

TASK AND FINISH GROUP AUTISM PLAN BRIEF

What matter is being considered?

An update on the Gwynedd Autism Plan was presented to a meeting of the Care Scrutiny Committee on 20 April 2023. An update was submitted on the ongoing work, including an update on staffing, awareness raising steps, training and working in partnerships. In addition, the Cabinet Members responsible for Children and Adults Services submitted the priorities for the coming six months.

There were responses provided to several issues raised during the committee meeting, but some additional issues arose about the individual's experience when awaiting a diagnosis, frustration in the community regarding diagnosis waiting lists and a lack of clear understanding of the support available in schools following receiving a diagnosis.

The committee decided that they were keen to establish a task and finish group to discuss the matter further and requested that representatives from the Department of Education and the Health Board should be present to answer their concerns. It was also decided to extend an invitation to representatives of the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee as the work bridges the work areas of both committees.

The purpose of the work is to ensure an understanding of the implementation of the Gwynedd Autism Plan as a whole, including:

- an understanding of the support available to individuals and their families when awaiting a diagnosis, and whether there are any barriers on the road to a diagnosis and
- following diagnosis, in particular the support available for children within our schools, and whether there are any barriers.

Actions

- Care Scrutiny Committee to receive the brief and identify three Members to participate. (21/09/2023)
- Invite representatives from the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee (two members) to participate. We will correspond with members of the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee by email following the Care Scrutiny Committee's decision on 21/09, formally confirming membership at the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee meeting on 09/11/2023.
- Hold a meeting for the five members with representatives from the Children, Adults and Education Departments, and a representative from the Health Board. (~~Exact date to be confirmed following a discussion with key partners – anticipated end of 2023/beginning of 2024~~).

Updated for the First meeting of the Task and Finish Group, 19.02.2024

- Task and Finish Group meeting on 19.02.2024
- Purpose of the meeting:
- The purpose of the work is to ensure an understanding of the implementation of the Gwynedd Autism Plan as a whole, including:
- an understanding of the support available to individuals and their families when awaiting a diagnosis, and whether there are any barriers on the road to a diagnosis and
- following diagnosis, in particular the support available for children within our schools, and whether there are any barriers.

- Second meeting of the Task and Finish Group on 28.02.2024 to form conclusions following the additional information presented to the meeting on 19.02.2024. Form a short report based on the conclusions from this meeting.

- Report back to the Care Scrutiny Committee - ~~1 February 2024~~ (depending on the date of the above meeting). **11 April 2024**

Membership of the Task and Finish Group

Councillors Jina Gwyrfai, Elwyn Jones, Gareth Coj Parry, Dawn Lynne Jones, Gwynfor Owen

Key officers

A meeting will take place with the five members identified to take part in the task and finish group and the following key officers:

| DEPARTMENT | KEY OFFICER |
|---|--|
| Children | Aled Gibbard, Senior Operational Manager Lucy Hemmings, Gwynedd Autism Team Leader |
| Adults | Mari Wyn Jones Helen Fôn Owen , Adults Services Senior Learning Disabilities Manager Bethan Mair Williams, Learning Disabilities Team Leader - South Gwynedd |
| Education | Delyth Gibbard, Senior Communication and Interaction Teacher Dr Einir Peters, Senior Communication and Networking Educational Psychologist |
| Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board | To be confirmed. Natalie Woodworth, Service Leader of the Neurodevelopmental Team |

Key for changes for 19.02.2024 version

[Additions in blue,](#)
deleted