

## **HSE Announces Autism Spectrum Disorder Review**

The HSE has established a cross divisional working group to undertake a review of the level of supports and services to people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The working group will consider the operational effectiveness of existing health services responses in addressing the particular needs of those with autism spectrum disorder and seek to identify models of good practice. The working group will report on its findings by the end of September 2017.

Future provision of services for children and adults with ASD must be in line with the Government's commitment to mainstreaming; where people with a disability have access to the same services as the general population, and in addition receive the appropriate support and intervention to address individual needs. This integrated approach to meeting the health needs of people with disabilities is designed to ensure generic health needs, which can be met at primary care level, are addressed by primary care teams and where specialist knowledge, skill or expertise is required service users are referred to specialist services.

The working group would welcome submissions from service users, parents, and practitioners in respect of their experience relating to:

1. Effectiveness of existing services
2. Models of good practice

All staff are being asked to bring this Review to attention of service users in their area. If staff have a family member or friend with ASD we would encourage them to put forward submissions to the Working Group.

Submissions should be between 500 and 1000 words and emailed to [asd@hse.ie](mailto:asd@hse.ie) no later than the 12th of September. Each submission will be acknowledged by the working group; however the group will not enter into correspondence in respect of individual submissions. Please be aware that submissions are subject to Freedom of Information legislation and may be referred to in the final review.

### **Working Group members**

Chair – Tony Canavan, Chief Officer

Mental Health - Sinead Reynolds , Senior Manager

Disability – Michael Byrne, General Manager

Primary care – Bill Ebbitt, General Manager

Further information is available on this link [www.hse.ie/autismreview](http://www.hse.ie/autismreview).