

PE1704/P

East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership submission of 2
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.***

We agree that diagnostic assessments should be completed within a calendar year.

We disagree that all individuals being assessed for autism should be assessed by a qualified social worker.

Children may benefit from a wellbeing assessment consistent with the national practice model within a child's plan with resources put in place to support wellbeing and curriculum access, however, there would be challenges meeting and maintaining this target. These children do not always necessarily require social work intervention.

Many autistic adults are able to manage their lives without the need for statutory services. SIGN 145 Assessment, diagnosis and interventions for autism spectrum disorders states - A national clinical guideline June 2016 makes provision for assessment services to "involve relevant multiagency colleagues (education, social work, voluntary sector, careers advisors, employers, as appropriate) on a needs led basis.

- ***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.***

We do not agree that this would not always be appropriate in terms of meeting assessed needs of the child or young person and in some cases may have a negative impact on development

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

We agree with this for young adults with autism under the Children's and Young Person's Act 2104 where a corporate parenting duty exists. For those supported under S23 of the Children (S) Act 1995 a managed transition should be carried out between the ages of 16 and 18.

- ***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.***

We do not agree that there is a need for a specific Autism Act. A focus on specific diagnosed conditions always leaves certain groups behind in provision made. There is a need for specific consideration of the needs and rights of all individuals with communication and support needs.