

Improving Services for Adults with Autism: a National Conference

15 October 2009, London

There are estimated to be 433,000 adults with autism in the UK, with an estimated cost to the economy of some £25 billion.

This conference focused on the findings and recommendations of the National Audit Office Report Supporting people with autism through adulthood and the subsequent Committee of Public Accounts hearing and report, examining the range of services for adults with autism and their carers in England.

The conference covered:

- Progress on the Government's National Strategy for adults with autism
- How joint commissioning across health and social care, supported by multidisciplinary working, can help develop a holistic approach to services for adults with autism
- How developing more effective strategies and planning services can smooth the transition between children's and adult services, and improve quality of life for adults with autism
- How targeted support for adults with high-functioning autism could improve outcomes by facilitating access to more appropriate and cost-effective services

Speakers included:

- Mark Lever, Chief Executive, National Autistic Society
- Angela Browning, MP for Tiverton & Honiton and Member, Committee of Public Accounts
- Hardip Begol, Deputy Director, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Department for Children, Schools and Families
- Amyas Morse, Comptroller and Auditor General, National Audit Office
- Geoffrey Maddrell, Chairman, Research Autism
- Caroline Waters, Director, People and Policy for BT Group
- Christine Austin, Team Manager, Liverpool Asperger Team
- Paul Johnson, Service Manager, Nottingham Adult Social Care and Health Department
- Simon Veasey, Service Delivery Manager, Warwickshire Adult Health and Community Services
- Christina Earl, Team Manager, EmployAbility, Surrey County Council

Video and audio downloads from the conference are now available at;
http://www.nao.org.uk/conferences_events_training/autism_conference.aspx

The National Audit Office Report “Supporting people with autism through adulthood” is available at;
<http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/autism.aspx>

The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee Report “Supporting people with autism through adulthood”
(Report with formal minutes and oral and written evidence)

July 15th, 2009 is available at;
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmpublicacc/697/697.pdf>