Autism Assessment, Diagnosis and Support Service for Adults in Herefordshire

The Family Psychologist has been awarded a contract for two years to provide the following service:

a) Initial Assessment or Triage

An initial triage will be carried out to define the needs of the service user and together agree the outcomes required and approximate timescales of support.

b) Autism Specific Support

A suitable combination of one to one or group support to provide short-term support to develop an individual support plan and strategies.   It is expected that a service user and their family will be supported for no more than four sessions.   The support may be:
   ➢ low level support: for adults who either do not go through a clinical diagnosis or need low level support prior to undergoing the clinical diagnosis.   It is expected that a substantial number of service users will access this element of the service, some of whom will not need to progress to a higher level support or to be diagnosed;
   ➢ higher level support: this is likely to be for adult's post-diagnosis, it is anticipated that a smaller number of service users will access this element of the service.

c) Diagnosis

Generally, a diagnosis will be agreed if the service user demonstrates significant social disability in addition to the clinical presentation based on the conditions below:
   ➢ significant risk of self-harm; harm to others; risk of harm from others; or serious self-neglect;
   ➢ substantial disability caused by illness: such as an inability to self-care; care for dependants; or sustain relationships;
   ➢ recurring crises leading to frequent admissions/interventions;
   ➢ significant risk of homelessness, imprisonment, loss of work or supportive relationships;
   ➢ family support or designated support agency unable to cope with behaviours.

d) Working with Other providers across Pathways

Providing expert advice to health and social care providers on autism and their role in enabling access to support through appropriate reasonable adjustments.