation, and the efficient allocation of financial resources to maximise the impact of support services and ensure sustainable outcomes for individuals with autism. 3. Innovation and Change Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embrace a culture of innovation, continuous improvement, and transformation within the support system, acknowledging the evolving financial pressures and demographic challenges faced by Northamptonshire. 	
-----------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the exploration of new approaches, technologies, and service models, drawing inspiration from successful practices implemented by other authorities and embracing principles of positive risk-taking to drive meaningful and sustainable change within the autism support system. 	
	Data and intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further research should use secondary and/or local datasets to understand the most common causes of hospitalisation, criminalisation, employment and other adverse health or service utilisation outcomes. – JSNA recommendation • Where possible, appropriate and legal consider recording data relating to autism for service users, customers and patients. For example, whether an individual is autistic and what the outcomes were for that individual. – JSNA recommendation • Alongside quantitative data, ensure lived experience knowledge, participation and engagement is embedded into reports and reviews to provide qualitative information. – JSNA recommendation 	

Outcome 2

Involvement, information, and access that delivers results.

Goal	Recommendation	Actions	Measures of success
More joined up advice and information	Establishing Clear Communication Channels: Implementing clear and accessible communication channels that allow for effective dialogue and information sharing between autistic people caregivers, professionals, and service providers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure people and families are fully involved at all levels in both individual planning and planning for wider service developments. 2. Better access to information about services and support networks (relating to social and health care, education, low level support/advisory services and autism friendly facilities in the community e.g. autism shopping events etc 3. More effective use of social media to keep people informed. 4. Ensuring all public bodies to consider how people with autism may better access their service. 	
Information and accessibility Children and Young People	That Local Authorities publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved/better signposting and information for families and young people in children’s services who will not meet eligibility criteria for adult social care 2. Clearer pathways and advice for young people moving into post 16 provision and education. 	

	<p>people in their area who have SEN [Special Educational Needs] or have a disability, including those who do not have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan</p> <p>(Special Educational Needs and Disability and Childrens and Families Act 2014)</p>		
Reasonable Adjustments	<p>Make reasonable adjustments to accommodate autistic people when accessing information, services, locations or employment. – JSNA Recommendation</p>		
Equality Impact Assessments	<p>Embed and monitor Autism into Equality Impact Assessments – JSNA Recommendation</p>		

Outcome 3.

Increase Service training, development and collaboration between which improves services understanding and acceptance of autism within society

Goal	Recommendation	Actions	Measures of success
<p>A skilled, competent, and compassionate workforce that is equipped to provide consistent and effective support for individuals on the autism spectrum, fostering a more inclusive, responsive, and person-centered approach.</p>	<p>Enhancing Professional Training for professionals to enhance their communication and interpersonal skills, ensuring they can effectively engage with and validate the insights shared by caregivers and individuals on the autism spectrum.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehensive Training Programme: Develop comprehensive and standardised training programmes that provide in-depth knowledge about autism, its diverse presentations, and effective intervention strategies, ensuring all professionals and service providers have access to consistent and quality training. 2. Professional Mentoring and Support: Establish mentoring programs and peer support networks that enable professionals to learn from experienced practitioners and specialists, fostering a culture of continuous learning and knowledge sharing within the workforce. 3. Specialised Workshops and Seminars: Organise specialised workshops, seminars, and training sessions led by experts in the field of autism, providing professionals with opportunities to enhance their skills, deepen their understanding, and stay updated on the latest research and best practices. 	<p>Improved access to specialised support and resources, emphasizing the importance of continuous professional development and access to specialist training programs to enhance their understanding and competence in addressing the diverse and evolving needs of individuals on the autism spectrum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training - Learning Disability and autism awareness training will be mandatory for all NHS staff (NHS 10 Year plan) - Ensuring awareness training is available to staff across the public sector - Ensuring education staff have appropriate autism awareness training -

		<p>4. Collaborative Learning Initiatives: Encourage collaborative learning initiatives that promote interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange among healthcare professionals, educators, and social service providers, fostering a shared understanding and a holistic approach to supporting individuals on the autism spectrum.</p>	
--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Outcome 4.

Improving autistic children and young people’s access to education, and supporting positive transitions into adulthood through assessment, early intervention and planned support for key transition stages.

Goal	Recommendation	Actions	Measures of success
Access to Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A stronger focus on high aspirations and on improving outcomes for children and young people. (Special Educational Needs and Disability and Childrens and Families Act 2014) Improving educational professionals’ -understanding of autism and inclusive cultures within schools (The national strategy for 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> SEND Self-Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a robust system for self-assessment of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within educational settings. Regularly review and assess the effectiveness of existing support structures. SEND Improvement Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement targeted improvement plans based on the outcomes of the SEND self-assessment. Ensure that improvement plans are dynamic and responsive to the evolving needs of children and young people with autism. Reasonable Adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for and enforce the provision of reasonable adjustments in educational settings to accommodate the diverse needs of children and young people with autism. 	To increase the number of Children and YP who have school placements and an increase in the use of reasonable adjustments.

	<p>autistic children, young people and adults: 2021 to 2026)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving how the SEND system supports autistic children and young people (The national strategy for autistic children, young people and adults: 2021 to 2026) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness among educators and staff about the importance of implementing and respecting reasonable adjustments. 4. Access to Education for Those Without School Placements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategies to ensure that children and young people without a school placement due to establishments' inability to meet their needs still have access to quality education. • Explore alternative education options, such as online learning, to facilitate access for those who may not thrive in traditional school settings. 5. Alternative Learning Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and promote alternative learning methods, including online education, to provide flexibility and adaptability for children and young people with autism. • For those educated at home consider the development of support groups and activities together to support their socialisation. • Collaborate with online education platforms to ensure that their resources are accessible and inclusive for individuals with diverse learning needs. 6. Increasing School Placements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards increasing the number of children and young people with SEN who have suitable school placements. • Collaborate with schools and educational institutions to enhance their capacity to accommodate students with a range of special educational needs. 7. Promoting Reasonable Adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and incentivise the adoption of reasonable adjustments in educational settings to create an inclusive learning environment. 	
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training and resources to educators and school staff to effectively implement and monitor reasonable adjustments. 	
Transitions	Supporting key transitions from preschool to employment and future life plans and make a successful transition to adulthood (Special Educational Needs and Disability and Childrens and Families Act 2014)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better Planning and Transitions Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance planning processes for individuals with autism, starting from preschool years and continuing through their educational journey. • Allocate resources to transition workers to 0 2. Improved Pathways for Social Care Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and refine the eligibility criteria for social care services to better accommodate the needs of young people with autism. • Ensure that individuals who meet social care eligibility criteria receive the necessary support and services during their transition to adulthood. 3. Collaboration and Multi-Agency Approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate collaboration among relevant agencies, including education, healthcare, social services, and employment support, to create a holistic and coordinated approach to transitions. • Encourage joint planning meetings to address the diverse needs of individuals during key transition points. 4. Individualised Transition Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop individualised transition plans for each young person with autism, considering their unique strengths, challenges, and aspirations. • Involve individuals and their families in the development of transition plans to ensure they align with the individual's goals. 5. Employment Preparation and Support: 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate vocational training and employment preparation programs into the transition process for young people with autism. • Foster partnerships with local businesses and organisations to create inclusive employment opportunities for individuals with diverse abilities. <p>6. Mental Health and Well-being Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise mental health and well-being support during transitions, providing access to counselling services, peer support, and community resources. • Ensure that mental health needs are addressed within the context of the overall transition plan. 	
Local	<p>Create a more inclusive and supportive employment environment for autistic individuals, addressing specific challenges in the interview process, fostering educational and workplace inclusivity, and promoting equal opportunities for career development.</p>	<p>Improved Pathways and Support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EHCPs with Employment Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for more consistent reference to employment in Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for autistic individuals. • Work with education authorities to ensure that transition planning includes a strong focus on employment pathways. 2. Advice and Support for Adults: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve advice and support systems for adults seeking employment. • Collaborate with national and local organisations to provide targeted resources and guidance for adults on the autism spectrum. 3. Engaging Employers in Northamptonshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop effective advice and support systems for engaging with employers across Northamptonshire. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with local businesses, chambers of commerce, and industry associations to foster inclusive hiring practices. <p>4. Supported Internships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of supported internships available for individuals with autism. • Collaborate with educational institutions and businesses to create internship opportunities tailored to the needs of autistic individuals. <p>5. Improving Interview Processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partner Human Resources (HR) departments in organisations to improve interview processes, making them more inclusive and accommodating. • Provide training and resources for HR professionals to better understand and support autistic job candidates. <p>6. Mentorship Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop mentorship programs to provide employment support for individuals with autism. • Encourage businesses to establish mentorship initiatives that facilitate the integration and success of autistic employees in the workplace. 	
--	--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Outcome 5.			
Supporting more autistic people into employment and to retain employment.			
Goal	Recommendation	Actions	Measures of success
National Strategies	To improve employment support for autistic individuals, consider the following strategies aligned with the goals outlined in The National Strategy	<p>1. Awareness and Knowledge for Employers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with national initiatives to raise awareness and promote knowledge about autism among employers. • Develop campaigns and resources to educate employers on creating inclusive work environments. 	

	<p>for Autistic Children, Young People, and Adults (2021 to 2026):</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Fit-for-Purpose Job Interviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with national initiatives to advocate for job interviews that are fit for purpose when interviewing individuals with autism. • Provide guidelines and resources for employers to conduct inclusive and supportive interviews. 3. Educating the Workforce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with national initiatives to design and implement educational programs for the workforce on supporting autistic individuals and their families. • Include training modules that cover understanding autism, communication strategies, and creating inclusive workplaces. 4. Training for Employers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and deliver training programs for employers on how to conduct interviews specifically tailored to autistic individuals. • Include practical tips and insights to enhance the interviewing process. 5. Individualised Work Positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage employers to create individualised work positions for autistic employees, taking into account their strengths, preferences, and support needs. • Advocate for flexible job roles that accommodate the diverse skills of individuals with autism. 6. Communication Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote awareness about communication preferences among autistic individuals, emphasising the importance of putting questions in the correct order and recognising challenges with small talk. • Develop resources for employers to enhance communication in the workplace. 7. Measuring Success: 	
--	------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with national initiatives to explore and establish meaningful ways for employers to measure success in employing autistic individuals. • Develop metrics that go beyond traditional performance indicators to capture the unique contributions of neurodiverse employees. <p>8. Suitable Employment Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for employment content that is suitable for individuals with autism, considering accessibility and clarity in job descriptions and expectations. <p>9. Addressing Unemployment Disparities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with national initiatives to address the disparities in employment rates for individuals with autism, particularly those with third-level qualifications. • Advocate for policies and initiatives that promote equal opportunities and reduce barriers to employment. 	
--	--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Outcome 6. Reduce health and care inequalities for autistic people.			
Goal	Recommendation	Actions	Measures of success
Improved support for Parent/ Carers	Support for parents and carers of autistic individuals is crucial for the well-being of both the caregivers and the individuals with autism.	<p>Here are some ways in which support can be improved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education and Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comprehensive and accessible information about autism spectrum disorders (ASD) to parents and carers. This includes information about the characteristics of autism, available therapies, and strategies for managing challenging behaviors. • Offer workshops, webinars, and training sessions to educate parents and carers about the latest research, therapies, and interventions in the field of autism. 2. Peer Support Groups: 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and promote support groups for parents and carers of autistic individuals. Connecting with others who share similar experiences can provide a sense of community and understanding. • Encourage the formation of both in-person and online support groups to cater to different preferences and circumstances. <p>3. Counselling and Mental Health Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer counselling services specifically tailored for parents and carers to address the emotional and psychological challenges they may face. • Provide access to mental health professionals who have expertise in working with families affected by autism. <p>4. Respite Care Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement respite care programs to give parents and carers a break from their caregiving responsibilities. This can help prevent burnout and ensure the well-being of both the caregivers and the individual with autism. <p>5. Advocacy and Legal Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist parents and carers in navigating legal and educational systems to ensure that their child receives appropriate support and accommodations. • Advocate for policies that promote inclusivity, understanding, and support for individuals with autism and their families. <p>6. Flexible Work Arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage employers to provide flexible work arrangements for parents and carers of autistic individuals. This may include flexible working hours, remote work options, or other accommodations to better balance work and caregiving responsibilities. <p>7. Financial Support:</p>	
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore financial assistance programs or grants specifically designed for families with autistic individuals. Financial support can help cover the costs associated with therapies, interventions, and other necessary resources. 8. Accessibility and Inclusivity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that public spaces and services are accessible and inclusive for individuals with autism and their families. This includes sensory-friendly environments, autism-friendly events, and trained staff who understand the needs of individuals with autism. 9. Continuous Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish open lines of communication between schools, healthcare providers, and parents. Regular updates on a child's progress, challenges, and strategies can help parents stay informed and involved in their child's development. 10. Research and Innovation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and invest in research that focuses on improving the quality of life for individuals with autism and their families. This includes research on effective interventions, assistive technologies, and innovative support services. 11. Carers assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all Parents and carers have access to Carers assessments which take into account the areas above. 	
<p>Improved diagnostic pathways. Move away from reliance on medical models.</p>	<p>Key areas to address.</p> <p>1. Identifying Weaknesses and Strengths: Understand the strengths and weaknesses within the diagnostic pathway and pinpoint areas that require</p>	<p>1. Identifying Weaknesses and Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an in-depth analysis of the current diagnostic process to identify specific areas of strengths and weaknesses. 	

<p>– JSNA recommendation</p>	<p>improvement and recognising successful aspects that can be replicated or built upon.</p> <p>2. Stakeholder Engagement: Meaningful engagement with various stakeholders can provide valuable insights into the challenges faced within the diagnostic pathway and help in developing a more comprehensive understanding of the lived experiences of those involved.</p> <p>3. Streamlined Processes: The goal of implementing efficient diagnostic procedures is essential for reducing waiting times and ensuring equitable access to services. By promoting a coordinated and timely approach to assessment and support, the aim is to minimise the burden on individuals and their families and to improving the overall experience for those involved.</p> <p>4. Early Intervention Framework: Creating a comprehensive early intervention framework is crucial for providing families with the necessary support and guidance from the early stages of the diagnostic process.</p> <p>5. Empathy and Understanding: Is crucial for creating an inclusive and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather data and feedback from various stakeholders, including individuals on the autism spectrum, families, and healthcare professionals. <p>2. Stakeholder Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise regular focus groups and forums to facilitate meaningful engagement with stakeholders. • Create links with the Autism Enabler Group to provide ongoing insights and recommendations. <p>3. Streamlined Processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the current diagnostic procedures that reduce waiting times and identify opportunities for streamlining the process. ensure equitable access to services and promote a coordinated and timely approach to assessment and support, minimising the burden on individuals and their families. • Implement digital solutions for appointment scheduling, information dissemination, and data management to reduce waiting times and ensure equitable access. • Implement a centralised intake system for initial assessments, ensuring a swift and efficient entry into the diagnostic pathway. 	
------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

	<p>supportive environment. The emphasis on. Active listening, compassionate care, and personalised support reflects a commitment to providing holistic care that considers the emotional and psychological well-being of individuals and their families.</p> <p>6. Consistency in Skills: Consistent and standardised training among professionals to ensure they possess the required knowledge and skills for effective engagement and support. This emphasis on professional development is vital for maintaining a high standard of care and ensuring that individuals on the autism spectrum receive the best possible support from knowledgeable and skilled professionals.</p> <p>7. Continuous Improvement: The establishment of a framework for continuous evaluation and improvement is crucial for monitoring progress, identifying areas for further development, and ensuring ongoing enhancements to the diagnostic pathway. This focus on data analysis, regular feedback mechanisms, and stakeholder consultations enables adaptability and the ability to respond to evolving needs and challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish clear protocols for information sharing and communication among different healthcare providers and professionals involved in the diagnostic process. <p>4. Early Intervention Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a comprehensive early intervention framework that provides families with immediate access to support services upon receiving a preliminary diagnosis. ● Collaborate with community organisations and support groups to offer tailored assistance and guidance for families during the early stages of the diagnostic journey. <p>5. Empathy and Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a comprehensive training program focused on cultivating empathy and understanding among healthcare professionals and service providers. ● Implement communication workshops and seminars to emphasise the importance of active listening and compassionate care. <p>6. Consistency in Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish a standardised training curriculum for healthcare professionals and service providers involved in the diagnostic process. 	
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with educational institutions and professional organisations to ensure the delivery of consistent and up-to-date training programmes. <p>7. Continuous Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a feedback mechanism to regularly gather input from stakeholders and evaluate the effectiveness of the changes made. • Establish a review committee to monitor progress, identify areas for improvement, and implement necessary adjustments to the diagnostic pathway. • Establish development and continuous evaluation and improvement, incorporating regular feedback mechanisms, data analysis, and stakeholder consultations to monitor progress, identify areas for further development, and ensure ongoing enhancements to the diagnosis pathway. 	
	<p>Care, assessment and support should be delivered by specialised children and young people and adult autism teams, which consist of professionals from a range of disciplines; (National Institute Of Health & Care Excellence (NICE) Guidelines)</p>	<p>1. Specialised Autism Teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form specialised children and young people, as well as adult autism teams, comprising professionals from various disciplines to ensure comprehensive care and support. 	<p>A more effective, person-centred, and holistic approach to the care, assessment, and support of individuals with autism. With an emphasis on the importance of collaboration, timely intervention, and addressing the diverse needs of individuals with autism throughout their lives.</p>

	<p>2. Timely Diagnostic Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate diagnostic assessments within three months of receiving a referral to expedite the process and provide timely support. <p>3. Assessment for Coexisting Health Problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct assessments for coexisting physical health and mental health problems in addition to the diagnostic assessment to address the individual's overall well-being. <p>4. Collaborative personalised Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement personalised plans in collaboration with individuals with autism, their families, and the autism team, ensuring a person-centred approach. <p>5. Named Key Worker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign a named key worker to individuals with autism to coordinate and facilitate the care and support outlined in their personalised plan. <p>6. Psychosocial Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss opportunities for age-appropriate psychosocial interventions with individuals to address the core features of autism. <p>7. Assessment of Challenging Behaviours:</p>	
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess individuals with autism who exhibit challenging behaviours for possible triggers, considering physical health conditions, mental health problems, and environmental factors. <p>8. Needs-Based Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support based on individual needs rather than solely focusing on the diagnosis, recognising the unique requirements of each person with autism. <p>9. Lifelong Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a whole-life approach in future planning, ensuring that considerations for lifelong needs are integrated into care plans. <p>10. Interdepartmental Collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance collaboration between different departments involved in the care and support of individuals with autism to ensure a cohesive and integrated approach. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality disorder • EUPD • Diagnostic overshadowing 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i-mprove understanding of autism and all its profiles, including recently identified forms such as pathological demand avoidance (PDA) 	
Mental Health	Improving systems of autism identification and diagnosis for older children, adolescents and adults, including appropriate post-diagnostic mental health assessment and treatment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specialised Training for Mental Health Professionals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specialised training for mental health professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills in recognising and diagnosing autism in older children, adolescents, and adults. 2. Raise Awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public and professional awareness about the diverse presentation of autism across the lifespan, emphasizing that it can be identified and diagnosed at any age. 3. Accessible Diagnostic Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that diagnostic services are accessible and available for individuals of all ages, with a particular focus on reducing waiting times for assessments. 4. Tailored Assessment Tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and utilise assessment tools that are tailored to the unique characteristics and challenges of autism in older individuals, considering the developmental differences compared to younger children. 5. Integration of Mental Health Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate mental health assessments as a routine part of the diagnostic process for individuals with autism, addressing coexisting mental health conditions. 6. Multidisciplinary Approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a multidisciplinary approach to diagnosis and post-diagnostic care, involving professionals from 	

		<p>psychology, psychiatry, neurology, and other relevant fields.</p> <p>7. Transition Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide targeted support during transitions, especially for adolescents and adults newly diagnosed with autism, including access to mental health services. <p>8. Community Outreach Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish community outreach programs to reach older individuals who may not have previously received a diagnosis or support for autism. <p>9. Advocacy for Mental Health Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for increased availability and accessibility of mental health services tailored to individuals with autism, considering their specific needs and challenges. <p>10. Culturally Competent Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that mental health services are culturally competent, taking into account the diversity of experiences and backgrounds among individuals with autism. <p>11. Research and Innovation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support research initiatives to better understand the mental health needs of older individuals with autism and to develop innovative approaches for assessment and treatment. <p>12. Collaboration with Adult Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate collaboration between autism services and adult mental health services to create a seamless transition and continuity of care for individuals as they age. <p>13. Peer Support Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish peer support programs for older individuals with autism, allowing them to connect with others who share similar experiences and challenges. 	
--	--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

<p>Risk of suicide</p>	<p>Collaboration between researchers, clinicians, autistic individuals, and advocacy groups is essential to ensure that these strategies are informed by a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by autistic individuals in relation to suicide risk.</p> <p>Adopt the recommendations from Autistica’s ‘Suicide and Autism: A National Crisis’ and their action briefing on health checks. – JSNA recommendation</p>	<p>Alongside NHS England work</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify Barriers to Help-Seeking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research to identify specific barriers that autistic individuals face when seeking help for mental health concerns. • Develop targeted interventions and support systems to address these barriers, such as sensory sensitivities, communication challenges, or social anxiety. 2. Risk and Protective Factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the unique risk and protective factors for suicide in autistic individuals across different stages of life. • Tailor prevention strategies to address these factors, taking into account the diversity of experiences within the autistic population. 3. Believability of Distress Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine and raise awareness about the phenomenon where autistic individuals may not be believed when reporting the severity of their distress. • Develop training programs for healthcare professionals to enhance understanding and empathy toward the subjective experiences of autistic individuals. 4. Development of Suicidality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the development of suicidality that is not associated with other mental health symptoms across the lifespan in autistic individuals. • Develop early intervention strategies that specifically target the unique pathways to suicidality in this population. 5. Assessment of Suicidal Thoughts: 	<p>Reduce the number of suicide by improving prevention, intervention, and support strategies for the autistic population.</p>
------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and identify the most effective ways of assessing suicidal thoughts and behaviours in autistic individuals in both clinical practice and research settings. • Develop assessment tools that are sensitive to the communication styles and preferences of autistic individuals. <p>6. Adapted Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore how existing interventions for suicide prevention can be adapted to better meet the needs of autistic individuals. • Involve autistic individuals and their families in the development and evaluation of suicide prevention interventions. <p>7. Understanding Suicidality Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct qualitative research to understand the unique experiences of suicidality in autistic individuals compared to the general population. • Use this understanding to inform targeted intervention strategies. <p>8. Help-Seeking Behaviour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine how autistic individuals seek help when they are in crisis, considering potential communication challenges and preferences. • Develop communication tools and support networks that align with the needs and preferences of autistic individuals. <p>9. Applicability of Existing Models:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate how well existing models for understanding suicide apply to autistic individuals. • Adapt or develop new models that better capture the complexity of suicide risk in the autistic population. <p>10. Impact of Poor Sleep:</p>	
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study the impact of poor sleep on suicide risk in autistic individuals. • Develop and implement interventions that target sleep disturbances as a potential risk factor for suicide. 	
--	--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Outcome 7.
Have the right support in the community and in inpatient care

Goal	Recommendation	Actions	Measures of success
Strengthening collaboration, supporting individuals with autism and learning disabilities, and improving the quality of care,	Create Inclusive Services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen Collaboration Between Child and Adult Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate regular collaboration and communication between child and adult services to ensure a seamless transition for individuals with autism as they age. • Develop joint protocols and transition plans to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance continuity of care. 2. Promote Joint Work Between Health and Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster collaboration between health and education professionals to create a holistic support system for individuals with autism. • Develop joint training programs for health and education staff to enhance their understanding of neurodiversity and improve the quality of support. 3. Utilise the National Toolkit for Neurodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the National Toolkit for frontline staff on neurodiversity developed by the government to ensure that services are informed by best practices and tailored to the needs of individuals with autism. 4. Equip Health and Social Care Professionals: 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training for health and social care professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills in supporting individuals with autism and learning disabilities. • Emphasise the importance of providing support regardless of an official diagnosis. 	
	<p>Support Services Based on Presenting Need</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting Presenting Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that support services are available based on the presenting needs of families and individuals at a particular point in time. • Conduct regular assessments to identify evolving needs and adjust support services accordingly. 2. Reasonable Adjustments in Public Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the consideration of reasonable adjustments in public services to accommodate the diverse needs of individuals with autism. • Collaborate with service providers to create an inclusive environment that supports neurodiversity. 3. Awareness in Benefits Agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness among benefits agencies about autism and the need for understanding when assessing autistic individuals. • Provide training to agency staff to ensure a more informed and supportive assessment process. 4. Access to Support and Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish accessible ways for individuals to access support and information if they suspect they might be neurodiverse. • Develop awareness campaigns to reach out to the community and reduce stigma around seeking support. 5. Holistic Support for Families: 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a comprehensive range of support services for the whole family, acknowledging that individuals with autism may have additional disabilities. • Ensure that families are aware of available support options and resources. <p>6. Post-Diagnostic Support and Signposting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer post-diagnostic support for individuals and their families, including signposting to relevant services and resources. • Consider the needs of those who may not meet eligibility under the Care Act 2014 but still require support. 	
	Improve Inpatient Care and Crisis Prevention	<p>1. Enhance Quality of Inpatient Care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement measures to improve the quality of inpatient care for autistic individuals. • Ensure that inpatient settings are equipped to provide individualised and neurodiverse-friendly care. <p>2. Facilitate Timely Discharges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop protocols to facilitate timely discharges from inpatient care, considering the specific needs and preferences of individuals with autism. • Provide community-based support to prevent unnecessary and prolonged stays in inpatient settings. <p>3. Crisis Prevention Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in crisis prevention strategies to reduce avoidable admissions into inpatient settings. • Develop community-based crisis intervention teams and resources to support individuals during times of crisis. 	
	Pre and Post-Diagnostic Support:	<p>1. Comprehensive Pre-Diagnostic Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide pre-diagnostic support to individuals and families, including information, counselling, and resources. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the diagnostic process is accompanied by adequate support services. 2. Post-Diagnostic Support Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish post-diagnostic support programs that cater to the diverse needs of individuals with autism. • Include peer support, counselling, and skill-building programs in post-diagnostic support services. 	
Reduce homelessness.	To ensure consistency in support, plan, and address housing challenges for autistic individuals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistency in Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement standardised guidelines or protocols to ensure consistency in the level of support offered to autism communities. This can involve creating clear service standards and training programs for professionals working with autistic individuals. 2. Early Planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage early planning for the future needs of autistic individuals, especially in terms of housing and support services. This can involve collaboration between education, healthcare, and social services to create transition plans that address housing considerations. 3. Connecting Strategy to Operational Realities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align the next strategy with operational realities, acknowledging challenges such as the demand for housing outstripping supply. Develop strategies that are practical, taking into account the current state of housing resources and identifying potential areas for improvement. 4. Define Supported Housing/Living: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly define what is meant by supported housing or living, ensuring a common understanding among stakeholders. This definition should encompass the necessary accommodations and support services that cater to the unique needs of autistic individuals. 	

		<p>5. Innovative Housing Solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore and develop meaningful and innovative housing solutions that go beyond traditional models. This may involve partnerships with housing developers, community organisations, and local government to create inclusive and accessible housing options. <p>6. Person-Centred Approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and adopt a genuine person-centred approach by involving autistic individuals and their families in decision-making processes. Recognise and respect individual preferences, needs, and aspirations when developing housing and support plans. <p>7. Preventing Homelessness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with homelessness services, local authorities, and housing agencies to develop and implement strategies aimed at preventing homelessness among autistic individuals. • Address the specific risk factors associated with autism that may contribute to homelessness, such as difficulties in interpersonal interactions, isolation, and susceptibility to mate crime. • Conduct research or collaborate with existing research initiatives to gather accurate and comprehensive data on the representation of autistic individuals in homeless populations, as well as the specific challenges they face. <p>8. Access to Housing and Housing Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that housing agencies provide accessible housing advice and support services for autistic individuals, recognising their unique needs and challenges. • Implement autism awareness training for staff in housing agencies to enhance their understanding of autism and improve interactions with autistic individuals seeking housing assistance. 	
--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and promote supported housing strategies that cater to the diverse needs of autistic individuals, providing an environment that supports their independence and well-being. • Ensure that staff in specialist provision, including supported housing, are suitably trained in Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) techniques to create a positive and enabling living environment. • Encourage collaboration between housing agencies and autism support organisations to facilitate a coordinated and informed approach to housing support. <p>9. Enabling Department for Housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the Department for Infrastructure to function as an enabling department, improving equality of access to housing for independent living with reasonable adjustments. This can involve policy changes, awareness campaigns, and training initiatives. <p>10. Inclusive Housing and Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate housing and planning considerations for autism at the earliest stage of development. Work with architects, urban planners, and developers to ensure that housing designs are inclusive and accessible, considering the sensory and support needs of autistic individuals. <p>11. Data Collection and Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with relevant authorities, such as the homeless team in the council, to collect accurate figures on the representation of autistic individuals in homeless populations. Use this data to inform targeted interventions and support services. <p>12. Training and Development:</p>	
--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that staff in housing agencies, specialist provision, and other relevant services receive autism awareness training. Additionally, provide training on Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) techniques to create supportive environments. 	
<p>Outcome 8</p> <p>Improving support within the criminal and youth justice systems.</p>			
Goal	Recommendation	Actions	Measures of success
To improve support within the criminal and youth justice systems for autistic people, it's crucial to focus on several key areas as outlined in The National Strategy for Autistic Children, Young People, and Adults (2021 to 2026)	Community Safety, Anti-Bullying, and Life Skills:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Life Skills Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement life skills programs within the community to empower autistic individuals with tools to avoid intimidation and coercion. Collaborate with local organisations and educational institutions to integrate life skills education into curricula. Anti-Bullying Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch anti-bullying campaigns that specifically address the needs of autistic individuals. Provide resources and training for educators, community leaders, and law enforcement personnel on recognising and preventing bullying involving autistic individuals. Community Safety Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement community safety programs that educate autistic individuals on personal safety and how to navigate potential threats. Collaborate with local law enforcement agencies to facilitate community safety workshops. 	
	Identifying and Referring for Support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Justice Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish close collaborations between health and justice partners to streamline access to assessments and 	

		<p>referrals for support for autistic individuals in contact with the criminal and youth justice systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop joint protocols for timely and appropriate interventions based on assessment outcomes. <p>2. Training for Justice Personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training for justice personnel to enhance their ability to identify signs of autism and understand the unique needs of autistic individuals. • Collaborate with mental health professionals to ensure that assessments are conducted in a sensitive and informed manner. 	
	Improving Understanding of Autism:	<p>1. Training for Criminal and Youth Justice Professionals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement mandatory training programs for criminal and youth justice professionals to improve their understanding of autism. • Include training modules that cover communication strategies, sensory needs, and de-escalation techniques when interacting with autistic individuals. <p>2. Awareness Campaigns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch awareness campaigns within the criminal and youth justice systems to promote understanding and acceptance of autism. • Utilise various communication channels, including online platforms, workshops, and informational materials, to reach a wide audience. 	
	Improving Access to Services:	<p>1. Tailored Support Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with service providers to tailor support services that specifically address the needs of autistic individuals within the criminal and youth justice systems. • Ensure that interventions are individualised and consider the unique characteristics of autism. 	

		<p>2. Community Outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement community outreach programs to inform autistic individuals and their families about available services and support within the criminal and youth justice systems.• Collaborate with advocacy organisations to amplify outreach efforts. <p>3. Advocacy for Legal Protections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for legal protections that safeguard the rights of autistic individuals within the criminal and youth justice systems.• Collaborate with legal experts and advocacy groups to address systemic issues and promote inclusivity.	
--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

品
字
全

BRAN