

**Argyll and Bute**  
**Autism Strategy Group**  
 Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 1pm

Locations (via VC): Lorn Room 2, A&B Hospital; Room A01, Cowal Community Hospital.

**Present:** Allen Stevenson (chair), Anne Horn, Alison Leask, Fiona McClean, Gordon Murray, Maureen Mackintosh. Lynsey Stewart and Donald Macleod of Autism Network Scotland.

**Via VC:** Gerry Geoghegan, Kirsty Tucker, Roslyn Redpath

**Apologies:** Lena Carter, Charlene Tait, Caroline Clark, Mike Hall, John Dreghorn

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b>          Participants were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted as above. AS welcomed Lynsey Stewart and Donald Macleod of Autism Network Scotland to the meeting.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Minutes of meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016</b>          The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Action points:</b>          1&amp; 2 Carried forward as JD not present at meeting          3. RR/LC to look into who would be key in education to be part of the launch event. RR suggested that Head Teachers and members of central team should be invited. GM to contact RR to discuss.          4. AS to take updated Adult Review Report, including Children's service update for discussion at Core Team: due to restructuring the past 2 Core Teams had not gone ahead. Therefore carried forward to be addressed at next Core Team that AS will Chair.          All other action points completed.</p> <p><b>Other matters arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG 2 Children's service. AL requested any updates. RR reported that she had met with Jean Kennedy on 2 occasions and that information had been gathered on children that are waiting. A triage meeting to take place on 9<sup>th</sup> June in order to discuss how to take this forward. It is hoped that there will be a commitment for a multi disciplinary team for the children in Helensburgh and Lomond and there are to be meeting to discuss this. Therefore, the outlook seems more positive.</li> <li>• Pg 3 Resignation of Cllr Douglas Philand as Autism Champion. AH agreed that another Champion should be sought and suggested Councillor Mary Jean Devon. AS to take forward.</li> <li>• Pg2 Adult Service. FMcC had contacted Kjersti Ferguson – no involvement for Argyll and Bute at present but the service will be kept up to date with developments.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Staff Training</b></p> <p>GM reported to the group:          Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The basic awareness e-learning module has been altered (i.e. modified version of GCC Training) and will be available on the council intranet site within the next few weeks. GM will also meet with Paul Maber and John Dreghorn to discuss putting on NHS Learnpro site.</li> <li>• GM had met with GG following his interest in being involved in training. GG has already developed resources, previously circulated to the group. A travelling road show of autism training events is proposed for 4 localities in Argyll and Bute. This will be open to parents &amp; carers as well as professionals and will supplement the other training already discussed.</li> <li>• RR indicated that psychological services would be happy to support this.</li> </ul> <p>Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preparation work for the webpage for the Council website is almost complete and once approved and working it is hoped that this will also be available on the NHS Highland website.</li> <li>• AL wondered if there might be other links from Education etc. that could be put up.</li> <li>• FMcC has some information regarding what is available on various autism websites and will send this to GM as these might be appropriate for the website.</li> <li>• AL said that this was very positive and that it is pleasing that progress is being made.</li> <li>• GG explained that when involved with developing the previous website, different areas were created for people that were expected to land on the site. E.g. ADHD material is very different to</li> </ul>

the materials aimed at other users. This might also be something that could be considered. GM has already made links with the people who created the resource in order to make a more autism-friendly resource.

- AS felt that the progress made by GM was very positive and needs to be built on.

#### Get Set 4 Autism

- GM had met with Charlene Tait of Scottish Autism to review and attempt to bring the training together for staff in line with NES training plan. Due to the amount of work required to pull this comprehensive and wide resource together, it is felt that this will not be ready before the end of June.
- AL had suggested to CAT that there should be a local element included to indicate specific processes in Argyll and Bute for example Universal Plans in Education. RR agreed that this would be a good idea.
- Donald Macleod said that the Cross Authority ASD Interest Group, set up within Midlothian to look at best practice in education was a good example in terms of best practice for education and Autism and he would forward the link to the group.

#### Autism Strategy Relaunch

- The relaunch event is due to take place on 24<sup>th</sup> May at Three Villages Hall, Arrochar.
- DM felt that it is important to have a carer representative to speak at the event and Lynsey Stewart explained that there had been positive feedback in the past when this format had been used at such events.
- There was discussion about who could be asked to do this and whether people would be prepared to stand up in front of a group to talk.
- GG suggested that filming interviews might be a possibility and a good way for people from the autism community to express their views - the videos then to be shown at the event. GG has seen this done previously and it worked.
- LS was at an event last week with Key Community Supports which included a series of personal experiences given by young people which was very effective. KT said that she would contact Elaine Doyle to find more detail about this.
- AH agreed that she would contribute to the introduction for the day and it was agreed that the personal perspective should take place earlier in the day rather than later.
- DM indicated that there is guidance available about managing the environment for events, for example to request that attendees do not clap. Guidance can be adapted for example to make a quiet space etc. DM to forward guidance to the Group

#### Draft Programme

There was some discussion about the draft programme.

- DM suggested that there could be one outcome per table from the Implementation plan to look at what is and what isn't working.
- LS added that there could be specific outcomes e.g. Health, Education with specific people at each table from these areas.
- KT suggested that the group of young people previously discussed may be interested in giving a personal perspective at the event and she would make contact with the Key Community Supports organisation about this.
- AL suggested that this may be worth filming and adding to the Get set resource.
- RR asked who is to be targeted in Education and AS said that 10 names from education would be needed to send fliers to. RR and GG to send 10 names to GM.
- There was discussion about which groups to contact as, although Autism Argyll's membership covers all of Argyll and Bute, there are a number of other organisations that are involved with individuals and families living with autism. Therefore GM will also contact Helensburgh and Lomond group and MM will send info about other groups such as Oban to GM.

#### 6. Implementation plan

AS welcomed guest speakers Donald Macleod and Lynsey Stewart of Autism Network Scotland to the meeting.

- Donald Macleod explained that the main purpose of the visit was to assist with the launch event which Autism Network Scotland will be involved with and which had been discussed earlier in the meeting. He also indicated that:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A 2-day training event is also being arranged to 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> October with the first day for practitioners this would be autism-specific and would include transitions.</li> <li>- 2<sup>nd</sup> Menu of interventions date in July.</li> <li>- Help is available to set up a face book page for Argyll and Bute. Dumfries and Galloway Autism Network face book page is a good example. LS explained that this could be set up locally with 2 or 3 people and it is important that the page is managed. It was agreed that this would be a good way to bring people together and motivate the local area.</li> <li>- In terms of strategy on a national level, most areas are at the same stage and that Argyll and Bute will be back on track as a result of the event on 24<sup>th</sup> May.</li> <li>• AS thanked Donald Macleod and Jean MacLellan for the meeting with AS and GM previously and that the Group is very grateful to receive help from Autism Network Scotland. He also thanked Donald and Lynsey for their attendance at the present meeting and for travelling the long distance to be there in person.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AL informed the Group that Autism Argyll will fund 6 parents to attend the Autism Europe Conference 16-18 September 2016.</li> <li>• KM asked about where Apergers fits within services. LS explained that this reflects the national picture as Mental Health and LD are not the appropriate routes. RR said this had also been discussed in the Transitions Group in terms of providing support beyond childhood into adulthood. FMcC highlighted the importance of engaging with psychiatry as often people come to the service and there is a lot of good quality information from childhood but psychiatric services are often not aware.</li> <li>• DM highlighted the importance of post diagnostic support. There was also discussion about the problems of getting people involved and of informing employers. LS indicated that Autism Network Scotland Employment Network has information for employers which will be brought to the event in May. AH will contact the Employability Team to enquire if/what they do to include people with a diagnosis of Autism into employment.</li> <li>• AL and AH commented on the positive outcome from the meeting and that real progress seems now to be being made.</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</b>  Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 1pm. Lorn Rm 2 Argyll and Bute Hospital. Rm A01 Cowal Community Hospital. Talisman Room, Helensburgh Integrated Care Centre. Seminar Rm, Campbeltown Hospital. VC available.</p>
	<p>List of Action Points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Carried forward. JD to update on when the GCC training will be available on Learnpro.</li> <li>2. Carried forward. JD to discuss with Mike Hall resources on NHS Learning Network for GPs</li> <li>3. RR/LC to look into who would be key in education to be part of the launch event: RR suggested that Head Teachers and members of central team should be invited. GM to contact RR to discuss</li> <li>4. Carried Forward. AS to take updated Adult Review Report, including Children's service update for discussion at Core Team.</li> <li>5. AS to approach Councillor Mary Jean Devon re role as new Autism Champion.</li> <li>6. FMcC will send information that she has available on autism websites to GM as these might be appropriate for the website.</li> <li>7. DM to forward link to Group in Mid Lothian.</li> <li>8. KT to contact Elaine Doyle to find more detail about the Key Community Supports event and the young people who gave a personal account of autism.</li> <li>9. DM to forward guidance to the Group re appropriate environment for event of 24<sup>th</sup> May.</li> <li>10. KT to make contact with the Key Community Supports organisation about re group of young people coming to the event on 24<sup>th</sup> May.</li> <li>11. MM will send info about other groups such as Oban to GM.</li> <li>12. RR and GG to send 10 from education names to GM to be invited to the event of 24<sup>th</sup> May.</li> <li>13. AH will contact the Employability Team to enquire if or what they do to include people with a diagnosis of Autism into employment.</li> </ol>