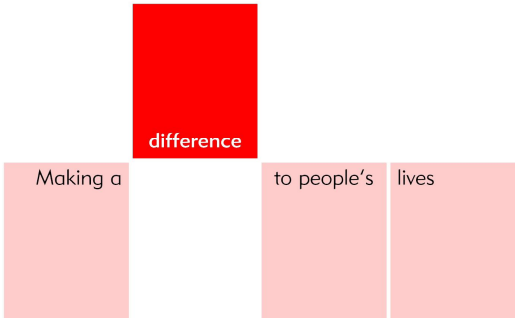
Developing and tailoring local services for adults with Asperger Syndrome



What has happened in Nottinghamshire
(and Nottingham City)

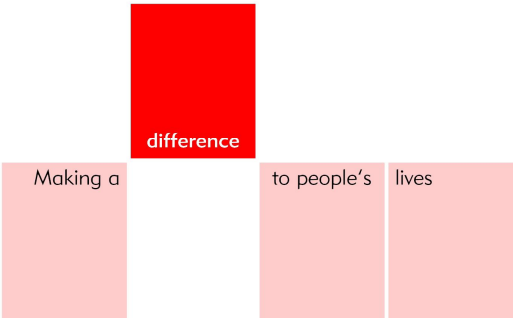
'Leadership and Pragmatism'

Nottinghamshire
County Council

Adult Social Care and Health

2009-2010

A bit about me – Paul Johnson

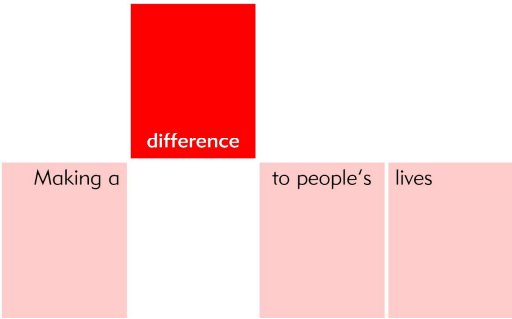


A bit about Nottinghamshire

-Nottinghamshire – 805 sq miles, 7 districts, 570,000 adults, less than 3% black minority population.

-Mansfield – Rebecca Adlington and Lord Byron
-Worksop – Lee Westwood and Mr Straw
-Eastwood – D.H Lawrence
-Newark - ?

Problem→Ideas→Solution = Pragmatism?



Pressure on Vulnerable Adults Teams

Pressures on CLDTs

Pressure on MH Team

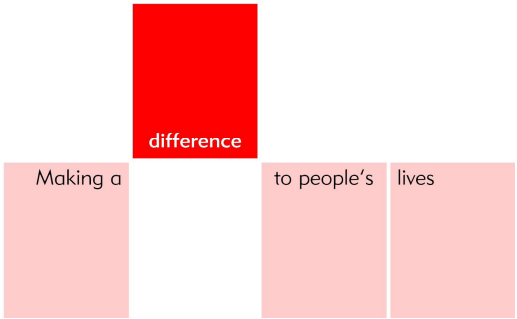
Pressure on transition workers

Lack of co-ordinated service response

→ "We need help…. to support people with Aspergers"

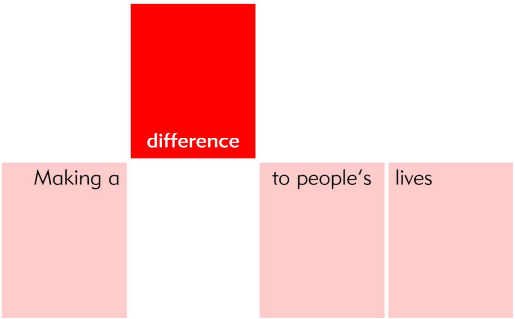
We knew what was not working but how to respond to the challenge?

Leadership – ‘doing the right thing’ - with a dollop of serendipity



- Local senior leaders listened to the concerns. Autism champion at Assistant Director level.
- Local people were lobbying the Council in response to NAS ‘I Exist’ campaign.
- Senior leaders needed to write a strategy and wisely devoted a chapter on Asperger Syndrome.
- Opportunity for modest injection of development funding.

Commissioning Strategy 2007-2009



www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/comstrataspergers.pdf

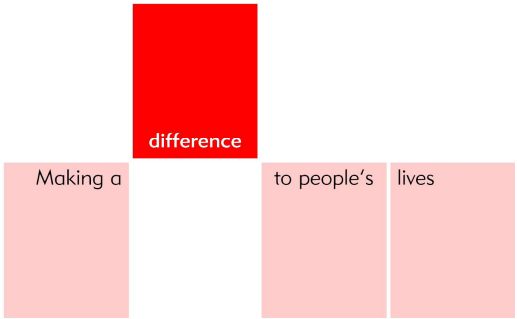
What we currently spend

Who we currently serve

Anticipated need and demand

What we were going to do

Developing of Nottinghamshire Adults with Aspergers Team



Social Care focus, with a vision to become a multi-agency team.

Social Care Component - £225k
1 Team Manager
2.5 WTE Social Workers
2 WTE Community Care Officers
1 Admin

Commenced fully in January 2009

A bit about context

Making a difference to people's lives

-Inherited cases from LD/MH/VA

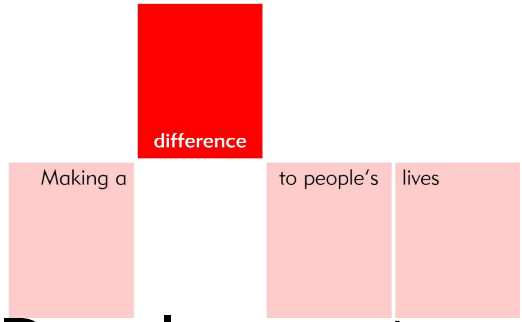
-FACS – Nottinghamshire moved to 'moderate' risk to independence

-Referrals received directly – not via a GP

-Referrals accepted where suspected diagnosis – or seeking diagnosis

Accessible service but ……

Immediate limitations



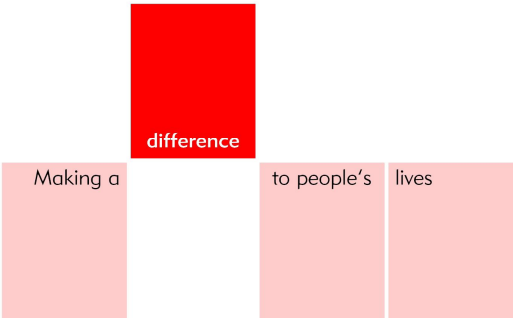
-No permanent health component (yet). Development of service underway but facing high demand.

-No infrastructure of services compared to LD; for example

- -Supported Living Co-ordinator
- -Adult Placement Scheme
- -variety of support services
- -dedicated Assessment/therapeutic supports

However, highly motivated team – now providing care management for 130 cases.

Pressures



-Referral rate currently 3 per week

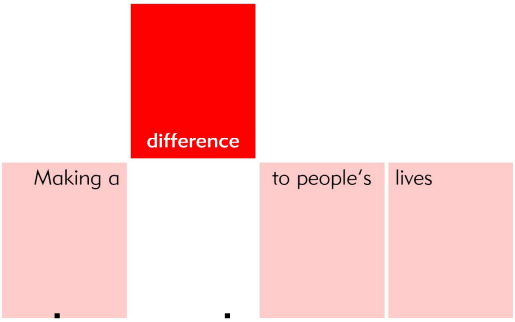
-Approximately 50 outstanding diagnostic assessments

-Pressure on service to immediately be seen as 'experts' – this develops

-large geography

-Demographic data – still not robust

What to work on: What is possible and Practical?



-We know the children with an Aspergers diagnosis coming through transitions

-We identify the likely costs next financial year, per person, for transitions and 'predicted need'. This assists Politicians/Chief Officers to set budgets

-We have 1 year of health provision, £100k for OT, SALT, Psychology, Psychiatry

-We have a strong case for PCTs to invest in a permanent health component

-We have a joint ASD Commissioning Strategy

-We have the example of Nottingham City investing in a health led Asperger Service.

Making a difference to people's lives

-We have extra investment in community care budget identified

-We have changed our expenditure codes to differentiate between LD/Autism/Aspergers – very helpful

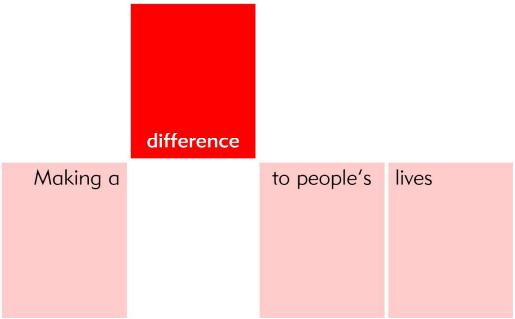
-We have evidenced that small(ish) packages work

-We have Aspergers presence at all commissioning and service groups: including:

- SDS/PPF
- Housing Strategy
- Employment
- Market management
- Training and development
- Welfare Rights

-We have a presence at LD partnership board – maybe a stepping stone to a separate, governance arrangement?

Observations



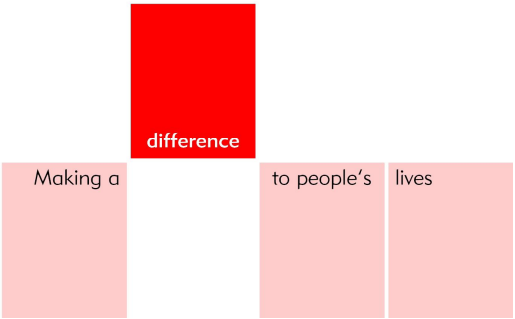
-Identify local leaders

-Clarify intentions

-Work hard at getting a voice/representation

-Look at the money and activity

In Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City



Clearly not 'there' yet – service not driven sufficiently by people with Aspergers or their carers, however, services are being delivered which are valued.

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adults_with_aspergers-june09.pdf