

Welcome

# Health & Wellbeing Board

29 September 2021



# **Health and Wellbeing Board**

## **Norfolk Autism Partnership Report**

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# What is the Norfolk Autism Partnership?

The Norfolk Autism Partnership (NAP) was created in response to the Autism Act (2009). Guidance around the act stated that Local Authorities and National Health Services needed to have an Autism Partnership to ensure the voice of autistic people and their family/carers were involved in decisions that concerned them and to embed co-production into statutory bodies.

# What have we achieved since our last report?

The NAP has had several major changes since the last Health and Wellbeing Board report in 2019. Including:



Partnership Board  
Transformation Manager



Autism Training



Wider Engagement



Diagnosis

# Partnership Board Transformation Manager



Norfolk County Council invested in a manager to oversee the Learning Disability Partnership and Norfolk Autism Partnership.

Employed to develop both the partnerships and engage in a more meaningful way with a wider range of people.

# Autism Training



An eLearning course and day course have been developed by the partnership and are mandatory for social service staff. 4500+ NCC staff have completed the eLearning and 1000+ have completed the day course.

The eLearning is available for free on the NAP website, with 300+ people accessing the training.

The day course has been adopted by 12 other organisations and a member of staff trained to deliver this. Several of these organisations are outside of Norfolk.

# Diagnosis



Due to feedback from the NAP public forums around unacceptable waiting times for a diagnosis and connecting different diagnostic services through the diagnosis working group, funding has increased to these services by 140%.

Although waiting times for adult diagnosis can still be up to 5 years, there has been a clear increase in the number of people receiving a diagnosis each month compared with previous years.

The board receives updates on diagnosis waiting times and the amount of individuals diagnosed each meeting to monitor the effectiveness of these changes.

# Wider Engagement

The NAP now has its own independent website which hosts the NAP newsletter, blogs, resources and hosted videos from a wide range of Norfolk services on World Autism Awareness Week. This had around 900 visits over the week, with the videos being viewed more than 400 times.

The Autism Norfolk Forum (ANF) has restarted in a hybrid virtual/face-to-face model, allowing the NAP to share information and gather public views and opinion to inform it's future work.

Working with ASD Helping Hands, more informal public events will be held to advertise and increase membership for the partnership.



# Wider Engagement



Autism and Learning Disability Champions are being trained across Norfolk Libraries (47) who will hold monthly meetings. This is to gather wider views for the partnerships alongside offering signposting, information and to help reduce social isolation for people with Learning Disabilities and/or Autism as well as family/carers coming out of lockdown.

The partnerships will soon go out to procure a partner to support their development, with the hopes of establishing a permanent base in Norfolk in the future.

# Recommendations



Continue to signpost organisations to the Autism eLearning on the NAP website to work towards a more inclusive Norfolk, or adopt this for your own organisation.

Support in the wider engagement activities of the NAP by offering resource, time or links to relevant parties.



# Questions