

## Our Aims

The Wigan All-Age Autism Partnership Board will work as a team of people and organisations to give adults and children with autism better choices and opportunities in their lives.

- Children and adults with autism receive a timely diagnosis, where desired/referred, and can access ongoing post-diagnostic support in their community.
- Wigan Borough residents, health services, wider public services, and businesses recognise autism and make reasonable adjustments.
- Specialist services are available for autistic people and their carers and families who are struggling to cope, and timely support is available and offered.
- Training and development of the workforce, partners, businesses, establishments is continuously provided to enhance awareness and promote change with reasonable adjustments.
- Our Autism Partnership Board is representative of people with autism and their parents/carers.
- The process of transition from Children’s Services to Adult’s Services is timely and well-planned.
- The housing options and support available within the Borough are right in order to support adults with autism to live independently.
- Children and adults are supported to access employment and volunteering options in the community with plans developed to embrace continuous learning.
- To influence and support the aims of the Greater Manchester Strategy for Autism, and to influence services at a GM level, including public transport, to become more autism friendly.

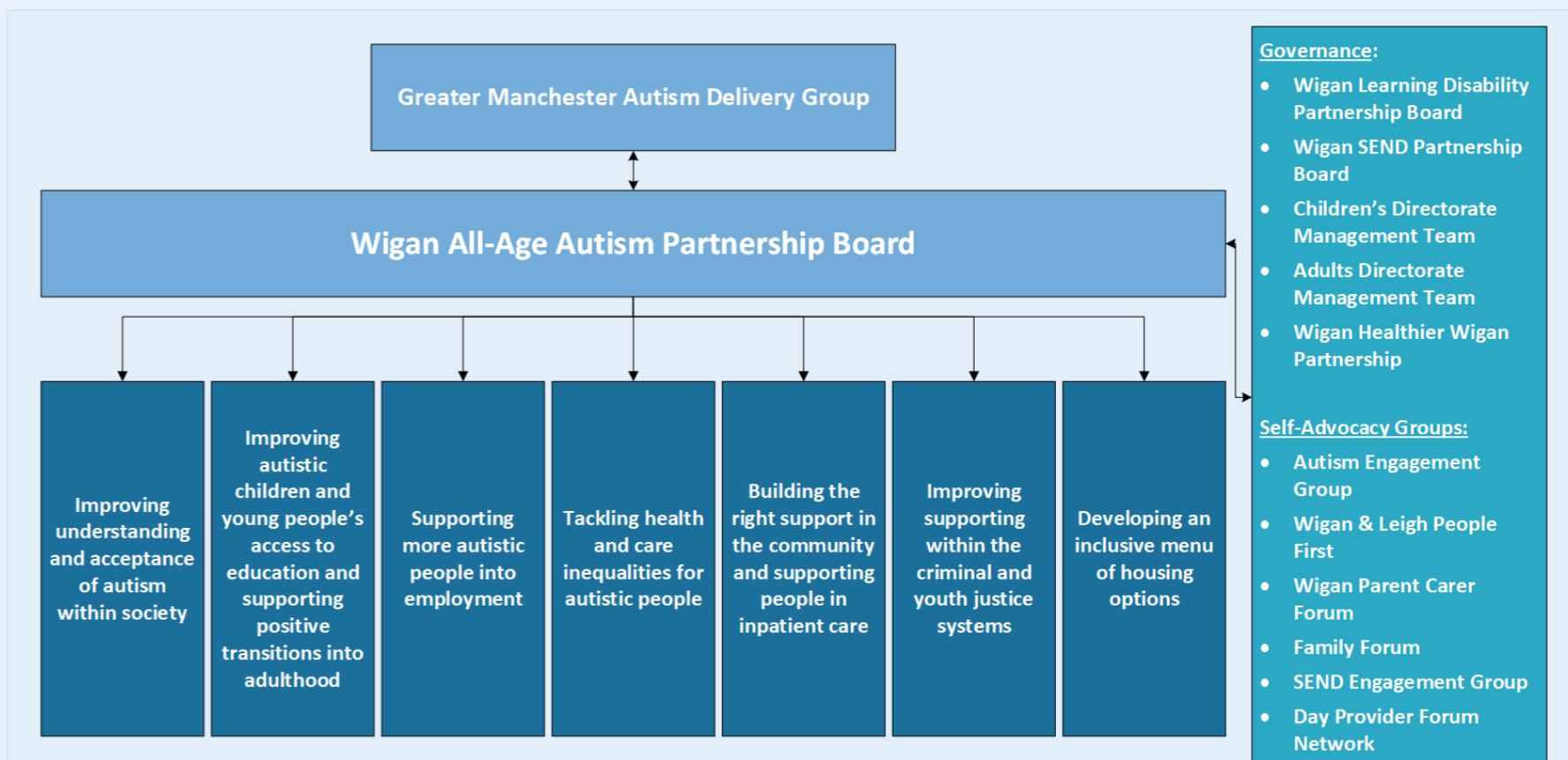
## Underpinning Principles

The Wigan All-Age Autism Partnership Board will base its work on the following principles:

- We believe in co-producing solutions to issues together with people with autism.
- We believe autistic people have skills and assets to offer, and are more than just a person with autism.
- We believe people with additional needs are active citizens with equal access to health services, housing, employment and opportunities.
- We are committed to supporting autistic people of all ages to fulfil their aspirations and build resilience.
- We will work together to make Wigan an inclusive borough where everyone feels able to be an active resident making valued contributions.
- We believe our Wigan Borough All Age Autism Partnership Board should have representatives with autism and that it should reflect our role as a co-ordinator of multi-agency services to achieve our aims.

## Governance Structure

The Wigan All-Age Autism Partnership Board will feed into and be directed by other groups as detailed in the diagram below:



## Priority Areas

### 1) Improving understanding and acceptance of autism within society

- We will improve public understanding of autism and inclusion across the public sector.
- We will make transport and communities more autism-inclusive.

- ⇒ Develop targeted approach to coordination of Autism Friends Awareness sessions – community sessions, organisations, businesses.
- ⇒ Develop an autism training strategy and further enhance the current autism training on offer.
- ⇒ Support the roll out of the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training.
- ⇒ Develop a staff autism toolkit.
- ⇒ Develop an evaluation process to check the 'so what' factor of training offers.
- ⇒ Recruit Autism Friends Champions across all services.
- ⇒ Refresh the Autism Friendly Borough webpages. Develop an Autism Hub with support and guidance, links to available services, training and development opportunities, social groups and activities.
- ⇒ Defining a clear Early Help offer for families by further developing the Local Offer.
- ⇒ Develop accessible guides to cultural and heritage sites
- ⇒ Work in partnership with Population Health and Be Well colleagues to develop inclusive opportunities for local people and communities to live healthy and happy lives.
- ⇒ Development and promotion of Our Town online community directory
- ⇒ Highlight inclusive groups and events on Our Town online community directory

### 2) Improving autistic people's access to education, and supporting transitions into adulthood

- We will improve educational professionals' understanding of autism.
- We will improve how the SEND system supports autistic children and young people.
- We will improve positive transitions into adulthood.

- ⇒ Autism in Schools project - Delivering Autism in Education Trust training to three schools through Special School Outreach and developing a model that can be rolled out across the school system
- ⇒ Significantly reduce the number of bullying incidents across our education settings and improve the mechanisms that allow reporting of such incidents.
  - Develop an intelligence base that allows us to review the issues in relation to bullying in our education settings and understand the issue.
  - Establish a working group to consider approaches with schools and settings.
  - Develop a programme of training for all relevant staff on restorative approaches.
- ⇒ Have an effective and responsive early intervention offer for children and young people's mental health and well-being in our education settings.
  - Evaluate the Wellbeing for Education Return Project in Wigan alongside GM intelligence for local mental health to inform key priorities and effective approaches moving forwards
  - Establish a multi-agency Emotionally Friendly Schools implementation group involving key education, health and care professionals to support the ongoing implementation of whole-school frameworks
  - Establish clear joint working arrangements between partners in relation to individual, school level and borough wide input
  - Feed into to Greater Manchester's Mental Health in Education programme and implement the agreed plans in Wigan
  - A co-ordinated, graduated attachment/trauma informed training programme to be developed across teams
- ⇒ Publish and consult with all stakeholders following the SEND review
- ⇒ Ensure children and young people with SEND and their families are supported to develop our Wigan participation and engagement strategy. Implement the strategy across the borough and ensure our SEND families have their say about things that affect them now and in the future. Work with children and young people with SEND in Education settings to engage them with Deal 2030 and help to reshape this strategy in the light of the COVID-19 impact.
- ⇒ Develop a new approach to transition which is based on the fundamental Principles of the Deal. Co-produced vision, seamless transition pathways.
- ⇒ Develop a plan to support young people with developing independence, enabling increased opportunities for socialising and further education.
- ⇒ Develop a range of different programmes, volunteering, and employment pathways to enable people to reach their potential around paid employment - linking with Inclusive Employment, Haigh Woodland Park, Leigh Supports Village projects.

### 3) Supporting more autistic people into employment

- We will improve employment support and the welfare system.

- ⇒ Working with day providers on the Ethical Framework to support individuals with to progress and develop into employment pathways to reach their aspirations.
- ⇒ Support people to explore different employment opportunities, such as self-employment, social enterprises, maximising people's hidden skills and abilities.
- ⇒ Create work placement opportunities through Community Unity Project, linking with developments at Haigh Woodland Park, Leigh Sports Village, and other locations across the Borough.
- ⇒ Work with local businesses and employers, supporting them to understand the benefits of diversity in the workforce and how to be more accessible and inclusive.
- ⇒ In partnership with SEND Team, and Internship Works programme, support an increase in young people accessing a Supported Internship by providing job coaching support to education settings.
- ⇒ Increase the appetite of young people to access a Supported Internship through Preparing for Adulthood service.
- ⇒ Hold bespoke events for people with autism to gain knowledge, information and skills in relation to moving closer to the employment market.
- ⇒ Develop employer forums with partners, including partners in services across the landscape within Wigan.

## Priority Areas

4) Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people	5) Building the right support in the community and supporting people in inpatient care	6) Improving support within the criminal and youth justice systems	7) Developing an inclusive menu of housing options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will improve early identification and reduce autism diagnosis waiting times.</li> <li>We will improve health and care professionals' understanding of autism.</li> <li>We will reduce the health inequalities autistic people face.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will improve crisis prevention and avoidable admissions into inpatient mental health settings.</li> <li>We will improve the quality of inpatient mental health care for autistic people and facilitate timely discharge from inpatient care.</li> <li>We will address the use of restrictive practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will improve understanding of autism across the criminal and youth justice systems</li> <li>We will improve access to services for autistic people in touch with the criminal justice and young justice systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will develop an inclusive menu of housing options; universal, mainstream and specialist offers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Revisit the Long Term Plan and continue work to develop best practice</li> <li>⇒ Improving diagnostic pathways, developing early identification pathways and reducing waiting times</li> <li>⇒ Improving data and developing monitoring processes</li> <li>⇒ Continuing investment into Adult diagnostic and post-diagnostic service</li> <li>⇒ Review the gap in pre-diagnosis support and develop long term plans for post-diagnostic support.</li> <li>⇒ To clarify pathway for autistic people to access mainstream mental health services post-diagnosis.</li> <li>⇒ Support the roll out of the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training.</li> <li>⇒ Continue to deliver level 1 mandatory training to all Mental Health practitioners.</li> <li>⇒ Continue to develop GP and health services training offer.</li> <li>⇒ Identify a named ICS Lead for Wigan</li> <li>⇒ Deliver on the local LeDeR action plan</li> <li>⇒ Progressing the NHS Long Term Plan's commitments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting the roll out of autism health checks.</li> <li>- Piloting hearing, sight and dental checks for children in special residential schools</li> <li>- Introducing and continuing the expansion of the STOMP-STAMP</li> <li>- Working with 12 Early Adopter Sites to trial improved recording of reasonable adjustments (RA) and a 'digital flag' in patient records</li> </ul> </li> <li>⇒ Impact of COVID. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vaccination programme and keeping safe and well during a pandemic.</li> <li>- Assessing reasonable adjustments are in place for people with autism during the wider Covid restrictions and changing processes. Covid impact / cutbacks and sustainable plans moving forward.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Roll out of Transforming Care for CYP.</li> <li>⇒ Development and roll out of Key Worker Role</li> <li>⇒ Reduction of numbers within hospital settings</li> <li>⇒ Development work within respite and short breaks services</li> <li>⇒ Raising awareness of the DFG for autistic people, including through exploring key issues and how best to overcome barriers with Foundations (the National Body for Home Improvement Agencies) and key charitable organisations for autistic people</li> <li>⇒ Roll out of Oliver McGowan's training for health and social care staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Training and understanding of autism and behaviours for all justice staff teams. Challenging attitudes and stigma and reducing risk of escalation of complex behaviours.</li> <li>⇒ Maximise opportunities in the Justice system to ensure effective engagement of young people and adults open to criminal justice services with autism.</li> <li>⇒ Provide a place-based offer for offender management.</li> <li>⇒ Ensure services and support are in place to support criminogenic needs and desistance.</li> <li>⇒ Ensure individuals within the criminal justice system have access appropriate health interventions to support reduction in reoffending.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Increase understanding of needs within the Borough to support planning for the future.</li> <li>⇒ Affordable Homes Programme? - Continue to build new housing stock using various models of support including supporting autistic young people moving into adulthood, people moving out of family home.</li> <li>⇒ Transformation of Supported Living Commissioning programme, using a neighbourhood model of support across 9 ethical providers. Promoting connections, friendships, and meaningful contributions to the local community.</li> <li>⇒ Redesign housing pathway to support individuals to make the right choices, at the right time with clarity on resources available to support high spec housing options.</li> </ul>