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AUTISM PATHWAY REPORT

Thank you for your letter of 26th September, which requested a further progress update on some of the recommendations outlined in the autism pathway report. With apologies for the delay, I am responding on behalf of the Derbyshire Children's Autism Co-ordinating Group.

The enclosed update sets out the latest position on these recommendations. I hope this is helpful.

Linda Dale

Healthwatch Derbyshire- Update on 2015 report recommendations

Commitment by Children's Autism Co-ordinating Group:	Actions to date:
The second opinion process being developed by Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	The Trust met with Healthwatch in September to discuss progress, and I understand that Healthwatch were happy with the information provided. The situation remains the same – the process is currently in development; there has been much discussion but it has not been agreed as yet or finalised as, at the current time, focus and resources are on further piloting the pathway and trouble-shooting. A leaflet is being developed, as suggested by Healthwatch.
Derbyshire Healthcare's review of the action plan they put in place in response to the 2015 report	A copy of the latest action plan is enclosed.
The results of the autism training mapping	This continues to present a challenge. The statutory/NHS provision has mostly been mapped, and the focus is now on identifying voluntary and community sector support with contact being made with some local groups. It is also a moving picture as some interventions appear to have changed since the start of the mapping process so endeavours to obtain an up-to-date picture continue.
The review of the information on the Local Offer about services for children and young people with autism, by Jennifer Stothard	Jennifer has met with the Local Offer team and discussed the following: <u>Structure/functionality of the website</u> A number of issues have been raised regarding the functionality of the website including the search functionality. The team has recently made improvements to the search functionality. The team has also been reviewing other local offer websites to

	<p>obtain good ideas about how other areas have provided accessible information. We will be considering the short term and longer term options for developing the Local Offer to improve the ease of use for parents and for children and young people living with autism, building on the feedback from the SEND local area inspection when published in January.</p> <p><u>Provision of Autism specific information</u></p> <p>Jennifer has agreed to share information regarding national and local autism charities and support groups that can be included on the Local Offer to improve the ease of access to information for parents. It has also been agreed to provide a link to the Local Authority webpages which contain general information regarding autism to support increased awareness and understanding. We are currently updating the web information provision for the adult section of the Local Authority website and we will ensure that the Local Offer also hosts or links to this updated information. A planned programme of work is taking place to refresh the content of the Local Offer more generally and to test out/re-launch the site with parents, carers and young people.</p>
<p>Further details of how the Future in Mind funding will be used to enhance the provision of training and workshops</p>	<p>In Erewash, Future in Mind funding has been used to support a range of 'proof of concept' projects delivered through the voluntary and community sector. As part of this, Relate has delivered workshop and drop-in sessions for local support groups, including the local branch of National Autistic Society and Awareness for Autism. Further details and the wider provision of training for parents/carers can be discussed at the Future in Mind Stakeholder Group, on which Healthwatch is represented.</p>
<p>Information provided to parents in South Derbyshire on the pathway.</p>	<p>With regard to development of information for parents, the Southern Derbyshire workstream is looking at what is currently</p>

	<p>provided and how it can be developed as an information pathway. In Southern Derbyshire there are different health providers and the intention is to review all information given, not just information leaflets but correspondence sent to families at the different parts of the pathway. Progress is being made, however a co-ordinated suite of information has yet to be agreed.</p>
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