

# The Strategy

- This strategy sets out our plan to achieve our vision for Northamptonshire and takes a life-course approach, encompassing all autistic children, young people and adults, and taking into consideration the needs of families and carers. It recognises autism affects people in different ways and touches many aspects of their lives. As such, we have taken a holistic view
- Our ambition is to work in partnership to address the wide range of areas in which autistic people might be supported, including in health services, education, preparing for adulthood, employment, independent living and the criminal justice system.
- Covers 2 years to align with Government Strategies but could be extended to include any new areas identified in future Government Strategies. The priority areas are likely to remain similar, the action plan has been designed to allow for change.



# How did we get here – the draft strategy

Pulled together information from: -

- Research
- JSNA
- Legislative requirements
- Government Plans and Strategies
- Surveys ( local and national)
- Events
- Workshops
- Reports
- Data analysis
- Face to face meetings with lived experience and those who support them.



# Who are the Partners

- Local Authority – North & West
- Health
- Housing
- Education
- Police
- Transport
- VCSE
- Youth Justice Service
- Employment Services
- Probation/Criminal justice
- Housing/Homelessness
- Transport



# The Vision

**“Autistic people are recognised, heard, valued, able to thrive and reach their full potential”.**



# What is the Mission.

The mission describes how we aim to achieve the Vision:

**A**cross organisational boundaries

**U**nderstanding of autism improved

**T**houghtful processes and pathways developed

**I**mproving collaboration

**S**haring knowledge

**M**aking experiences better for autistic people

Developed by the [Autism Champion Network](#)



# What are the Priority Outcomes

1. Planning and Governance that delivers improved outcomes.
2. Involvement, information and access that delivers results.
3. Increase Service training, development and collaboration between services which improves understanding and acceptance of autism within society.
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
5. Supporting more autistic people into employment and to retain employment.
6. Reduce health and care inequalities for autistic people.
7. Have the right support in the community and inpatient care
8. Improved support within the criminal and youth justice systems.



The words autistic individuals associate with autism.





Words used by autistic individuals to describe how they feel they want to be viewed.





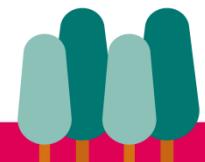
# Action Plan

- The actions reflect good practice and do not necessarily capture everything that is happening.
- Some areas will already have begun or finished work on them – need to reflect this when developing further actions so that we build on and not duplicate.
- Need to agree what can be done in the next two years – by whom and when and the performance/ impact data that will evidence if they are making a difference. Autism Enabler Group is undergoing a refresh to enable it to be fit for purpose to quality monitor the Strategy and Plan.



# Feedback from those autistic people, and their parents and cares

- “At last, we have defined Goals and the life -course approach is brilliant”
- “Please make this vision come true “
- “Would like it to clearly state that lived experience and coproduction is vital to achieving outstanding services .”
- Carers found that points 3 and 4 and 7 were the most important, especially for those with additional mental health difficulties .



# Next Steps

## JSNA

- Finalised Feb 2024 and sent to Department Public Health (DPHs) for approval to publish.
- Published in public domain by end of Feb.
- The version shared today is a final draft .

## Draft Autism Strategy

- Signed off by the MHLDA and sought from the Health and Wellbeing Boards.



# Next Steps:-

## Action Plan -Feb 2024

1. A small group of people will get together to agree/understand if the actions are correct for the priorities – should they be different/ timelines/organisational responsibilities.
2. Workshop to be arranged to capture what is already happening /individual responsibilities/ review timelines and layers.

