

# **Bury Adult Autism Strategy 2017-2020**

## **One Page Summary**

The vision of the National Autism Strategy: Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives states that:

*"All adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can get a diagnosis and access support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents."*

The national strategy was updated with Think Autism (2014), which built on the Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives strategy, reinforcing the themes and adding a further three new key elements.

The purpose of this updated Bury Adult Autism Strategy is to provide a basis for partnership working and to implement the requirements of the national strategy at a local level.

Bury's Adult Autism Strategy will also reflect those children and young people aged 0 to 25 with autism as there is likely to be a continuum of need into adulthood. This strategy is inclusive and reflects the needs of young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as the legislation for SEND is for the age range 0 to 25 and this strategy needs to extend across both children's and adult services. The SEND cohort will become young adults some of whom will have autistic needs and it is important that there is a smooth transition between children's to adult services and links with a range of partners.

This strategy has been developed by Bury Council's Communities and Wellbeing directorate in partnership with a range of partners from across Bury including people with autism. It is intended to set out a plan for adults with autism across the Borough. The work in Bury is closely linked to the developments currently being undertaken at a Greater Manchester level and Bury have been involved in the consultation and development of a Greater Manchester Autism Strategy due to be published in April 2019.

The Bury Adult Autism Strategy also links to Bury's Written Statement of Action (WSOA). The WSoA is Bury's response to the findings of the Joint local area inspection of SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) conducted by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in June 2017. The inspection was to judge the effectiveness of Bury in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The Bury Adult Autism Strategy is intended to provide a basis for partnership working, and in doing so we can raise the level of awareness in communities across Bury, increase the knowledge and experience of autism in front line staff who can go on to provide reasonably adjusted services, and ensure that people with autism have access to the information and support that they need, when they need it.