

**Appendix to Autism Strategy:
consultation feedback**

Feedback from Online Engagement Event with Autistic people, their carers, members of the co-production network, officers from Slough Borough Council, Slough CVS organisations, and other relevant stakeholders on 15th December 2023

An engagement event took place via Microsoft Teams in October 2023. The event was attended by Autistic Adults, carers of Autistic individuals, Care Providers operating in the Slough area, Slough CVS organisations, officers from Slough Borough Council, and other relevant community stakeholders. The engagement event was positive, and attendees broadly agreed on eight priorities and a series of actions to address their needs and priorities.

The following suggestions on actions which should be taken under each of the priority areas that have been used to inform this Strategy are summarised below.

Promote Independent Living

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Community engagement to plan and communicate initiatives	3
Improved accessibility features in the community (sensory)	16
Improved access to services and information.	13
Opportunities to develop skills toward increased levels of independence (functional, social, emotional, etc)	12
More opportunities for people to get together in the community	13
Peer support and Expert by Experience initiatives for day-to-day management	Action Plan
Improved universal education about Autism in the community	11
Improved transport network to navigate the community	16

Providing Quality Support in the Community

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Community awareness of Autism difficulties	11
Dedicated sensory spaces in the community	Action Plan
Improved communication in accessible format	16
Dedicated Autism-friendly days (shops, entertainment, etc)	Action Plan
Valuing Carers involvement	3

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Creating value and improve self-advocacy through peer-mentoring support	Action Plan
Improved Autism assessment pathways in the community	12
Improved Response timing from locality teams and SEN	Action Plan
Alternative contact for professional support (not only emails)	16
Dedicated person to access for information and help	Action Plan
Autism HUB development (EBE staffed)	Action Plan
Digital community resources to access information and support (peer-led)	Action Plan

Integration of Health and Social Care

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Improved awareness of Autism adaptations for health appointments	12
Improved collaboration to reduce waiting lists	12
Improved access to learning opportunities for Health and ASC staff	Action Plan
Alternative form of communication (no more long letters)	15
Improved communication between GP surgeries and ASC teams.	15
Improved assessment pathways (joint assessment)	12

Pathways for transition to adulthood

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Implement discussion forums to work together	3
Involving carers in the decision-making process together with the person	3
Timely referral and single point of contact	Action Plan
Network engagement among Special Education Needs, children, and adult services	Action Plan
Creation of skill building and employment opportunities	17
Pathways for skill development since school age	17
Improved involvement of housing department and SEN	17

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Pathway for early preparation to support the passage to adulthood	12
Improved information sharing in multimedia format	12

Support employment, skill development, and training

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Promote people’s independence and autonomy at all ages	3
Creation of a community network to develop tailored opportunities	16
Resources and Autism Awareness for organisations and businesses	Action Plan
Skill development programmes within the community	16
Creation of local programmes for Autistic People over 30	12
Expert by experience trainings and mentoring support at work	Action Plan

Empowering people to stay safe and free from abuse

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Community Awareness of Autistic needs	11
Awareness pathways to promote self-protection to start early in life (childhood)	12
Improved road safety	Action Plan
Improved access and awareness of technology that can support safety	Action Plan
Single point of contact to report abuse and concerns	12

Prevent loneliness and social isolation

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Availability of special interest groups and activities in the community	Action Plan
Improved transport link to access activities in the community	16
Peer mentoring programmes to develop confidence	Action Plan
Implementation of befriending-like services dedicated to Autism	Action Plan
Improved communication on community initiatives and participation	13
Sensory adequate spaces in the community	16

Improving Communication and Information sharing

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Availability of special interest groups and activities in the community	Action Plan
Improved transport link to access activities in the community	16
Peer mentoring programmes to develop confidence	Action Plan
Implementation of befriending-like services dedicated to Autism	Action Plan
Improved communication on community initiatives and participation	13
Sensory adequate spaces in the community	16
Single point of contact for support and information access	13
Information available in different formats	16
Different options to get in contact with services (not only emails)	Action Plan
Creation of one-stop shop or HUB in the community for support and information sharing	Action Plan

Feedback from In-Person Engagement Event with Autistic people, their carers, members of the co-production network, officers from Slough Borough Council, Slough CVS organisations, and other relevant stakeholders on 18th December 2023

An engagement event took place at Observatory House on 18th December 2023. The event was attended by Autistic Adults, carers of Autistic individuals, Care Providers operating in the Slough area, Slough CVS organisations, officers from Slough Borough Council, and other relevant community stakeholders. The engagement event was positive, and attendees broadly agreed on eight priorities and a series of actions to address their needs and priorities.

The engagement event was positive, and attendees broadly agreed with the eight priorities. The following suggestions on actions which should be taken under each of the priority areas that have been used to inform this Strategy are summarised below:

Promote Independent Living

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Improved access to information on available services and local resources.	13
Creation of partnership board for autism stakeholders to influence decision making	3
Single point of contact within the council – must include housing support	13
Improve access to adaptation and communication (not only letters or emails)	16
Improved awareness of Autism in the community	11
Improved maintenance response and communication for council tenants	15
Improved access to technology to facilitate independent living	15
Improved tailored housing options (living close to relatives and carers)	15
Development of a peer-support network	Action Plan

Providing Quality Support in the Community

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Community initiatives for support (EBE)	Action Plan
Dedicated rehabilitation services - basics	Action Plan
Improved offer of semi-independent accommodations (peer support)	Action Plan
Skill development initiatives in the community (i.e. travel training)	Action Plan
Improved autism awareness in the wider community and professionals	11
Single point of access for information, advice, and support	Action Plan

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Creation of HUB for support groups, activities, events, etc.	Action Plan
Development of the Autistic Housing Register	Action Plan

Integration of Health and Social Care

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Improved professional communication (tell your story once)	15
Creation of a register shared between GPs and ASC for people who have additional needs	Action Plan
Improved access to information and relevant professionals in different multimedia formats	15
Improved sensory adaptation for health appointments	12
Improved awareness of Autism needs in health settings	12

Pathways for transition to adulthood

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Basic functional life skills programme	17
Effective handover of information between children and adult professionals	17
Single point of contact for advice and support	17
Early planning and timely referral	17
Improved communication (not only letters and emails)	17
Mentoring programmes	Action Plan

Support employment, skill development, and training

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
More opportunities for 30+	12
Improve awareness of accessibility needs and reasonable adaptations	12
Improve awareness of augmented and assisted communication tools	12
Peer mentoring support and EBE for career advice	Action Plan
More variety of placements	16

Empowering people to stay safe and free from abuse

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Improved road safety	Action Plan
Improved transport network	16
Revamping of town centre to facilitate access	Action Plan
Raise awareness of Autism in the wider community	11
Improved access to information and communication	Action Plan

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Exploring technology that could support safety in the community	Action Plan

Prevent loneliness and social isolation

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Improved access to information	13
Creation of HUB for activities, advice, events, etc	Action Plan
Improved offer of Autism dedicated clubs (including youth clubs)	Action Plan
Improved awareness of Autistic needs in the community	11
Improved sensory adaptations in the community	16
Creation of dedicated Autism-friendly day to facilitate community access	Action Plan
Improved transport network and accessibility features in town	16

Improving Communication and Information sharing

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
More direct communication and available in different multimedia formats	16
Steering group to involve housing, employment, and other relevant sector to facilitate thriving of autistic people	3
Raising Autism awareness in the community	11
Single point of access for information, support, and advice	Action Plan

Open Feedback from Online and paper-based multilingual questionnaire issued to Autistic people, their carers, members of the co-production network, officers from Slough Borough Council, Slough CVS organisations, and other relevant stakeholders during December 2023

An easy-read and multilingual questionnaire with open ended questions has been issued to Autistic Adults, their families and carers, Care Providers operating in the Slough area, Slough CVS organisations, officers from Slough Borough Council, the Co-production network, including Hope College volunteers, Autism Group and other relevant stakeholders. The response rate was positive, and attendees broadly agreed on the eight priorities.

The following suggestions on actions which should be taken under each of the priority areas that have been used to inform this Strategy are summarised below.

Priorities to support the Autistic community

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Improved Autism Awareness in mainstream services (hospital, police, schools)	11
Skill development trainings for Autistic individuals	16
Improved support initiatives to get Autistic people into work and social activities	12
Creation of self-advocacy opportunities for Autistic People	3

Focus of support initiatives

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Multimedia communication and multi-channel interaction to reach Autistic people effectively	16
Keeping people safe by improving awareness, transports, and community services	Action Plan

How to make Slough an Autism-friendly community

Feedback	Minimum Inclusion in Strategy (Page Number)
Creation of Autism-friendly service directory in the community to facilitate community participation	Action Plan
Autism awareness initiatives for the wider community	11
Creation of accreditation system or certificate for businesses that support Autistic individuals	Action Plan
Dedicated regular Autism events	Action Plan
Creation of a hub run by Autistic individuals to deliver projects	Action Plan