

**ASD Reference Group Meeting
23 October 2012, 10:00-14:00
4ER, St Andrew's House**

Present:

Jean Maclellan	Scottish Government Adult Care and Support (Chair)
Annette Pyle	Scottish Government Adult Care and Support
Kirsty Butts	Scottish Government Adult Care and Support
Julie Crawford	Scottish Government Adult Care and Support (Minute)
Alan Somerville	Scottish Autism
Prof. Aline-Wendy Dunlop	University of Strathclyde
Alison Leask	Autism Argyll & Parent
Anne Marie Gallagher	Autism Resource Centre, GCC & GGC
Carolyn Brown	Fife Council Psychological Service
Charlene Tait	Scottish Autism
Dr Tommy McKay	Psychology Consultancy Services
Ian Hood	Learning Disability Alliance Scotland
Idem Lewis	Learning Disability Alliance Scotland
Jane Neil-MacLachlan	NHS Lothian
Kabie Brook	Autism Rights Group Highland
Paul Lennon	Autism Resource Centre, Glasgow
Peter McCulloch	Association of Directors of Social work
Richard Ibbotson	Autism Initiatives
Robert MacBean	The National Autistic Society Scotland
Val Sellars	Scottish Centre for Autism
Michael McCue	Joint Improvement Team

Apologies:

Beth Hall	COSLA
David Watt	HM Inspector Scotland
Dr Iain McClure	NHS Lothian
Dr Ken Aitken	Ken Aitken Consultancy
Jane Hook	Parent
Kirsten Hogg	Camphill Scotland
Linda Connolly	The Care Inspectorate
Robert Moffat	The National Autistic Society Scotland
Stella Macdonald	Fife Council/NHS Fife
Dr Andrew Stanfield	Patrick Wild Centre for Research into Autism

Item 1: Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Jean welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and noted.

Item 2: Minutes of and Action Points from meeting held on 23 August 2012

2.1 The Minute was approved.

2.2 All Action Points have been cleared except AP5 and AP9 to be carried forward. AP11 – The topic of Ethics and Autism will be on a future agenda.

Item 3: ASD Reference Group Sub-groups Update

Subgroup 1 – Charlene Tait

3.1 Paul Henderson met with the ADSW Learning Disability Sub-group who advised they did not feel that the commissioning guidance is useful; more

individualised guidance is needed. Sub-group 1 will explore this further and are planning a broader seminar to review and update the guidance. Some of the ADSW Learning Disability Sub-group were unaware of the commissioning guidance, which was published before the autism strategy and is not in line with it.

3.2 Jean advised that 'The same as you?' consultation has now closed and commissioning has been highlighted in many of the responses. A broader national picture is necessary before commissioning can be reviewed and it is hoped that autism mappers can contribute to this by capturing commissioning in their work. In order to develop local autism plans, local authorities have each been given £35,000 by the Scottish Government who will monitor this. Guidance, with a link to the autism strategy, should be given to local authorities and could be useful for those who are in the first stages of developing an autism plan.

3.3 The Annex of the letter sent to local authorities regarding the above funding shows the context and the 10 year plan and vision of the strategy. It also lists the 10 indicators for current best practice and guidance on Community Planning Partnerships. We need to look at how best to commission services, ensuring smart working with available resources. The autism strategy is an attempt to put a stronger framework in place which will last.

3.4 Sub-group 1 will now be focusing on the outcomes with regard to Best Value – Invest to Save, experiences of commissioning in relation to outcomes and commissioning itself and work on this will take place at the 1 November autism event.

3.5 Kabie mentioned the need to safeguard educational funding.

Action Point 1

Michael McCue to send papers on work on commissioning by Tony Homer and other commissioning papers to Julie to distribute to the Group.

Action Point 2

Charlene to send papers on commissioning when available.

Action Point 3

Annette to include a clear link to the Strategy and 10 indicators for best practice in covering letter sent to local authorities regarding funding for local autism plans.

Action Point 4

Care team to ask David Thompson what can be done in terms of safeguarding educational funding.

Subgroup 2 – Ian Hood

3.5 The group have discussed 3 issues – transitions, involvement and training and are examining existing training frameworks/initiatives currently in place, including the National Autism Training Programme written by A-W Dunlop and Scottish Autism getting accreditation for trainers. NHS Education Scotland are keen

to actively participate in the training work. The existing training framework is useful consideration needs given as to what constitutes training and what does not.

3.6 Turning training into practice can be a challenge; experiential learning and support is necessary for this to happen. There is currently a lack of succession planning, with too few people able to support learning. This needs incorporated in training. Affordability of courses, particularly longer ones, can be an issue. The Scottish Government has given £100k to the Open University and the University of Strathclyde to provide a limited number of free training places to professionals and parents of people on the autism spectrum, to increase their understanding of autism, through distance learning; and in the case of Strathclyde University also via on campus and outreach tuition. Funding will continue next year and will aim to ensure a spread both geographically and in terms of applications from both professionals and others.

3.7 Some people think that they are fully trained after 'awareness' level training. A framework can be developed so that levels of training are clear to people undertaking training. 'Award'- bearing and 'non-award'- bearing courses need to be offered and the correct people targeted for these. Higher level courses should have an expectation for people to evidence knowledge through practice.

Action Point 5

Member of NES to be invited to join Sub-group 2 and NES to be included in existing training group discussions.

Action Point 6

Autism Network Scotland to assist Sub-group 2 by asking colleagues what training they're aware of and posting it on their website.

Action Point 7

Succession planning to be made a future agenda item.

Subgroup 3 – Menu of Interventions - Jane Neil MacLachlan

3.8 There is much good professional practice across Scotland which is not formally documented. This needs to happen and an evidence base developed. Sub-group 3 have identified many informal evidence-appropriate interventions and looked at outcomes, collating them in a document with 1 table (originally 4 tables). The Menu of Interventions can be used by local authorities and multi-agency autonomous groups and by individuals / groups to identify gaps. It has been trialled in the Borders and by clinical psychologists and is considered both practical and flexible. Further practical work will be essential to produce an evidence base.

3.9 The following questions will be asked at the 1 November event at the workshop:

- Do we need 4 tables?
- Do we need to separate interventions for supports?
- Do we need a regional strategic group?
- Is it too medical?

It is hoped that the Menu of Interventions will be published after the Reference Group meeting in December. It will be sent to Subgroup 6 members for discussion.

3.10 Merging all 4 tables was considered a good idea, possibly linking the Menu of Interventions with a directory of resources to enable people to access services and ensure interventions are put into practice. It is the responsibility of local areas to use the Menu and it is hoped that Local Authorities and Health Boards will provide a steer in this regard. Aline-Wendy mentioned the Autism Network in connection with publicising examples of good practice.

Action Point 8

Autism Network Scotland to help to collect examples of good practice across Scotland and publish those mentioned in the Menu of Interventions.

Subgroup 4 – Wider Opportunities and Access to Work – Richard Ibbotson

3.11 The group has issued a short summary of their work around Recommendation 26 of the autism strategy. They have looked at the Supported Employment Framework which will now be included in the refreshed version of the Workforce Plus Programme. However, there is no value in looking at this in isolation. Sub-group 4 will consider how they can link and contribute to the work of other sub-groups.

Subgroup 5 – Research – Alan Somerville

3.12 The sub-group feel there is no particular structure or framework for the development of research on autism in the context of the Strategy. They will classify existing projects/research work in terms of its value and create a matrix of projects using information from local authorities, National Autistic Society, Scottish Autism and other leading organisations and experts. They will meet in December to discuss the number of topics the research will cover and which projects to use, from which to build knowledge. The group will draw on technical experts regarding what is useful / not useful. They will visit other autism colleagues across the UK to see what already exists, including the West Midlands Autism Society and the University of Birmingham and commission work, avoiding duplication with other work in the UK.

3.13 Peter suggested Autism Mappers be used to gather information on what research is being undertaken, to avoid duplication, copying in Liz Catterson, as Project Lead.

3.14 Alan was asked if people with autism will be part of the research group work. The research group will initially be small but as the agenda grows, people with autism will be invited to have input into this work. The work will be available to Sub-group 6 for comment.

Action Point 9 Peter to contact Liz once he has consulted experts.

3.15 Aline-Wendy has submitted a proposal to the Scottish Universities Insight Institute, 'Acting on Autism Research' which may be helpful to shared Strategy work on research.

Action Point 10

A discussion on Scottish Universities Insight Institute – Acting on Autism Research, written by Aline-Wendy Dunlop, to be a future agenda item.

Subgroup 5 – Users and Carers – Kirsty Butts

3.16 All participants at the Subgroup 6 Workshop on 6 August were sent a form to indicate whether they still wish to be considered as part of the sub-group. Responses were analysed; 10 people with ASD and 11 parents/carers were selected for the new group. The Minister approved membership and responses to offers made are now being received. The first meeting will take place after the 1 November event. The group will provide a Minute and highlight any issues of importance for the ASD Reference Group by completing a template after every meeting, as for other subgroups, forwarding this to the Care and Support team.

3.17 Independent facilitation has not yet been arranged. The Scottish Government will help with the first meetings until an independent Chair can be nominated.

Item 4: Scottish Strategy for Autism Event – 1 November 2012 – Michael McCue

4.1 Michael provided an update on preparations for the 1 November autism event and invited feedback from the group. Following the Minister for Public Health's address, Councillor Peter Johnson will now speak to highlight the Scottish Government's partnership with COSLA. Jean Maclellan will present on the work of the Strategy, followed by sub-group leader presentations on sub-group work. Presentation templates should be submitted prior to the event.

4.2 There will be 2 afternoon workshops. Workshop 1 will consist of 7 groups, based on the 5 existing sub-groups, one stop shops and mapping coordinator work. Workshop facilitators are each to consider 2 -3 key questions, opening a subject for discussion and inviting views from attendees. Sub-group members should each attend different workshops in order to feedback. Workshop 2 will be offered on a regional basis and run by Mappers. There will be no plenary session following Workshop 2 but notes will be taken and collated to form a written report.

4.3 To date, 60 people have confirmed attendance. Representatives from projects funded through the Autism Development Fund have been invited, as have all sub-group members, including members of Subgroup 6, the new User and Carer sub-group, Mappers and people from One Stop Shops.

4.4 The one-stop shop workshop will be taken forward by the National Autistic Society, Scottish Autism and Autism Initiatives as project leads. The workshop will consider how each model is developing and what services are available. 4 clinicians from the one stop shops will attend. Regional workshops are for sharing best practice in that particular area. Carolyn Brown requested information on the remit/scope of One Stop Shops.

Action Point 11

Sub-group leaders to send completed presentation templates to the Care and Support team prior to the event and remind sub-groups members to respond regarding attendance at this event.

Action Point 12

A list of who is in each workshop should be provided and compiled before the event.

Action Point 13

Subgroup leaders to send their 3 key priorities for discussion at the workshops to Michael McCue.

Action Point 14

Annette Pyle to distribute information on the remit/scope of OSS to the group.

Item 5: Scottish Autism Event – 5 December 2012 – Alan Somerville

5.1 Malcolm Sparrow, author of *The Character of Harms*, has been invited to present his ideas in relation to the implementation of the Scottish Strategy for Autism. The event will discuss the barriers/obstacles to achieving our goals and to defining our problems.

5.2 The event will cover 3 topics:

- What are the 'barriers' to achieving the 5 and 10 year goals in the strategy and what could be the catalysts for success?
- How do we classify the scale and complexity of the harms we are facing?
- How do we reconcile the various paradigms operating within the machinery of government i.e. health, social care, education, criminal justice?

These issues are derived from *The Character of Harms*. At the event, Malcolm Sparrow will explain his ideas and later in the day delegates will be asked to consider these issues in context.

5.3 This is a national Strategy event. The Scottish Government will contribute £2.5K towards the event, which Scottish Autism have kindly agreed to host.

5.4 An invite will be sent out to the ASD Reference Group and sub-groups once the topics for discussion are finalised. Malcolm Sparrow has asked for a maximum of 75 delegates to enable him to interact with the audience. It will be an opportunity to view the autism strategy from a different perspective.

Item 6: Update on meeting with NES about Matrix – Jane Neil-Maclachlan

6.1 Clinical psychologists were present at the meeting including Dr Kate Davidson co-author of The Matrix, which is a collaborative effort. It was agreed that they would re-visit the document, reviewing the evidence, with a view to interventions for adults eventually being included; currently there is insufficient evidence for adults to record.

6.2 NES are keen to be involved with the work of the autism strategy and to draw up a framework looking at specific training needs, linking into the training group work

and collaborating with the Scottish Government. However, there are resource implications for them.

6.3 NES are aware of a previous scoping exercise written by Aline-Wendy Dunlop and Tommy Mackay.

Action Point 15

Representatives from NES to be invited to the next ASD Reference Group meeting and to be invited to join Sub-group 2.

Item 7: AOB

7.1 The perception that many people with autism still live with their parents but that in fact some live independently was raised. Many people with autism who live in the community do not have any or much support from family, social work or friends and are vulnerable. As a result, some end up in the criminal justice system. Mappers will look at what is happening across Scotland around criminal justice and within the educational system.

7.2 Peter McCulloch asked for further information regarding the agenda item around conflicts of interest when speaking to the press. This item was removed from the agenda as Ken Aitken was unable to attend and will be carried forward.

7.3 The Open University course on autism training now has filled all 185 free places. Enquirers have been signposted to a similar training course offered by the University of Strathclyde. We have asked the Open University for a snapshot of who applied and to whom places have been allocated, with the aim of ensuring there is an even spread of learning amongst professionals for the next intake in Spring 2013. Funding of 3 years has been agreed.

7.4 The autism website has now been tested. A meeting is to be arranged with the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability (SCLD) to take forward this work.

7.5 Aline-Wendy wondered whether Sub-group leaders would be interested in having a presentation from Autism Network Scotland (ANS)

Action Point 16

Conflicts of interest when speaking to the Press will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

Action Point 17

Kirsty to attend a meeting with SCLD to drive forward the work of getting the Autism Website operational.

Action Point 18

Aline-Wendy Dunlop will arrange a presentation around the Autism Network Scotland for the next meeting.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 13 December 2012, 10:00-14:00, Conference Rooms A/B, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh