

Q11. Sevenoaks District Council response to “Strategy for Adults with Autism in Kent, a five year strategy”.

This consultation response should also be viewed in the wider context of the West Kent Public Health Preventative Services devolution model. This is currently being discussed between the three West Kent districts and boroughs and Kent County Council.

Earlier this year, the three districts and boroughs developed a West Kent Health Deal, setting out a vision for the three Councils’ roles in health going forward. The County Council’s new countywide preventative service strategy is to offer seamless support to individuals who need to make change, to help motivate change, make the change and then maintain the change. Their aim is to do this through a service based around the individual and this approach is supported by the district and this approach is supported by the district and borough councils.

Under the Equalities Act, 2010, we are required to take into account the needs to different groups within our communities in preparing strategies. We welcome the opportunity to develop discussions about the needs of people with autism or with autistic spectrum disorder in the community. This includes any opportunities to work with our Sevenoaks District Health Action Team or the Sevenoaks District Children’s Local Operational Group to identify priorities for the Sevenoaks District.

We also welcome the opportunity to engage with the Kent Autism Collaborative to ensure that the needs to people with autism and autistic spectrum disorder are represented in the development of our Housing Strategy and in reviewing the evidence base of our Local Plan.

We would like to invite a representative from the Kent Autism Collaborative to take part in any of our relevant District Partnerships. This includes our Disabled Access Group, our Local Strategic Partnership and its Supporting Young People into Employment sub-group. We are keen to ensure we link up discussions with the Kent Autism Collective relating to our efforts to support young people into employment, education and training.