

Argyll and Bute
Autism Strategy Group
Meeting of 10th May 2017

Locations via VC: Aros Lochgilphead, Boardroom; Campbeltown Hospital, Seminar Room;
 Helensburgh Integrated Care Centre, Talisman Room; Cowal Community Hospital, Room A02; Lorn
 and Islands Hospital, Nelson Ward Bay 2

Present: Gordon Murray (GM) (Chair), Caroline Clark (CC), Alison Leask (AL), Maureen Mackintosh (MM), Fiona McClean (FMcC), Jane Catlin (JC), Aileen Goodall (AG), Helen Ward (HW)

Apologies: Anne Horn (AH), Roslyn Redpath (RR), Kirsty Tucker (KT), Lorna Stewart (LS), Allen Stevenson (AS)

1	<p>Welcome and Apologies Participants were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted as above. Aileen Goodall Lead Officer: Developing Young Workforce, and Helen Ward (Skills Development Scotland) were introduced to the Group. Aileen Goodall will be attending in future as a member of the Strategy Group.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of Meeting of 27th March 2017. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.</p>
3	<p>Matters Arising Action points from previous meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To discuss with Mike Hall resources on NHS Learning Network for GPs. Carried Forward to next meeting CT to re-send details to GM and GM to follow up with Mike Hall. (Action point 1) 2. GM to review and update the Menu of Interventions website. Carried forward: Still being updated. Will be called resource directory. GM also to speak to David Ritchie re making sure that the directory is accessible for NHS staff as well as via council website. (Action point 2) 3. (AS) and GM are to communicate with adult support teams to ensure that there is a pathway for autistic individuals requiring support. GM reported that he and AS are to meet re referral pathways and will then meet with Community care Teams. FMcC asked if this was just for Social Services or if there is a parallel process in Health; there should be an agreed pathway of support for autistic adults and there is a lack of clarity between LD and CMHT and the appropriateness of departments to give support. GM agreed that a clear pathway is required and that some thought would be required. CC explained that whilst at school there is a pathway within Child Health and that the complications are for adults and a pathway for them within adult services. FMcC suggested 2 issues: 1. Discriminatory issues that no one should be denied access to services that they have a right to access, people need to be aware that this is a disability discrimination issue. 2. Pathways. GM agreed that this would need to be given consideration and that there is a lack of expertise/people falling between services. Clear protocols are required. (Action point 3) 4. AS/GM to circulate contacts for the adult support teams to diagnostic teams, Caroline Clark, Autism Argyll. Carried forward (Action Point 4) 5. GM to make sure that the professional resource is widely available and is accessible within A&B council, Health, Education, GPs etc. Carried forward. Resource went live on 1st May 2017 but still some issues with access. (Action point 5) 6. Completed. 7. GM to seek clarification re ADOS training as to whether this will enable people who have completed the training to become official ADOS trainers. Carried forward. (Action point 6)

4.	<p>Lego Training 22nd and 23rd June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM informed the group that Andy Margerison will now be coming on 22nd and 23rd June. People need to be identified to attend the sessions in June. • AL felt that a more focused idea about how this is to be rolled out is required. There is good potential for collaboration between Education and parents. • FMcC indicated that Andy has offered to meet members of the Strategy Group on the morning of 22nd June in order to give further information about the development of his post and rolling out of the project in D&G. • JC felt that there may be other priorities in Education such as the issue of transitions. Also there are lots of examples of good practice in Argyll and Bute which should be shared with other authorities. • FMcC explained that Andy has information to share which goes beyond Lego Therapy, for example how his post was established as well as access to funding that is available to charitable bodies which would not be accessible for statutory bodies, therefore it would be very useful to meet with him. • GM and FMcC said that they would be available to meet AM on 22nd June (Action point 7) • GM agreed to look at the Lego project more broadly in term of benefits and how to deliver it. (Action Point 8)
5.	<p>Diagnostic Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM reported that he is still waiting to find out if the applications for the ADOS training have been successful. • There have been 2 applications for the AAA training. • Fiona McClean highlighted that there needs to be urgent discussion regarding the plan for the Adult Autism Diagnostic Service. There are, for example, supervision implications for the training of any new staff trained and her availability is already limited. • GM agreed to call FMcC in order to discuss (Action Point 9)
6.	<p>Autism leaflets</p> <p>GM reported that these have been distributed. No feedback received as yet. RR was not present at the meeting and may have some. CC said that she would ask for some feedback within her area.</p>

7. Professional resource

- GM explained that he had retracted the email that he sent requesting volunteers for indexing of professional resource. This will now not take place as it is not required.
- MM reported that the professional resource has gone live. An evaluation/feedback section will be added and possibly other suitable videos in the future.
- AL said that Scottish Autism has provided Argyll and Bute with an amazing resource. It is not for the Strategy Group to comment on what Scottish Autism's has produced, the Strategy Group's task now to make sure that the resource is promoted and accessible; How will we advise on use of the resource? How will we ensure that it is widely available?
- JC agreed that this is for the Strategy Group to decide and that it is sometimes not clear where the Group is going. People in Education are not aware of the Group and there seems to be little monitoring of what the Group achieves. More frontline staff from Health and Education should be encouraged to join the Group.
- AL agreed. Requests have been made in the past for more representation from education but issues with back filling seem to make this difficult.
- JC said that management needs to decide what the priority is and people need to be released to attend these Groups. This may not just be about representation from Education, other agencies may be needed on the Group.
- This was agreed by the Group. GM agreed that he will write a letter to the Heads of Service to ask for representation on the Group (**Action point 10**)
- AL suggested that this should be sent to people with an explanation of the Group and its objectives explaining that we are looking for more in depth representation.
- GM explained that we did have some new representation on the group today – Aileen Goodall Lead Officer: Developing Young Workforce and Helen Ward, SDS. However it is important to find out why people are not attending.
- JC indicated that it is important to have a mixed group and the Group should measure and evaluate what it has achieved.
- FMCC agreed and suggested that the Implementation plan will hopefully provide the benchmarks to measure progress against.
- Aileen Goodall said that she had not realised that the Group was so small. She had looked at the Implementation Plan. It is very difficult to get anyone round the table to discuss transitions post school and she had thought that she would be able to speak with an adult services social worker at the meeting but there is no representation.
- FMCC said that is why we need this representation on the Group. It is about having the right people here at the same time.
- Aileen explained that her department covers 3-24 year olds across A&B. They have young autistic people coming to the service as there is nothing else available in Argyll and Bute. Many of the staff do not have the skill set and it may be that they are not the best organisation to provide the support.
- Aileen agreed to come to the next meeting. This to be put on the Agenda for next month's meeting.
- There was further discussion about the professional resource and possible problems with accessibility. There were also questions about 3rd sector access. GM agreed to look into access issues and would discuss with Charlene Tate the issue of accessibility and 3rd sector access (**Action point 11**).
- There was discussion about promoting the professional resource. AL had suggested that there should be something in the press given the high quality resource that has been produced for A&B. JC also said that there needs to be a way of monitoring what has been achieved with this resource. There was agreement that there should be discussion about how to promote and use the resource and collect data about usage etc., in order to carry out monitoring and evaluation. A separate meeting to be arranged therefore to discuss the professional resource. GM to organise (**Action point 12**)
- AL also said Autism Network Scotland would have evaluation forms from all their events held across the authority and this would be essential information for monitoring the impact of the Implementation Plan.

8.	<p>Action plan event 20th April – feedback</p> <p>This was discussed briefly as technical issues made communication difficult between sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM will have this information. • AL said that there was a lot of feedback at this event and the Strategy Group needs to evaluate this information. GM agreed to gather the information together and email to the team. (Action point 13) <p>Meeting ended due to VC Failure</p>
	<p>Action Points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To discuss with Mike Hall resources on NHS Learning Network for GPs. CT to re send details to GM and GM to follow up with Mike Hall. 2. Resource Directory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM to review and update the Menu of Interventions website. Will be called resource directory. • GM also to speak to David Ritchie re making sure that the directory is accessible for NHS staff as well as via council website. 3. AS and GM are to communicate with adult support teams to ensure that there is a pathway for autistic individuals requiring support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM reported that he and AS are to meet re referral pathways and will then meet with Community care Teams. GM to report back. • GM to look into the issues of the lack of clarity over access to support services for autistic individuals in order to ensure that autistic people have access to appropriate support services. 4. AS/GM to circulate contacts for the adult support teams to diagnostic teams, Caroline Clark, Autism Argyll. 5. GM to make sure that the professional resource is widely available and is accessible within A&B council, Health, Education, GPs etc 6. GM to seek clarification re ADOS training as to whether this will enable people who have completed the training to become official ADOS trainers 7. GM and FMcC to meet Andy Margerison on 22nd June. 8. GM agreed to look at the Lego project more broadly in term of benefits and how to deliver it. 9. GM to call FMcC to discuss plan for the Adult Autism Diagnostic Service. 10. GM will write a letter to the Heads of Service to ask for representation on the Group 11. GM to look into access issues and would discuss with Charlene Tate the issue of accessibility and 3rd sector access. 12. GM to organise separate meeting re promotion of professional resource. 13. GM to send evaluation info from the event on 20th April round the Group.