



# The Carers Centre

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

*at the heart of caring*

# The Autism Act 2009, guidelines linked to the Act and useful links.

Gill Huddleston

Family Carers meeting Thursday 16th November 2017

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Carers of Leicestershire Advocacy and Support Project  
Registered Charity No: 1043956 • Company No: 2994093 • Patron: Cllr. Manjula Sood MBE  
The Carers Centre is committed to being a quality led organisation providing advocacy,  
information and support to carers across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland.



# The Autism Act 2009 basic information

It is the first ever disability-specific law in England.

Approximately 1% of the population have autism.(information from Think Autism: Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives, the strategy for adults with autism in England: update April 2014)

That is about the same number of people who have dementia.

# The Autism Act 2009 basic information

- Approximately 1 person in 3 who has a learning disability also has autism.
- Mental Health problems can be more common among people who have autism
- But AUTISM is neither a learning disability or a mental health problem.

# The Autism Act 2009

- The Autism Act 2009 did two key things.
- The first was to put a duty on the Government to produce a strategy for autistic adults, which was published in March 2010
- The second was to place a duty on the Government to produce statutory guidance for local councils and local health bodies on implementing the adult autism strategy by the end of 2010. This guidance was published in December 2010.

# The Adult Autism Strategy

- The first one for people who have autism in England was called:
- Fulfilling and rewarding lives and was published in 2010
- In April 2014 the strategy was updated and is called:

**Think Autism**

# The Autism Act 2009 statutory guidance

- The latest statutory guidance was published in March 2015
- Remember this is the guidance that Local Councils and Local Health Services should be working within to help adults who have autism.

# Think Autism

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/think-autism-an-update-to-the-government-adult-autism-strategy>

This website gives you a link to the Think Autism document and the easy read version.

# Think Autism

- I am using the easy read version here but if you want more detailed information you can use the website to look at the big document.
- The document covers some important information about autism:
- It says that autism affects how the person who has autism deals with other people and how they understand the world around them.
- It makes it clear that if you have autism you have it for life, it doesn't; go away.



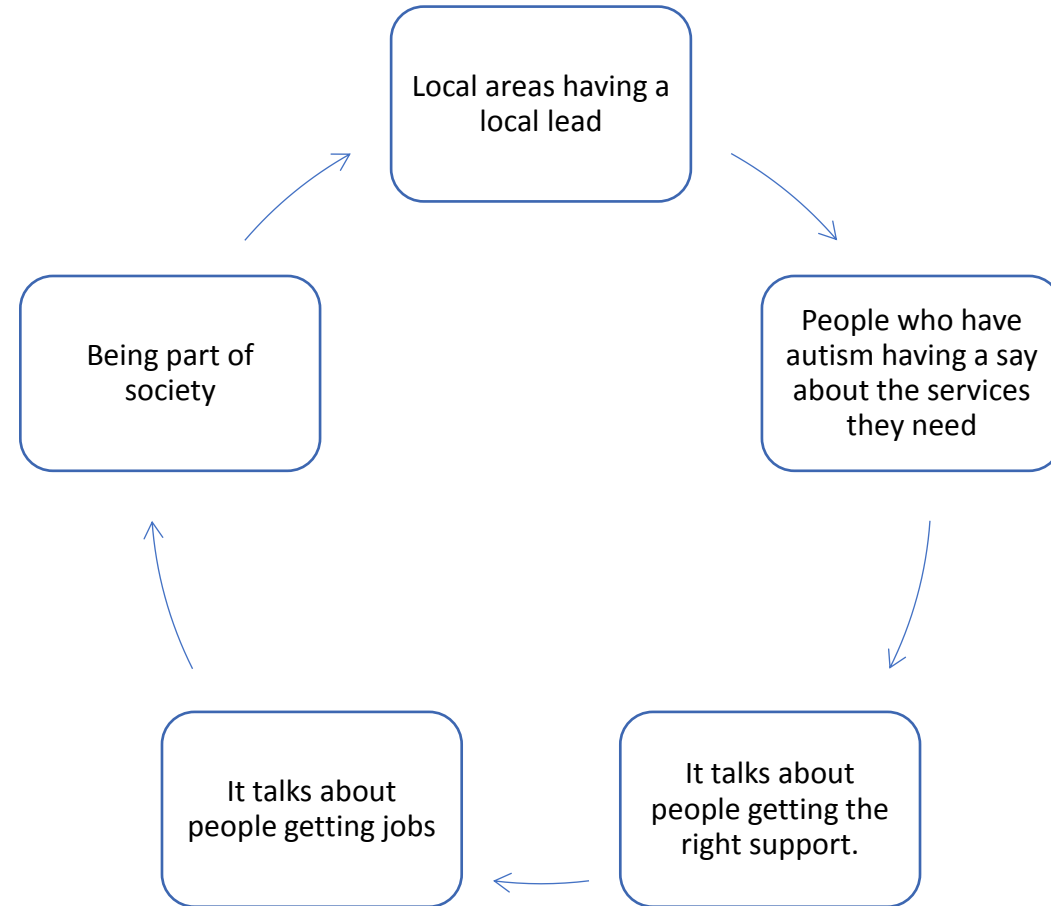
# Think Autism

It covers what the accepted areas of where someone who has autism has difficulties in doing:

1. Talking to other people to say what you need and how you feel
2. Meeting new people and making new friends
3. Understanding what other people are thinking

It doesn't mention about sensory issues but they are issues that many people who have autism have difficulties with.

# Think Autism aims to make things better for adults who have autism in England by:



# Think Autism

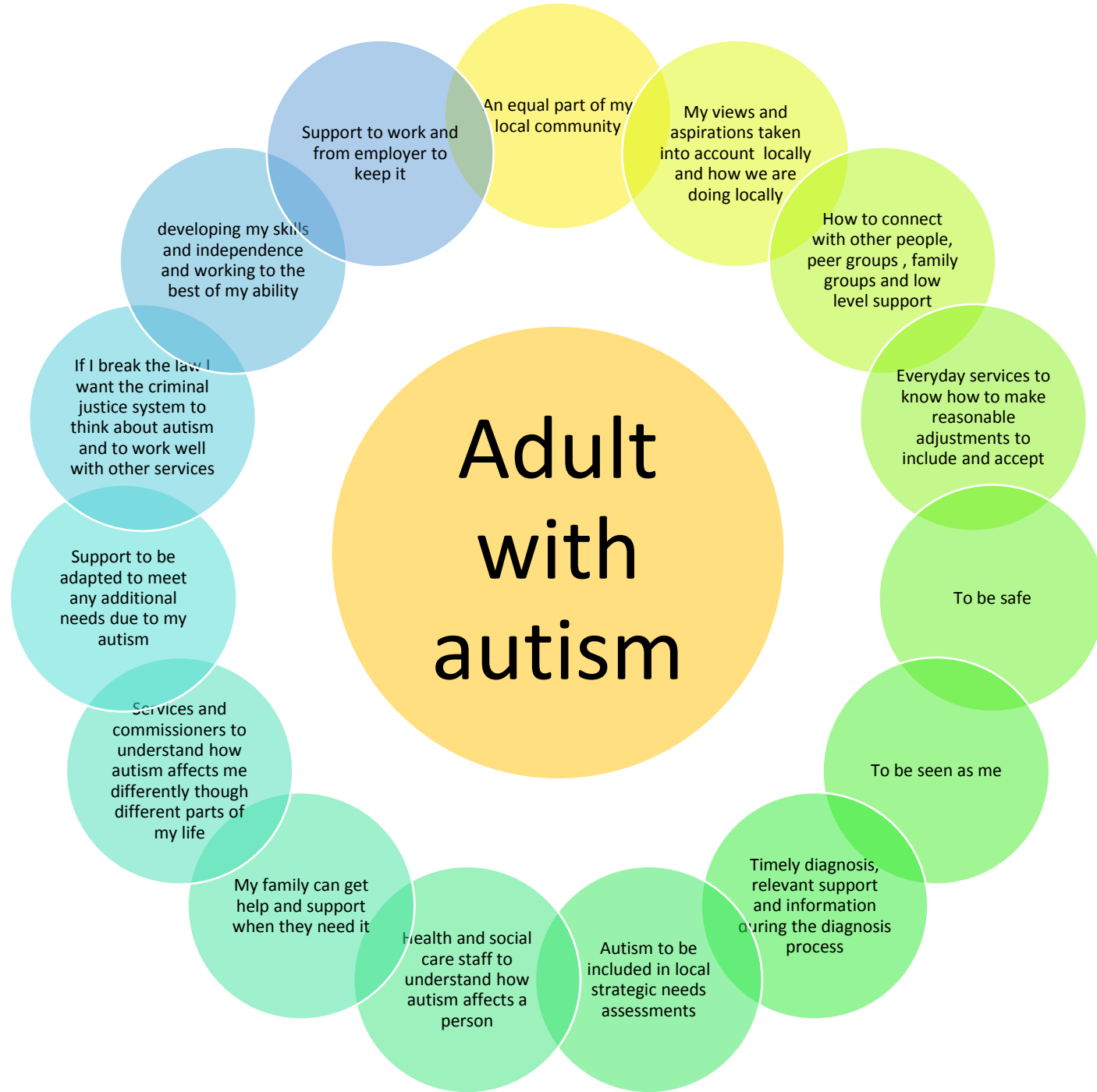
- What needs to change is in part 1 of the document.

Before we look at that what do you think needs to change?

Now look at the easy read document do you feel that this is what is happening?

# Think Autism

- Part 2 covers how the Government plan to check progress.
- Part 3 talks about promoting innovation and awareness.
- Part 4 covers the 15 Priority Challenges for Action.



# Adult autism Strategy: statutory guidance March 2015

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-autism-strategy-statutory-guidance>
- Statutory guidance for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy



Training for staff

Identification and diagnosis

Children to adult planning

Local service planning

preventative and safeguarding

Reasonable adjustments and equality

Statutory guidance

Statutory  
guidance  
continued

Supporting  
people with  
complex  
needs

Working with  
the criminal  
justice system

employment



# Where can I find further information

The National Autistic Society

<http://www.autism.org.uk/about/strategy/overview.aspx>

**NICE** (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence)

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128/chapter/Introduction>

**Autism spectrum disorder in under 19s: recognition, referral and diagnosis**

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg142>

**Autism spectrum disorder in adults: diagnosis and management**

# Where can I find further information

- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Autism Strategy Group Delivery Action Plan for the Autism Strategy and the Diagnostic and Support Pathway

<http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/Library/DeliveryActionPlanforAutism5214v11.pdf>

- City autism self assessment 2016

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk/documents/s80800/City%20Autism%20SAF%20outcomes%202016%20presentation.pdf>

# Where can I find further information

Leicestershire County Council THE AUTISM OUTREACH SERVICE

Working Practice 2016/17

<https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2017/1/19/AOS-Working-Practice-Document-2016-17-v2.pdf>

Royal College of General Practitioners

**Autistic Spectrum Disorders Toolkit**

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/toolkits/asd-toolkit.aspx>

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/clinical-resources/autistic-spectrum-disorder.aspx>