

Good Practice Case Study 2 – Early Intervention

West Sussex - South East Region

West Sussex was identified as a good practice example because of the focus on **improving support** throughout the assessment process for CYP with autism and their families. This involved the ASC early intervention pilot project as one of the key actions within the transformation plan. The plan outlined the action and how this would be implemented in addition to a variety of outcome measures for children and young people and their families.

Justification of Autism-Focused Actions

Consultation with children and young people, families and professionals identified gaps in service provision such as autism support post-diagnosis. An independent report from the Autistic Society also highlighted where families could be better supported, and the gaps in professional training,

Outline of Actions

The ASC Early Intervention pilot project is a local priority. A Task and Finish Group has been established to look at ASC Pathway so children and young people and their families could receive support and services when they needed them, regardless if there is a diagnosis.

Implementation of Actions

Develop a pilot project to ensure families and children awaiting an ASC assessment and children with and without a diagnosis are able to access information, advice and guidance. This will be achieved by investing £100,000 and working with local voluntary sector to develop a series of resources and approaches to support parents awaiting an ASC assessment.

Measurement of Outcomes

- Children, young people and families are able to make informed choices and be in control.
- Children with needs are identified early and responded to in a timely manner.
- Improved access to and engagement with education.
- Children with ASC feel safe and secure at their school and their local communities.
- Parents' expertise about their child is valued and they are fully informed and involved in the assessment process.
- Parents have greater understanding of factors affecting their child's emotional and mental well being.
- Parents feel well supported and confident to meet their child's needs and deal with their child's behaviours.
- Parents have improved mental health and wellbeing.