**Report & Recommendation Response Form**

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| Report sent to  |  |
| Date sent |  |
| Report title |  |
|  | Response(If there is a nil response please provide an explanation for this within the statutory 20 days) |
| Date of response provided |  |
| * Please outline your general response to the report including **what you are currently doing to address** some of the issues identified.
 | Thank you for sharing your report of the work you have done to increase understanding of the needs of local people with autism / learning disability. Over the last 18 months South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust) has (with a steering group of service users & carers) coproduced **South London & Maudsley’s NHS Foundation Trust Autism Strategy 2024 – 2029 which** was launched earlier this year. The Healthwatch Report is a useful addition to the bank of stakeholder feedback which has informed the strategy. Within this document there are a set of recommendations for the Trust covering the following themes: * Awareness & Training
* Service User & Carer Experience
* Access to Healthcare
* Diagnostic Pathway
* Treatment & Support
* Autism & the workforce

The following recommendations around overseeing the Strategy have been made: * The creation of a Trust-wide lead role for autism, and dedicated directorate lead roles for autism.
* The creation of a Trust-wide Autism Advisory Group, made up of service users, carers and staff, to support directorates with the implementation of the recommendations and their learning.

The Estia Centre supports learning & development across the Trust around LDA. * [The Estia Centre - South London and Maudsley (slam.nhs.uk)](https://slam.nhs.uk/estia-centre-home)

Actions relating to many of the recommendations in the Healthwatch Report are covered in the Trusts Autism Strategy. The actions are not being taken as a direct result of the Healthwatch report findings but due to recent & current feedback from stakeholders.  |
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|  | Please outline what **actions** and/or improvements you will undertake **as a result of the report’s findings and recommendations**.If not applicable, please state this and provide a brief explanation of the reasons. |
| Recommendation 1  | **Training*** The Oliver McGowan training is now part of the suite of mandatory training for all staff.
* The Estia Centre offers a range of training modules to develop staff awareness around learning disability: [Estia Training Programme Modules - South London and Maudsley (slam.nhs.uk)](https://slam.nhs.uk/estia-training-programme-modules)
* A recommendation in the Autism strategy sets out the following in relation to training: “This must include training on cultural competency and how autism presents in different demographic groups and consider awareness of families and carers in training. This will include a process to review the mandatory training and establish if it sufficiently meets all requirements for training and awareness of autism and how it might present in different groups e.g. relating to gender, and how it presents across the age range, and supplement if necessary. There may be need for specific training for specialist clinical areas, in services for children and young people and for different professions (within 2 years).”
* The Trust has developed a Learning disability champion network where each ward and directorate should have identified champions and we have monthly network meetings and annual education events
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| Recommendation 2 | **Communication*** Accessible Information Standard - all directorates are monitored on their compliance with this standard - crucial to supporting communication differences and challenges arising from all disabilities and inclusive of LDA
* The Autism Strategy identifies the following further recommendations: “all services should be compliant with the target of 90% of autistic children, young people, and adults to have AIS need recorded in their patient record within 1 year” and “develop and offer a range of resources to help staff recognise and support autistic people, including autism alert cards and communication passports.”
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| Recommendation 3 | **Sharing information** * There is a Trustwide Learning Disability and Autism drop-in clinic - runs weekly for any staff to bring clinical queries and seek advice. Southwark Teams often use this service.
* From the Autism Strategey – “Ask autistic children, young people and adults and carers about their experiences of accessing and engaging with mainstream services in the Trust and develop an improvement plan based on the findings”. The strategy also outlines our intention to improve partnership working across the sector: “To improve awareness, understanding of diagnostic and support pathways and identify gaps in provision across the age range and opportunities to collaborate”
* Southwark Inpatient Services have a full time staff member dedicated to supporting carers. Their role includes signposting to access carers assessments.
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| Recommendation 4  | **Operational issues*** From the Autism Strategy – “Estates be audited to ensure services are autism friendly, and autistic people co-produce the standards to ensure they are autism friendly.”
* One of the Trustwide Equality Objectives is to reduce resctrictive practice, including for people with learning disabilities
* From the Autism Strategy: “The Equalities Team to ensure the Reasonable Adjustment flag to be implemented in line with NHSE policy, and a central point to go to within the Trust to be identified, if a service user is struggling to have their request heard or implemented.”
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| Add recommendations if there are more than 4.  |  |
| Signed |  |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |