| **Area** | **Actions** | **Why important** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Improve information for residents | Create a single webpage/phone contact point with information for residents to have access to up-to-date information about autism support, possibly using the Living Well North Tyneside website. | People struggle to know where to get information from. The website content needs to be populated with information from trustworthy and reliable sources. There for residents and professionals to use. |
| Age appropriate and accessible information – Children, Young people adults, parents, family/carers | Different groups of people need different information (easy read/video/audio-described content). Link in with the work going on with the under 25s neurodiversity work on this |
| Autism Conference/sessions showcasing with ’what’s available in North Tyneside’ | Couple of sessions a year that can connect people to the support that’s available:   * For children/young people/families and carers (particularly covering transition from child to adult services) * For adults/families and carers |
| Improve experience for people going through assessment/diagnosis processes | Commissioners and providers act to reduce waiting times for diagnosis for both young people and adult services. | Waiting time for diagnosis are a significant concern for residents. |
| Evidence suggests that autism may be genetic, consider providing information to families about chances of autism having a genetic link. | Whole family approach (for example to identify family members with caring responsibilities) |
| Work with providers and Experts by Experience to scope and improve the information shared with people while they are waiting for the autism assessment and diagnosis process (for both children and adults). Including what to expect at an assessment, where they can get support before the assessment and what getting a diagnosis means. Understand how people are kept informed about waiting times and their position on the list Diagnostic appointment letters to include photos of professionals/reception area, directions to service etc. to improve accessibility/reduce anxiety in lead up to assessment. Reasonable adjustments that can be made. | People tell us they are not well informed about how the assessment processes work, where they can get support whilst they wait and feel forgotten about as it could be months/ years on the waiting lists. |
| Work with providers and experts by experience to improve the information shared with people post-diagnosis. | Ensures that clients and carers are made aware of support available in the local community. |
| Improve pre and post diagnostic support in North Tyneside | Continue to support the Better Together peer support and befriending group. | Build on the 3 “peer support groups”, either by increasing numbers attending or in more locations whilst retaining good practice. |
| Explore opportunities for development of pre and post diagnostic support for all age. | Supports autistic people to gain full potential, strive for equitable pre and post diagnosis support regardless of geographical location. |
| Work with Neurodiversity Think Differently Team and work stream with children and young people review and improve support where relevant | As part of the needs-based approach being developed. |
| Review transitions support for young adults | Understand the transitions pathway for people awaiting diagnosis at age 16-18 and the information supplied during the transitions process. | There is a gap in support at this age, particularly for people looking for a diagnosis before they turn 18.  Gap with Autism with a MH diagnosis – service offer locally. |
| Support complex hospital discharge for children and adults with autism from Mental Health hospitals | Work collaboratively to ensure a positive experience of complex hospital discharge for children and adults with autism.  Develop regional design standards for specialist housing for people with Autism and share good practice as a community of practice. | Complex hospital discharge is a priority area for North Tyneside Local Authority and NENC Integrated Care Board. |
| Increase autism aware practice for professionals and services | % of staff completing Level One Oliver McGowan | Update on progress made in Health |
| % of staff completing Level One Oliver McGowan | Update on progress made in social care & wider services. |
| Autism aware practice across Mental Health and addiction services  Work with Addiction services to develop specialist training, and for residents they support who may have undiagnosed autism/ADHD. | We know that many autistic people can suffer from co-morbidities such as drug and alcohol addiction. |
| Increased autism awareness within community organisations and providers of community spaces for both adult and children services | Improved understanding of autism and awareness of reasonable adjustments |
| Increased autism awareness within businesses and employers. | Improved understanding of autism and awareness of reasonable adjustments in the workplace. |
| Review support for carers, families and supporters | Understand the support available to parent carers, adult carers and sibling carers of autistic people | Improves impact on the life chance and wellbeing of carers of autistic people compared to other groups of carers. |
| Embed co-production & co-design approaches to develop solutions | Work with autistic residents, families and carers to identify options and solutions and ensure people’s experiences improve. | Ensures better identification and target resources at solutions to benefit the autistic community and carers in North Tyneside. |