

Argyll and Bute
Autism Strategy Group
Monday 27th June 2016

Locations via VC: Lorn Room 3, A&B Hospital; Seminar Room, Campbeltown Hospital; Talisman Room, Helensburgh Integrated Care Centre; Room A02, Cowal Community Hospital.

Present: Allen Stevenson (Chair) (AS), Pamela Biagi (PB), Kirsty Buchan (KB), Jane Catlin (JC), Alison Leask (AL), Fiona McClean (FMcC), Duncan MacGillivray (DMac), Gordon Murray (GM), Brian Reid (BR), Angela Beggs (AB), Anne Skillen (ASK), Charlene Tait (CAT), Kirsty Tucker (KT).
Apologies Mike Hall, Anne Horn, Maureen Mackintosh, Roslyn Redpath, Gerry Geoghegan, Kaileigh Smart, Caroline Clark, Julie Hempleman.

1	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Participants were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted as above. Allen Stevenson welcomed new members to the Group: Duncan MacGillivray and Kirsty Buchan, Dunoon Autism Group; Pamela Biagi and Angela Beggs, Helensburgh and Lomond Aspergers Society; Jane Catlin, Achievement Bute. Allen Stevenson thanked these new members for their interest and said that it is crucial that local organisations are involved in the Autism Strategy.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of Meeting of 30th May 2016 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record – date requires changing to 30th May 2016.</p>
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Action points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. JD to discuss with Mike Hall resources on NHS Learning Network for GPs. AL explained that an Autism Spectrum Disorders Tool kit is now available for GPs. AL to circulate this round the Group and specifically to JD to forward on. Action Carried forward. 2. FMcC will send information that she has available on autism websites to GM as these might be appropriate for the website. GM requested that this be resent. Action carried forward 3. Complete. 4. GG to set up a direct-contact circulation list for education. Carried forward 5. GG will produce a thematic analysis of the group sessions from the Launch event. GM reported that GG had said that this would be completed very soon and that there had been a large amount of info to deal with. Carried forward 6. Action complete: Parents/carers present at meeting 7. Action complete 8. Action complete 9. Action complete 10. <i>Review of learning disability and autism on Scottish mental health law – a scoping consultation.</i> GM had emailed the Group for input hoping for comments back by 3rd week in June. AL said that she was preparing a response on behalf of Autism Argyll. Focus of her response is to do with numbers of people with autism who end up in the MH system. AL will circulate the Autism Argyll consultation response to the group and also suggested that a response should go in from mental health. GM to send a copy of the documents to RMcF and DMcG <p>No further matters arising.</p>

	<p>Staff Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM reported that he has now met with Sharon Atkinson re SVQ level 7 and level 8 and that this would be ready for Allen to take forward later in the Summer. • CAT had planned to show the Group some screen grabs of the Get Set professional learning resource currently under development. However this was not possible due to technical issues at A&B Hospital. Therefore CAT will send a link to the demo site which gives an idea of the resource, although the final version will look different to this demo. CAT explained some of the background of the resource which includes speakers such as Peter Vermeulen and Judith Gould. It is hoped that the resource will be completed by October 2016 • DMcG explained that he was hoping to access an elearning resource for a pilot for learning support roles in schools but had some technical difficulties with Autism Network Scotland's website. CAT said that there are materials on the Get Set site that will be highly relevant and that will not present the same access problems as the ANS site. AL also suggested the Autism Toolbox website which has lots of resources. • GM thanked CAT for her input on the resource and said that it will be a very useful resource for people to dip in and out of. There may be a need to think about how to direct people to the relevant area and this might be something for future consideration. CAT agreed and said that the Group will need to decide how to connect people to the resource once completed. • JC wondered what the priorities are and how this links into mandatory training. JC was also concerned about a comment from a previous meeting that mandatory training may be difficult in schools due to Trade Union rules. • PB explained that another type of training had been organised in Helensburgh and it was agreed with Head Teachers that this would be mandatory. This training is being funded by Helensburgh and Lomond Aspergers Society. • DMac is involved in training for Social Workers and this is mandatory training. Also hoping to carry out a six-week pilot in schools to provide training for education support staff • AS agreed to take this matter and discuss with Roslyn Redpath and Gerry Goeghegan in order to get more clarity on whether there are professional issues concerning mandatory training. • AS also said that the importance of training was recognised by the Group. <p>Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM gave an update re the website. This will be live in the near future and there will be a direct link to the GCC training. It is hoped that the website will grow. • AS gave a brief history surrounding the website explaining that the profile has been raised recently. He asked for members to access the website and send any feedback to GM. • AL asked about the 'Make a Referral' tab and GM confirmed that this has been changed.
5.	<p>Autism Strategy Implementation / Action Plan following small group sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM provided an update. Donald Macleod has been sent the raw data from the launch event. There is a large amount of material to work through and the information taken from the data should be ready by the beginning of August. • AS asked for feedback from the small groups planning events. • JC felt this is a good model as it allows all to access the strategy. She felt however that there should be a positive attitude to such events and that this may not always be the case particularly within Education. People need to be able to tell personal stories even though these will sometimes be negative. • AS indicated that he had not heard any negative feedback from the sessions and that if there are any issues regarding this in future, it should be reported to GM.
6.	<p>Event Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM informed the Group that, after consultation with parents and carers, additional dates had been circulated for a transitions event. This is to take place on a Saturday in October, one event in Lochgilphead and one in Dunoon. • DMac felt that this is a step in the right direction and that holding events on a Saturday may make it easier for parents to attend. There was also discussion about whether provision for childcare could be made although it was felt that this may be very complicated.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FMcC suggested that Argyll and Bute Council Twitter account might be an additional resource for advertising events etc., in addition to the Council Website. GM to enquire about this. • AS felt that the Group should assist Helensburgh and Lomond Aspergers Society fund the training event that they have organised, discussed earlier in the meeting. PB and GM to link up to discuss funding for this event.
7	<p>Joint Projects and Funding discussion in line with Action /implementation plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS informed the Group that this is to be discussed fully at the next meeting and ideally ideas would be given for all 4 outcomes. This was agreed by the Group. • GM explained that there was already a proposal from Dunoon Autism Group. DMac is planning training for ANS staff, going into 3 primary schools and working alongside staff. • FMcC highlighted the Autism Training Framework – this should be used for the content of training in order to create a coordinated approach to training. • DMac agreed that this is a good idea and will send the Dunoon Group’s training proposal to FMcC to ensure this coordinated approach. • AS asked the group to think about how to make use of the funding and this will be discussed further at the next meeting. • FMcC explained that the idea is to brainstorm and have further discussion. Group members are asked to send any ideas to FMcC
8	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMcF asked about referring people with a learning disability to the service. • FMcC explained that the adult service does not have any LD input. The service wishes to include people with an LD but lacks appropriately trained staff. The service accepts referrals but there may be delays in being able to process these. • RMcF also wondered about the possibility of disseminating an ‘Autism Brief’ • AS agreed that this is a good idea. Group should look at putting out 3 key messages from each meeting and this could be posted on the website. This to be put on the agenda for the next meeting. • DMac said that the meeting had been very positive • AL very optimistic. The meetings over the past 6 months had been much more positive despite the difficulties in the past.
11.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Next meeting: Monday 22nd August 2016 at 10.30am. Locations via VC: Lorn Room 2, A&B Hospital; Seminar Room, Campbeltown Hospital; Talisman Room, Helensburgh Integrated Care Centre; Room A02, Cowal Community Hospital.</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. 3. GG to set up a direct-contact circulation list for education. Carried forward 4. GG will produce a thematic analysis of the group sessions from the Launch event. Carried forward. GM reported that GG had said that this would be completed very soon and that there had been a large amount of info to deal with. Carried forward 5. GM to send a copy of the <i>Review of learning disability and autism on Scottish mental health law – a scoping consultation</i> documents to RMcF and DMac 6. Cat will send a link to the demo site for the Get Set professional resource. 7. AS to discuss the issue of mandatory training for teachers with Roslyn Redpath and Gerry Goeghegan in order to get more clarity on whether there are professional issues concerning mandatory training. 8. GM to enquire about putting event dates out via Argyll and Bute Council’s Twitter account. 9. PB and GM to link up to discuss funding from the Strategy Group for the training event being organised by Helensburgh and Lomond Aspergers Society. 10. Group members are asked to send any ideas about joint projects and funding to FMcC

