



Leicester
City Council

News release

Friday August 5, 2011
For immediate release

Local partners back national autism campaign

Children in Leicester are set to benefit from a pledge which aims to improve mental health support for youngster with autism.

NHS Leicester City in partnership with Leicester City Council has signed a pledge to work together to improve mental health support services for children with autism and their carers. They have backed the '*You need to know*' set up by the National Autistic Society to help better shape children's mental health support locally.

Many children with autism have a mental health problem, such as depression, obsessive compulsive disorder and other anxiety disorders. Autism is a complex disability and therefore an informed knowledge of how to recognise and diagnose the condition is crucial.

Melanie Thwaites, Associate Director of Children and Family services on behalf of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland cluster, said: "Having access to the right support systems at the right time can make a big difference to families and individuals living with autism.

"NHS Leicester City will work in partnership with Leicester City Council and the National Autistic Society to improve the way child and adolescent mental health services are delivered across the city."

Leicester Deputy City Mayor Rory Palmer, said: "One of our key aims is to ensure that every child and young person in the city has the chance to achieve all they are capable of. Making the right services available to those who live with autism is an important part of this, and we will do all we can to improve services in Leicester."

Mark Lever, chief executive of the National Autistic Society, said: "We know that many children with autism find it difficult to access the support they need to fulfil their potential. We are therefore delighted that NHS Leicester City and Leicester City Council have pledged to support the campaign."

ENDS

For interviews or more information please contact media officer Liz Thomas on 0116 295 4123 or liz.thomas@leicestercity.nhs.uk

Notes to editor:

NHS Leicester City is the operating name for Leicester City Primary Care Trust.

“You need to know” published by the National Autistic Society 2010.