

Argyll and Bute
Autism Strategy Group
Monday 7th March 2016, 1pm

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

Present: Allen Stevenson (chair), Brian Reid, Mike Hall, Alison Leask, Fiona McClean, Gordon Murray, Maureen Mackintosh, Lena Carter, Charlene Tait.

Via VC: Caroline Clark, Gerry Geoghegan

Apologies: Anne Horn, Roslyn Redpath.

1	<p>Welcome and apologies Participants were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted as above.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of 11th January 2016 The minutes were agreed after amendments made on points of accuracy.</p>
3	<p>Matters Arising Action points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JD was not present his action points are carried forward to the next meeting. • RR/LC to look into who would be key in Education to be part of the launch event: carried forward. • AS to take updated Adult review Report to Core team: carried forward. • All other action points completed. <p>Other matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BR enquired about carer's representation on the Group as he has someone interested in becoming involved. There was discussion about carer representation and how this would be agreed. AS suggested that expressions of interest should be invited in order to have fair representation. • AL reminded the Group that the Helensburgh and Lomond Autism/Aspergers Society was supposed to have been contacted about representation on the Group, but this has not happened. AS will write to the Group. CT/JD will forward details of the group to AS. • AS/AL suggested that the question of representation could be addressed at the first of the Autism events. Important to make sure that the right people are involved. Links would also be made with Anne McColl Smith. • Group members are to give detailed thought process for giving access to the meeting for carer representatives and people with a diagnosis of Autism.
4.	<p>Expression of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM explained the Argyll and Bute Council eLearning Expression of Interest form that had been circulated to members. ELearning to be put on both Council and NHS intranet websites and ultimately the Council's website. GM had spoken to Sharon Atkinson (L&D contact for Social Work) and she is interested in being involved in the process. • AS felt that the eLearning exercise can be achieved fairly quickly and the proposal will go to the HR Board on 18th March for approval. • CAT wondered how the proposed eLearning resources will fit with the Get Set training resources discussed at the previous meeting and currently being developed for Argyll and Bute by Scottish Autism. This needs to be discussed with GM. • CAT also indicated that there is a good budget for the Get Set resource development and it would be helpful if people could indicate which topic areas are required, and if there are specific people to capture on a resource, she will try to achieve this. CC asked if another document could be circulated outlining this. CAT agreed to send out further information. • AS confirmed that the Group is happy to proceed and GM will get this to authorisation stage • CAT to be invited to the next training sub group meeting • GG said that he would be happy to input from an education perspective, having already worked on producing the GIRFEC emodule, and Planning for Children booklet.

	<p>Staff training Group feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM updated the Group on the Training Subgroup's latest meeting. • GM informed the Group that a letter has been sent out from Heads of Service to be disseminated to the relevant Team Leads in Health, Social Work and probably Education; this will also be going to 3rd sector organisations. • FMcC also explained that the questionnaire will be sent out in advance to team leads in order that people have time to take stock and consider what their requirements are in terms of training. <p>Autism Strategy Group of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS and GM had met with Professor Jean MacLellan of Autism Network Scotland who expressed their interest in helping to facilitate the Group's implementation and action plan. It was suggested that the Group should look to adopt the 4 main strategic outcomes taken from the Strategic Outcome Plan 2015-17 and as outlined in the document circulated to the Group. • Autism Network also offered to help with the launch event and training sessions. • AS explained that 4 pieces of work were suggested for 2016 and outlined in the document. • AL felt that the suggested sessions are very education-focused and that other areas may need focus, e.g. adult diagnosis, employment etc. Perhaps the first session could be used to take stock of current position and priorities and a further session could be used to address resulting issues. • FMcC felt it was important to not go over issues that have already been highlighted e.g. post diagnostic support. It was agreed that some matters may need to be revisited but that there is no reason to go over things that are already known about. • CAT suggested a coded template of matters needing to be addressed to be used for the first session and this was agreed. • AS indicated that the 1st draft of the implementation plan will be ready after this session, so this will be a very short time scale.
6.	<p>Argyll and Bute Strategic Plan Consultation Report</p> <p>AS explained that this had been added to the Agenda to keep the group up to date with the 3-year Strategic Plan as the organisation moves towards 1st April 2016 when the Integrated Joint Board will formally take over responsibility for health and social care planning and delivery.</p>
7	<p>Updated Diagnostic Services Report</p> <p>Adult Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FMcC reported that there has been a threefold increase in referrals to the adult service compared with last year's monthly average (2015). Two clinicians have completed AAA training and have completed/nearly completed a first clinical assessment. There are concerns about how much time they will be able to allocate for assessments. • AS suggested that protected time might be needed for diagnostic clinicians and FMcC agreed. • Kjersti Ferguson, Improvement Adviser, could be helpful in assisting NHS Boards to look at care pathways. AL to forward details of Kjersti Ferguson to FMcC. • FMcC also felt it would be useful to know whether there is to be a separate Learning Disabilities Adult Autism Diagnostic Service and this needs to be discussed. • AS will meet with FMcC and JD to discuss the matters outlined above. <p>Children's Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC reported that the Diagnostic Services Report had been updated to include concerns over the team in Helensburgh. The situation has not improved; 2 occupational therapists will be lost and there are only two speech and language therapists left for the service, which requires a multi disciplinary team. The service is now unsustainable. There are 16 new referrals and it is not clear how these children will be assessed. There is no admin support and it is unclear where to send new referrals. • AL expressed concern and said that this is not an acceptable situation and that the sixteen children appear to be being left with no clear diagnostic pathway. This is a backward step and this will lead to families falling into distress and despair. If Argyll and Bute cannot provide this service where will the children be sent for diagnostic assessment? • MH agreed that a solution needs to be found. • AS to discuss with Linda Skrastin, Jim Littlejohn and Paul Kyle and the matter will be kept on the agenda. AS enquired about the other teams and CC said that these teams had a good variety of staff although the most vulnerable is probably the West team.
8	<p>Resignation of Cllr Douglas Philand as Autism Champion</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AS informed the Group that Douglas Philand is no longer the Depute Provost and has resigned as an Autism Champion. AS wished to thank Dougie for the time given as Autism Champion. There was some discussion about whether another Champion would be required in addition to Cllr Ann Horn and the Group agreed that another one should be sought. It was agreed that the Group would go through Ann Horn to seek nominations for a new Autism Champion.
9	<p>Preparing Projects for Funding Opportunities</p> <p>FMcC felt the group should discuss the best way to prepare in order to make the most of funding opportunities which often need to be completed at short notice and so which are often missed opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AL suggested that a framework should be prepared to use-this would have general information ready to input and only a last minute fine tuning of details would be needed. CAT suggested that this could be discussed at the launch event. CAT also explained that Scottish Autism could provide some guidance on information that is typically required as they have experience of this particularly for partnership bids. AS felt that this should be taken on board and something should be prepared for the first session of the launch in order to plan and be ready to respond to funding opportunities.
10.	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AL reported that the Peter Vermeulen event is fully booked and will be recorded to form a resource AL informed the Group that the Autism Europe Conference will take place from 16 – 18 September 2016. CAT, MM and AL to attend. BR announced the next Autism Collaborative event on 12th April. GM and FMcC to attend.
11.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 26th April 2016. 2 Locations (VC): Lorn Room 2 Argyll and Bute Hospital and Room A02 Cowal Community Hospital. Jean MacLellan and Donald Macleod from National Autism Coordination Project will attend.</p>
	<p>List of Action Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Carried forward. JD to update on when the GCC training will be available on Learnpro. Carried forward. JD to discuss with Mike Hall resources on NHS Learning Network for GPs Carried forward. RR/LC to look into who would be key in Education to be part of the launch event Carried Forward. AS to take updated Adult review Report to Core team AS to write to the Helensburgh and Lomond Autism/Aspergers Society about representation on the Group. CT/JD will forward details of the group to AS. Consideration to be given by Group members about giving access to the group to carer representatives and people with a diagnosis. CAT to send out another content map with additional information. CAT/GM to discuss how the Get Set training resource will fit with the proposed eLearning resources GM/CT to organise the next training subgroup meeting ASAP and to invite CAT AL to forward Kjersti Ferguson's details to FMcC. Advice to be sought form Cllr Anne Horn about a new Autism Champion following the resignation of Cllr Philand. Children's services to be kept on the agenda AS to speak to Linda Skrastin, Jim Littlejohn, Paul Kyle.