



Strategy Summary

Our vision

We want to make Lambeth a place where autistic people of all ages are important and part of the community. We want to make sure people can get to the school and job programmes that are right for them, find good places to live, and help everyone understand and respect autistic people more.



Our 7 priorities

Priority 1

Improving Understanding and Acceptance of Autism within Society

- Support awareness campaigns in schools and communities.
- Use campaigns such as National Autism Awareness Week to educate and inform.
- Provide children, young people, and parents with the right information at the earliest opportunity.
- Make sure schools and settings consider the needs and wishes of pupils.
- Encourage and support organisations and businesses to be autism-inclusive and/or autism-accredited.
- Celebrate and recognise the unique skills, attributes, achievements, and perspectives of autistic individuals.
- Offer specialised training programmes for professionals. Collaborate with autistic individuals.
- Develop training around communication and to meet the needs of those experiencing mental health crises.



Priority 2

Improving Autistic Children and Young People's Access to Education and Supporting positive transitions into adulthood

Provide free training in schools, developing each school's understanding of autism in educational settings and how to adapt the environment to meet needs.



Priority 3

Supporting More Autistic individuals into Employment

- Raise awareness among the public by promoting campaigns like the Dialogue Hub BSL Cafe and the Lambeth Inclusive Futures Event.
- Work together with Lambeth Made to enhance the SEND Careers Offer and provide thorough training for SENCOs and teachers.
- Help employers, especially those with commitments to social value and Section 106, to better recruit, support, and keep employees with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), learning disabilities (LD), and autism.



Priority 4

Tackling Health and Care Inequalities for Autistic individuals

Partner with experts to make sure that all healthcare and social care workers receive training like the Oliver McGowan program. This training will help everyone understand autism better and appreciate the unique abilities of autistic individuals.



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Priority 5

Improving Support in the Community and Inpatient Care

- Make information more accessible for in-patients.
- Implement the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training for health and social care staff.
- Conduct thorough needs assessments when patients are admitted.
- Use the NHS Digital Reasonable Adjustment Flag effectively.
- Form close partnerships to learn from these initiatives.

Use PROMs (Patient-Reported Outcome Measures) and CROMs (Clinician-Reported Outcome Measures) to:

- Measure treatment impact on symptoms, daily functioning, and quality of life.
- Tailor interventions and track progress for autistic individuals.



Transform placement commissioning to promote lifelong independence.

- Implement Assistive Technology and a clear cost model.
- Review high-cost placements to maximize use of independent living settings.

Provide a Drop-In/Floating Support Service for autistic adults in Lambeth.

- Managed by KeyRing Community Support Services Ltd. and Lambeth Elfrida Rathbone Society.
- Aims to enhance independence and community integration.

Develop the specialist housing provider market for people with learning disabilities and autism in partnership with SEL partners.

Commission bespoke options for individuals at highest risk or with complex needs.

- Refer individuals aged 25 or younger diagnosed with learning disabilities and/or autism and registered with a SEL GP to the SEL Behaviour Intensive Community Service for suicide prevention efforts.



Priority 6

Improving Support within the Criminal and Youth Justice System

- Make sure we identify and help young people early on through our Liaison and Diversion Services at Brixton and Wandsworth custody suites, including those who are autistic. Put in place a thorough process to figure out the needs of autistic adults before and during court proceedings, and work with professionals and groups to make sure they get the right support during probation.

- Use what we learn from our coffee mornings with the Crown Prosecution Service and legal representatives to improve training modules specifically about autism. Keep training staff, including probation officers, to understand autism better and support autistic individuals effectively, including adults.
- Use what we've learned from working with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the Evelina London ARD Service to improve how we identify and support people early on in the community.

Priority 7

Local Initiative - Understanding, valuing and helping parents and carers in their role and as partners

- Organise dedicated seminars and workshops for GPs to understand the unique needs of autistic individuals and their families.
- Make use of the SEND Local Offer to ensure that families of autistic children are connected to universal and targeted support services, including those that provide early help and parenting support.



Strategy Summary



Timeline of Support for Autistic Individuals Across Different Ages

Support for autistic individuals is essential throughout their lives. As they grow and develop, their needs evolve, and the appropriate support must be provided at each phase. We can empower autistic individuals to realise their utmost potential and live rewarding, valuable lives within their communities.



Early Childhood (0-5 years)

- 1. Early identification and diagnosis:**
Obtaining an accurate and timely diagnosis of autism is crucial for accessing suitable support and early intervention services.
- 2. Early intervention programmes:**
These offer targeted assistance to bolster communication, social, and cognitive skills in young autistic children, laying the foundation for success in subsequent stages.
- 3. Parent and carer support:**
This entails arming parents and carers with knowledge, resources, and strategies to better comprehend and assist their autistic child, fostering a positive family environment.



Primary School Age (5-11 years)

- 1. Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs):**
These are devised to produce customised education plans delineating specific aims, accommodations, and support strategies for autistic students, be it in mainstream or specialist education settings.
- 2. Social skills training:**
Concentrating on honing social skills and comprehension, aiding autistic children in understanding friendships, group behaviour, and societal norms within school and the community.
- 3. Sensory support:**
Offering tools and tactics to aid autistic children in handling their sensory sensitivities and establishing a conducive learning ambiance.



Secondary School Age (11-18 years)

- 1. Transition planning:**
This aids autistic students during shifts between educational establishments, ensuring an uninterrupted support chain while tackling potential challenges in fresh environments.
- 2. Vocational training and career guidance:**
This equips autistic students with hands-on skills and insights to delve into potential career trajectories and gird for impending employment.
- 3. Mental health support:**
This addresses prevalent mental health issues, like anxiety and depression, using focused interventions and backing services. This can also start earlier between the age of 5–11.



Young Adulthood (18-25 years)

- 1. Employment support:**
This facilitates entry into job opportunities and proffers sustained assistance to help young autistic adults keep meaningful employment and attain professional triumphs.
- 2. Independent living skills training:**
Aiding young autistic adults in mastering skills essential for independent living, daily task management, and community navigation.
- 3. Social and community engagement:**
This motivates young autistic adults to forge social links and partake in community initiatives, nurturing a community connection and diminishing solitude.

Mature Adulthood (25+ years)

- 1. Continuing education and lifelong learning:**
Opening avenues for autistic adults to continue their education and learn novel skills, fostering personal development and self-actualisation.
- 2. Mental health and wellbeing support:**
Rendering custom mental health assistance and wellness services for autistic adults to handle stressors, anxiety, and other issues.
- 3. Support for ageing autistic adults:**
Addressing distinct needs and hurdles encountered by ageing autistic individuals, inclusive of medical care, social involvement, and future caregiving considerations.

