

## Policy and Scrutiny Committee Childrens Services, Isle of Wight

<b>Date considered:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	<b>Item</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<i>Isle of Wight Autism Service Update</i>	
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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This paper is to brief committee members on progress made to commission an Autism Assessment service for children and young people on the Isle of Wight in response to a gap in service which has been the subject of intense media and political scrutiny over the past year.
- 1.2 The CCG recognises that there has been a gap in service which has led to unacceptable delays in children receiving an autism assessment. We have apologised to families and are pleased we are now in position to commence this new service to clear the backlog, whilst at the same time developing our delivery model with the Isle of Wight NHS Trust for new referrals.

### 2. Autism Service Update

- 2.1 In August 2018, the Hampshire & Isle of Wight CCG Partnership identified a provider to work alongside the Isle of Wight NHS Trust to deliver a new Autism Diagnosis service for children and young people from early September 2018.
- 2.2 There are 480 children and young people waiting for an autism assessment on the Isle of Wight.
- 2.3 Following a procurement process to ensure high standards of safety and quality, Psicon Ltd has been selected to work in partnership with the Isle of Wight NHS Trust to provide this new service. Psicon Ltd offers a flexible service for families which includes weekend and evening appointments. To ensure that waiting times are reduced as quickly as possible, Psicon Ltd provide a diagnosis (if appropriate) for families on the same day as their first appointment.
- 2.4 Clinics commenced from Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and already feedback received from parents has been hugely positive, rating Psicon Ltd ten out ten for the service provided. To date over 50 assessments have been carried out by Psicon.

- 2.5 The offer of online autism assessments using a technology based solution through an organisation called Healios Ltd is also available. Families will be able to talk to clinicians from their own home, rather than travelling to a clinic. Appointments will be available 7 days a week between the hours of 8am and 9pm. This pilot service has initially been commissioned to see 50 children. There will be certain criteria to access this service which will be discussed with individual families. Online assessments are initially being offered to children between 10 and 12 years and take up is purely patient choice. The online service will also be offered to those who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday whilst waiting for an appointment with the previous service, as an alternative to being transferred to the adult ASD service which currently has a waiting time of over 10 months.
- 2.6 Both Psicon Ltd and Healios Ltd are working closely with the Isle of Wight NHS Trust who will act as the Single Point of Access for all referrals. Professor Turk will be delivering a service to families presenting with high clinical risk factors, whilst at the same time, working with commissioners to design a sustainable service for the future.
- 2.7 A robust due diligence process has taken place in relation to the quality of patient files and the CCG is confident that the selected providers will clear the backlog of assessments by the end of August 2019 at the very latest.
- 2.8 We recently held an Autism welcome event on the island to offer families the opportunity to get to know their new providers and understand the options available to them in terms of the assessment format as well as pre-and post assessment advice and support. Over 300 parents and professionals attended the event and the feedback received was very positive. An Autism Facebook page was established in October which currently has over 200 members. The page is run by commissioners and is used by parents every day to ask questions about the service and has proved very useful in clarifying rumours and myths in relation to the services available to children on the island.
- 2.9 We want families to feel assured that Psicon Ltd, Healios Ltd and the Isle of Wight NHS Trust are fully committed to meeting the needs of all children waiting for an ASC assessment as safely and as quickly as possible.
- 2.10 We have been working closely with key stakeholders including schools and GPs to ensure they are informed about the new arrangement as well as plans for a sustainable service in the future.