

Welsh Autism Bill

Consultation Response 12/09/2018

Reviewing Team

- Ludlow Street Healthcare is a provider of services for people with complex Autism Spectrum and Asperger's conditions in Wales, specifically:
 - Beechwood College in Sully; an educational facility offering residential and day services for young adults between 16 and 25
 - Ocean Community Services; providing transition and longer-term care in small residential community-based units
- Our clinical and educational MDT teams have reviewed the draft Bill and the following is a summary of their comments.

Section 2

- How will the Welsh Autism Bill link with the ALN Act, and how will they work together to enhance the provision for children and adults in Wales? In terms of assessment and support, how will these provisions link into the Individual Development Plans?
- When mapping services, how will independent providers be integrated into the service network? What consideration will be built into the service selection process for parental choice?
- What are the rights of the young person and/or families in terms of processes of appeal if they disagree with diagnosis and recognition of any independent assessments gained?
- How will the Bill ensure all services involved with diagnosis are aligned? Who will have input into the diagnosis process (e.g. families, residential care settings, education providers etc), and will all parties involved with the service user be able to contribute? How will the Bill ensure that everyone who accesses support services are provided for appropriately and at the level needed?

Section 2

- Ensuring the continuity of service in the child to adult transition is imperative. The Bill needs to ensure ALN and education funding changes with funding responsibility moving from central government to local authorities is fully considered and appropriate management protocols included. Will the Bill allow for service provision outside of the local offer and area?
- Education provision – does this include independent providers and post compulsory education?
- How can service providers expect to access support from the bodies outlined in 2.1g – e.g Welsh language resources and services?
- Continuity of service from child to adult- imperative that this is clear especially in regard to changes within ALN and education funding moving from central government to local authorities. Will they look outside of local offer and area.
- In relation to training for professionals, what process will there be for independent providers to ensure they have sufficient training?

Section 6

- In regard to data collation – how will independent providers be required to submit data and what data rules will they need to comply with?
- Will the data requirements only cover Welsh people accessing Welsh services, or will the data requirements included English people accessing Welsh services and Welsh people accessing English services?

General Comments

- The general principles of the Bill are good, but it is important that the Bill covers the full range of services available such as independent providers in order to provide a comprehensive approach to Autism service provision.
- The Bill also needs to ensure the rights of service users and their parents/ families to be involved in their service choices are recognised and protected.
- Full consideration is needed for how the Autism Bill will link with the ALN Act and targets/ provisions outlined for young people through IDP provision.
- A current failing of the existing service provision is a lack of integration between service commissioners and service providers; including recommendations for inter-agency communication improvements would strengthen the identification of the most successful solutions for service users.