

PE1704/N

Scottish Borders Council submission of 1 November 2018

- ***That every person in Scotland going through an autism diagnostic procedure will be assessed within a calendar year and receive a statutory services assessment from a qualified social worker as an integral part of this process, within twelve months from the date of their initial referral.***

This is an aspirational target but would certainly support children and families who rely on a diagnosis to access funding and other resources.

- ***That children with autism in mainstream schools will have their assessed needs for classroom support met by an ASL assistant with a recognised autism qualification as part of a mandatory registration process for ASL professionals.***

Currently where children and young people have an assessed need for an additional needs assistant to support them with their learning this is provided and appropriate training is given. If this were to change to a requirement and mandatory registration there may be issues with selection and recruitment of staff as well as additional resourcing to provide appropriate qualifications.

That young adults with autism will have a statutory right to specialist support from their local authority up to the age of 25.

Bringing this requirement under a statutory right will put significant pressure on current resources and will undoubtedly require a level of additionality.

- ***That an Autism Act will be in place within the next 5 years to enshrine specific rights and services for autistic people in our legal system.***

Additional resources will be required if the Act places duties on Local Authorities to deliver. Children and young people with autism have a wide range of needs and whilst some require specialist services as a constant others only require intermittent access. An Act would have to give careful consideration of the spectrum of need and support required.

If specific rights and services were resource driven then this would require additional funding in schools to allow local authorities to offer enhanced support to children affected by autism.