

ADULTS WITH AUTISM BILL

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Impose duties upon the Secretary of State and certain (health and social care) persons and bodies in respect of people with autism aged 18 and over and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. Clarifying responsibility for autism

(1) The Secretary of State shall produce and publish directions to local authorities and NHS bodies, including to-

- (a) appoint a senior level person or team responsible for autism;
- (b) include the requirements of persons with an autism in commissioning strategies; and
- (c) establish and publish a route by which all persons with autism may access assessments and any resulting support services.

2. Establishment of specific services

(1) The Secretary of State shall produce and publish advice to local authorities and NHS bodies on non-statutory services of benefit to persons with autism, including-

- (a) daily living skills;
- (b) social skills; and
- (c) social support.

3. Establishment of research strategy

(1)The Secretary of State shall produce and publish a research strategy to highlight priority areas for research in relation to autism, including the costs and benefits, both short-term and long-term, of different types of care services for persons with autism.

4. Regional support

(1) The Secretary of State shall appoint regional teams or representatives to assist in ensuring that good autism practice is followed and developed by both local authorities and NHS bodies.

5. Duty to identify and record persons

(1) Local authorities and NHS bodies shall identify persons with autism in their area, and maintain a register of the names and any known requirements (including any unmet requirements) of those persons, including a record of any carers such persons may have.

(2) Local authorities and NHS bodies shall co-operate in undertaking their duties under subsection (1).

(3) In undertaking Joint Strategic Needs Assessments under section 116 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, local authorities and partner NHS bodies must have regard to the requirements (including any unmet requirements) of persons with autism spectrum disorders in their area.

6 Duty to secure training

(1) Local authorities and NHS bodies must secure sufficient training in autism for the following staff-

- (a) all staff in regular contact with persons with autism; and
- (b) all staff engaged in assessments pertaining to persons with autism.

7. General duty of local authorities and NHS bodies

(1) Local authorities and NHS bodies must promote independent living for people with autism when carrying out their functions.

(2) In performing their duty under this section, each local authority and each NHS body shall have regard to any guidance given from time to time by the appropriate authority.

8. Consultation with people with autism spectrum disorders and others

(1) In producing and publishing the work required in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 the Secretary of State and local authorities and NHS bodies shall consult-

- (a) persons with autism;
- (b) parents and carers of persons with autism;
- (c) organisations representing persons with autism and their parents and carers; and
- (d) organisations and institutions engaged in research in relation to care services for persons with autism.

9. Review of progress

(1) There should be a review of the implementation of the above sections every two years.

10. Inspections

(1) The Secretary of State should produce and publish guidance to:

- (a) Commission for Social Care Inspection;
- (b) Healthcare Commission; and
- (c) Mental Health Act Commission

to ensure action is taken to consider the experiences of people with an ASD in inspection activity.

11. Existing legislation

(1) The actions in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 is without prejudice to assessments or care services provided under any other enactment.

12. General Interpretation

For the purposes of the Act, the term autism refers to the entire autism spectrum, including, without limitation, Asperger syndrome.