

**Argyll and Bute**  
**Autism Strategy Group**  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016, 1pm

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

**Present:** Alison Leask (chair), John Dreghorn, Julie Hempleman, Fiona McClean, Gordon Murray, Brian Reid.  
**Via VC:** Caroline Clark, Gerry Geoghegan, Kirsty Tucker.  
**Apologies:** Anne-Lise Dickie, Mike Hall, Anne Horn, Maureen Mackintosh, Roslyn Redpath, Anne Skillen, Allen Stevenson, Charlene Tait.

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b>  Participants were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted as above.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b>  The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b>  <b>Action points:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. JD to update on when the GCC training will be available on Learnpro. JD and GM confirmed that there had been an issue with the GCC training for Learnpro but that this has now been resolved and a name within NHS has been provided to GM to pursue in terms of the training being made available on Learnpro. Therefore action complete.</li> <li>2. JD to discuss with Mike Hall resources on NHS Learning Network for GPs. JD apologised as he had not managed to deal with this and will speak to Mike Hall. Therefore action carried forward.</li> <li>3.&amp;4. Action points 3 &amp; 4 completed.</li> <li>5. GM reported that AS has made notification to the Council and the Head of Council will need to now decide on the replacement 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. Carried forward.</li> <li>7.-12. Actions completed</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. Carried forward.</li> </ol> <p>No further matters arising.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Staff Training Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GM provided an update. Charlene Tait is still working on the resource with Scottish Autism and there is an amount of work that remains to be done, so it will probably be June/July before resource is available to view; it is difficult to give a definitive date at this stage. GM will continue to link in with Charlene Tait regarding this training resource for staff across Health, SW, Education and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector. There is an SVQ level 7 for supporting individuals with ASD which has been developed for managers and this might also be appropriate. GM is to meet with Sharon Atkinson and her colleague to look at this training option.</li> <li>• AL explained that there are other SVQs specifically related to supporting individuals with ASD.</li> <li>• CAT had also provided an update prior to the meeting. The resource being developed is a professional resource and speakers have been identified such as Judith Gould who has already been filmed. Work has also been agreed re Education with Martin Hanbury and Speech and Language Therapy with Adrienne Shaw from South Lanarkshire Council.</li> <li>• GM suggested that the other issue will be about involving carers' groups.</li> </ul>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Autism Strategy Relaunch. What did we learn?</b>  There was discussion about the Autism Strategy Relaunch day at Three Villages Hall Arrochar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JD felt that Local Area Manager level was not sufficiently represented and this needs to be looked at going forward.</li> <li>• FMcC felt that awareness still needs to be raised and mental health managers may still not fully appreciate that this is relevant to them.</li> <li>• It was agreed that some people may not have been available to attend this event due to the short notice and that there may be difficulties in communicating information effectively via email. GG suggested this should be solved by direct contact and agreed to set a circulation list up for Education.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JH said that SW would have groups set up and these could also be targeted. JD also said that the best method in Health would be direct contact.</li> <li>• BR was disappointed that there was not better representation from Children's Services but the day clashed with the Managers' meeting – work will be done to achieve better attendance at the next event.</li> <li>• It was generally agreed that the day was a positive move forward and that people were able to voice their frustrations as well a look to the future. GM explained that it is important to use the data gathered from the day so that plans can be made for the future; Autism Network Scotland are happy to help with this.</li> <li>• GG suggested that the most important aspect of information gathering is to analyse the group-setting conversations in order to analyse what people were thinking. Therefore GG will produce a thematic analysis of the group sessions from the event.</li> <li>• GM indicated that different carers' groups had expressed an interest in having some representation on the Autism Strategy Group and there was discussion about how best to welcome people onto the group in order that the strategy can continue to progress. It was agreed that GM should draft a letter and this should be circulated round the group for comment before being sent out to groups.</li> <li>• AL wondered of there should be an email loop set up for distribution of minutes, feedback etc. It was felt that a face book page would be the platform for this ultimately. FMcC explained that the Adult diagnostic Service is to devise a form to be given to those receiving a diagnosis asking if they would like to be kept up to date with developments – another source of info.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Implementation Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was discussion about whether the different outcomes in the Implementation Plan should be addressed separately so that Health/SW/Education/3<sup>rd</sup> Sector take an outcome and make it their own. The Group was unsure if this would be the best approach since the outcomes are interconnecting, so difficult to look at in isolation.</li> <li>• GG also suggested that each group could be more productive with a different mix of professionals/carers/3<sup>rd</sup> sector groups where the role is clearly understood and group is solution-focused.</li> <li>• GM confirmed to FMcC that carers would be reimbursed for travelling expenses for attending the events.</li> <li>• GM will speak to Allen Stevenson about the implementation plan to explain the feelings of the Group and this will be discussed at a future meeting again.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Future dates</b> It was confirmed that the email listing dates for future events was to be sent out on 30<sup>th</sup> May.</p>
8	<p><b>Joint Projects and Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FMcC confirmed that she has spoken to Karen Wilson of Scottish Autism about possible ways they could help work up proposals for funded projects, with the aim of having information prepared in advance for funding bids. Scottish Autism will be able to assist the Group with this. FMcC Suggested that the Group may like to think about what sort of projects it could be involved with.</li> <li>• AL suggested that it may be useful to look at what was highlighted at the launch event and match this to the aims of the strategy and this was agreed as a good idea. GM said that all the documentation will be analysed and then ideas can be gleaned out of this.</li> <li>• FMcC will send the details of Karen Wilson to GM</li> <li>• FMcC suggested that Group members may have additional ideas about projects that they could add in at this stage. FMcC to email the Autism Strategy Group members to ask about any projects that they feel would be appropriate to make funding bids for.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Small tests of change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GM reported to the Group that £10,000 remains to be spent from the budget for delivery of the autism strategy. Allen Stevenson had asked for ideas about how to make best use of this. Some of this budget has been used to fund the autism events including the launch day.</li> <li>• FMcC will ask the Group for ideas about this in the email that she sends out about funding.</li> <li>• There was some discussion about using the money to train additional assessors. CC said that ADOS courses cost over £1,000 and the DISCO course £700 - £1,000 per person.</li> <li>• FMcC explained that the adult diagnostic service uses the AAA training, however current issues for the adult service are around lack of allocated time for clinicians to carry out assessments and the service still needs to address the matter of LD input.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KT suggested that some money might be used for transitions to address work placement/ work experience shortfalls to help people get some experience. It was recognised by the group that there is a gap in the provision in this area and that the Strategy Group may not be the best platform to deal with this. GM felt that this maybe an issue for a different Group in asking how we make opportunities real for people.</li> </ul>
10.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FMcC had received communication from the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland relating to the <i>Review of learning disability and autism in Scottish mental health law – a scoping consultation</i>. Does the Group want to feed into this (deadline for responses Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016)?</li> <li>• AL felt that a response is necessary as this is an important issue – most people without an LD but with autism do not get a service.</li> <li>• CC said that any response would need to mention that the Children’s ASD diagnostic service assesses children with and without a learning disability.</li> <li>• JD suggested that, as the Scottish Government is currently undertaking consultations relating to the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2015, the response for this document may need to be made through the Council; input should be requested and then Allen Stevenson to put the response together. GM to speak to AS and then email the group and a wider representation throughout Social Work and Health for input. GM to circulate and collate</li> </ul>
11.	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should revert to a normal meeting of the Group as the launch event had addressed the need for a special meeting to raise awareness with senior management.</p> <p>Next meeting: <b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 1pm</b> Locations via VC: Lorn Room 3, A&amp;B Hospital; Seminar Room, Campbeltown Hospital; Talisman Room, Helensburgh Integrated Care Centre; Room A02, Cowal Community Hospital.</p>
	<p><b>Action Points</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Carried forward. JD to discuss with Mike Hall resources on NHS Learning Network for GPs</li> <li>2. Carried forward. FMcC will send information that she has available on autism websites to GM as these might be appropriate for the website.</li> <li>3. Carried forward. AH will contact the Employability Team to enquire if or what they do to include people with a diagnosis of Autism into employment.</li> <li>4. GG to set up a direct-contact circulation list for education.</li> <li>5. GG will produce a thematic analysis of the group sessions from the Launch event</li> <li>6. GM to draft a letter inviting parent carer representation onto the Autism Strategy Group. Draft to be circulated round group before being sent.</li> <li>7. GM to speak to Allen Stevenson about the implementation plan to explain the feelings of the Group about separation of outcomes and this will be discussed at a future meeting.</li> <li>8. FMcC will send the details of Karen Wilson, Scottish Autism To GM</li> <li>9. FMcC to email the Autism Strategy Group members to ask about any projects that they feel would be appropriate to make funding bids for. In addition she will also ask for ideas from the Group about how best to spend the additional £10,000 remaining for delivery of the strategy.</li> <li>10. GM to speak to AS about input to the <i>Review of learning disability and autism on Scottish mental health law – a scoping consultation</i>. GM to then email the Group for input with comments back by 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June.</li> </ol>