

SUBMISSION FROM COMMUNITY INTEGRATED CARE

Adult diagnosis/post diagnostic support

1. I work with a service user who I consider to have some autistic spectrum traits but he has never been diagnosed. We have the support of our local learning disability team but beyond this I am unaware of any local services provided to help with this diagnosis. If there was a specific autism strategy in place a correct diagnosis would be the first step along a structured line of support.
2. Another service user I work with was diagnosed as having Asperger syndrome as a child. I have worked with him for two and a half years now but I have seen little evidence of specific post diagnostic support. What I have learned is how best to communicate with him and training has been provided for this by the local authority learning disability team. I have asked for more specific training in aspects of his life that I feel he needs help with but this has yet to be provided. The biggest problem is that there is little clarity within the local authority regarding who should be providing the training and what it should be. This is another example of the need for a specific strategy to ensure that we know who to approach and that training guidelines are in place.

Further and higher education support

3. The service user I support who has Asperger syndrome has shown an interest in further education. There are classes and courses provided locally for people with learning disabilities but given the needs of this service user I feel he would benefit from education that was more structured around his specific needs. For example, there is very little consideration given to the environment where these courses are held and this can have a huge impact on someone with Asperger syndrome or autism.

Accessing goods and services

4. Locally there are services available that our more able service user can access, eg swimming pool or the gym. However these are not autism specific activities. Our clients use local services along side the general public which can be unsettling for them and there is sometimes a lack of empathy from the general public.

Sections 2 and 3

5. Consistency in development is vital. Currently I see no fluid strategy in place for the development of those with autism. Our local authority has professionals in place in the form of the Community Learning Disability

Team (CLDT). They are accessible to us but they would greatly benefit from a more structured approach, as I mentioned previously no one in the CLDT seems to have a key role in working with autism. If it is the case that the CLDT are working along the current identified framework then residential homes like ours should be made more aware of what is available to us.

Conclusion

6. I feel that more professional assistance and more staff training would help improve the lives of our service users who have ASD and Asperger syndrome.

Community Integrated Care
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