

Argyll and Bute
Autism Strategy Group
Monday 22nd August 2016

Locations via VC: Lorn Room 2, A&B Hospital; Seminar Room, Campbeltown Hospital; Talisman Room, Helensburgh Integrated Care Centre; Room A02, Cowal Community Hospital.

Present: Allen Stevenson (Chair) (AS), Anne Horn (AH), Alison Leask (AL), Fiona McClean (FMcC), Duncan MacGillivray (DMac), Maureen Mackintosh (MM), Gordon Murray (GM), Roslyn Redpath (RR), Brian Reid (BR), Kirsty Tucker (KT).

In attendance but unable to Connect via VC: Charlene Tait (CAT), Robert MacFarlane (RMac)

Apologies Mike Hall, Gerry Geoghegan, Caroline Clark, Julie Hempleman, John Dreghorn.

1	<p>Welcome and Apologies Participants were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted as above.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of Meeting of 26th June 2016. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.</p>
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Action points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carried forward. JD to discuss with Mike Hall resources on NHS Learning Network for GPs. AL will send Autism Spectrum Disorders Tool kit round the Group and specifically to JD for forwarding. 2. Carried forward. FMcC will resend information that she has available on autism websites to GM as these might be appropriate for the website. Action FMcC/Ct 3. Carried forward. GG to set up a direct-contact circulation list for education. 4. Carried forward. GG will produce a thematic analysis of the group sessions from the Launch event 5. Complete. FMcC also informed the group that she is attending a scoping exercise on review of Autism And the Mental Health Act on 23/08/2016 and there will be further opportunity for comment 6. Complete 7. Complete. RR provided an update on training in schools. Training had been discussed with the Education Management Team and a training module agreed which is to be circulated for the attention of school staff. In addition work is being done around Learning Centres and a list of required training is being drawn together. 8. Complete. The vetting process has been started in order to be able to send information out via the A&B Council's Twitter account. 9. Complete 10. Complete <p>Other matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AL explained that a new Mental Health Strategy Documents had been received by Autism Argyll with a link for expressing views on the documents. This to be circulated round the group.
4.	<p>Staff Training/websites update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM explained that much of the staff training resources will come via Scottish Autism. • Charlene Tait had been unable to access the meeting due to technical difficulties with the VC so no update was available at this time • GM said that a recommendation from Scottish Autism is to include a statement about the training plan in the Implementation Plan.

	<p>Website update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM is to be allocated more time for autism related matters and this will help progress matters. The website is taking form. GM reported that some people have already undertaken the GCC training course via the A&B Council intranet site so there seems to be an interest. • GM also explained that there is a need to discuss with CAT the tailoring of courses to different services and this may need to be done within a separate group. • DMac raised the question of using the Get Set resource for other training projects and there was some discussion around this in terms of copyright and access for 3rd Sector organisations. It was agreed that this matter would need to be discussed with Charlene Tait as she is the developer of the resource. • AS indicated that Charlene is central to the discussion about the training resource and a separate meeting with her is required in order to clarify matters. GM, DMac, FMcC and AL agreed to also be part of this group.
<p>5.</p>	<p>Implementation Plan</p> <p>The document had been created by GM and circulated prior to the meeting. AS gave a brief summary of the background of the Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM explained how he had fitted the document together. Main concern is that the timescales suggested may be unrealistic. • AL agreed, for example reference to assessment and co-morbid health issues (1.7) may not be achievable within the suggested timescale. • It was also pointed out that some of the suggestions in the plan were already in existence (e.g. 2:3.1) and that there should not be repetition of available service/resource etc. • AL also said that since the Get Set 4 Autism Project started 18 months ago autism specific support has been provided to 47 families in Argyll and Bute. This project will run until 2019 and has not been mentioned. Also felt that Education was not represented sufficiently within the plan. 60% of calls to Autism Argyll are to do with Education and there needs to be a focus on what is provided – Autism Tool box may not be enough, • RR Said that the plan is a good start but agreed that more clarity is required in the plan for Education. RR felt that it would be very useful to be able to liaise with AL in order to look at issues that have been raised. • Questions were raised about the section on out-of-area placements (4.1). AS confirmed that repatriation to the local area will not be compulsory and people whose needs are being met will not have to be repatriated. Gordon stated that due consultation with individuals and parents / guardians will always be adhered to and was not intended to be a such a sweeping statement • BR suggested that links could be made to more generic pieces of work where information may be available which may not be autism specific but may still be useful. • DMac felt that post-diagnostic advocacy service is required in order to provide appropriate support. Also expressed concern that there would be a loss of momentum if some form of action is not taken at the present time. There may be things in the Plan which are not immediately achievable, but there needs to be something that can be achieved in the short term to show that progress is being made. • KT highlighted the employment section of the Plan. Opportunities for employment are reducing due to redundancy for Job Centre disability advisors. In addition there is a range of work programmes but only one is suitable for people with Autism. HSCP and A&B Council could take on the campaign to make improvements in the area and this should be highlighted in the plan. • AS summarised the discussion. GM has made a good start with the document and the Group is to send comments to GM in order to produce a 2nd draft of the Implementation Plan.
<p>6.</p>	<p>Menu of Intervention Event.</p> <p>GM reported back on the event. The event was well attended with approximately 40 participants. As there were lots of gaps in the original menu a new one has been started and the menu is currently being populated by ANS. As soon as the data is available GM will send out.</p>

7	Scottish Government's New Mental Health Strategy - Public Engagement Addressed earlier in the meeting.
8	Joint Projects and Funding discussion in line with Action /implementation plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FMcC reported that she had received some proposals and asked the Group if they were happy for these to be circulated. It was agreed that these should be circulated and volunteers asked to take work up projects further. Gordon stated that he has the template and would be a useful tool if and when funding came through Central Government • Clarity is needed between the 2 different aspects being considered: (1.) smaller projects which may be able to take advantage of funds remaining (approx £10,000) from the initial set up budget, and (2.) project proposals forming ideas for future funding opportunities which will be ready to submit when the opportunity arises. • Proposals which would be suitable for funding from remaining funds were discussed by the Group. • DMac summarised the proposal from the social enterprise 'Inspired by Autism' to provide training to classroom assistants. RR indicated that may be difficult to arrange training for classroom assistants due to contractual arrangements. • There was discussion about providing training after school and whether assistants should be paid to attend or whether this might be encouraged on a voluntary basis. RR suggested that paying classroom assistants to attend after school would cost the equivalent of 100 hours support assistant time. • It was agreed that it would be better to try to start something rather than delay any further, this particular course is ready now and that Classroom assistants who had not received training would benefit from this. • The Group agreed that the 'Inspired by Autism' project should be eligible for funding from the £10,000 and that GM, DMac and RR should take this forward.
9.	Pilot project in collaboration with Autism Network Scotland around wider engagement in Argyll and Bute AS explained that there is a meeting arranged with Autism Network Scotland on 20th September 2016 at 10pm in the Civic Centre Helensburgh and this meeting is open to anyone wishing to attend – please inform Gordon Murray.
10.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM reminded the Group that the Autism Argyll AGM will take place on 14th September 2016. Three Villages Hall Arrochar, 10am • AL highlighted a new resource is available from Scottish Autism to provide support for people on the spectrum visiting the bank: http://www.scottishautism.org/services-support/support-individuals/accessing-bank • There is an Autism and Employment (Autism Network Scotland) event on 27th September at Strathclyde University. AL suggested a representative from the Group involved in employment should attend. KT happy to attend. AL will circulate link.
11	Date and time of next meeting Monday 3rd October 2016 at 1pm. Locations via VC: Lorn Room 2, A&B Hospital; Seminar Room, Campbeltown Hospital; Talisman Room, Helensburgh Integrated Care Centre; Room A01, Cowal Community Hospital.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AL/MM to send the Mental Health Strategy Documents and links round the Group. 2. Meeting to be set up with CAT separate to the Strategy Group in order to clarify matters re the Get Set training resource. GM, DMac, FMcC and AL agreed to also be part of this group. 3. RR to liaise with AL in order to look at issues concerning Education in the Implementation Plan. 4. Group members to send their comments on the Draft Implementation Plan to GM in order to produce a 2nd draft of the Implementation Plan as soon as possible. 5. FMcC to circulate to the Group the project proposals received in relation to Joint projects and funding and request volunteers to work up projects. 6. GM, DMac and RR to take forward the training proposed by DMac for Classroom Assistants. Project to be funded from the £10,000 of funds still available. 7. KT to attend ANS Autism and Employment event 27th September. 8. AL to circulate link to ANS Autism and Employment event of 27th September .