

Co-ordination Report

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Collaborative working

The attached appendix gives an overall status report in relation to local autism strategies. Our main initial priority is to work with those areas which do not have a draft or finalised autism strategy. We have, however, undertaken in depth work with areas grappling with the challenges of implementation.

The Co-ordination team has been working with Aberdeen City, who made an initial approach. Previous involvement with Autism Network Scotland consisted of a Menu of Interventions roadshow in the area. We have been supporting them at a time where there is significant local interest in autism, which has manifested in a number of parliamentary questions being submitted by a local MSP. The local authority has now published their strategy and will be presenting a DVD of their work with children and families with autism at one of the Co-ordination events.

Following an approach from Argyll and Bute's Autism Strategy Group, the Co-ordination team met with the group to provide feedback on their strategy. Autism Network Scotland has delivered a Menu of Interventions roadshow in the area. A further visit, to co-ordinate implementation with strategic partners from NHS and social work is to be arranged.

The team has conducted in-depth work with the three Ayrshires, who are working in partnership to produce a pan-Ayrshire strategy. We were initially approached by the strategic lead, following involvement in the area through a Menu of Interventions roadshow. We have since been working with the Ayrshire Autism Partnership Steering Group which is developing the plan. Autism Network Scotland has supported the local authority in engaging with people through their Principles of Good Transitions 2 roadshow.

Scottish Borders approached the Co-ordination team, based on an existing established link with Autism Network Scotland, which has developed a Local Network in the area. The team met with the local Autism Strategy Group to give feedback on the local plan. Further support in relation to working with strategic partners has been planned.

The team recently approached Dumfries and Galloway, which has an existing Local Network, established by Autism Network Scotland. Support has been offered to further develop their strategy and action plan to reflect local achievements in advance of their strategy launch on World Autism Day.

The team has been working with Fife Autism Steering Group, which we approached in partnership with Autism Network Scotland. The area's local plan is now published, having been signed off by the Community Planning Partnership. The local lead officer also participated in our first national practice sharing event, facilitating a workshop on out of area placements.

We have also spent a significant amount of time working with areas which are grappling with local implementation, either in developing action plans or with the challenges of local dynamics. In Highland, we took part in facilitating an event hosted by the NHS, which involved consulting with all the local autism groups. This was productive and we are participating in facilitating a further event in April.

We are working closely with all the areas whose strategies are at an early stage. The work is challenging and requires us to be sensitive in our responses.

Findings

There are a wide range of positions at a local level across the country. As previously stated, there are a small number of authorities whose plans are at an early stage of development, prior to publishing. This has decreased since the project commenced. There are some areas which have a separate strategy and action plan. The Co-ordination team is supporting the effective implementation of the local strategies by advocating that their authorisation is through Community Planning Partnerships.

As we move towards integration of Health and Social Care, it is vital that all partners are engaged in the implementation of the local strategy. Our interventions in addressing this challenge will be at a strategic level, in terms of in terms of facilitating discussions around shared resource allocation and responsibilities. The provision of diagnostic services in light of budget restriction is another challenge, particularly in remote and rural communities. We are working jointly with island and rural local authorities in relation to diagnostic service provision, to facilitate discussion on collective solutions to this challenge.

National events

In January the team held a national lead officers' event within Strathclyde University, attended by representatives from most areas, to share good practice and explore key themes. One of the themes which has emerged in most areas in the course of our visits has been out of area placements and complex care. A workshop was delivered on this theme as part of the event and those present expressed an appetite for a full day focussing on this. The keynote presentation from Peter McCulloch of Social Work Scotland outlined the joint work on developing performance indicators for benchmarking plans. Other presentations from lead officers from a range of settings, from urban to rural illustrated some of the issues and achievements being addressed locally. The event was well received, several participants stating that they had appreciated having a safe space to discuss local challenges with their peers. Of major importance in achieving consistent good practice for people with autism at a local level has been the establishment of a collaborative. There was a high level of collective commitment from those present on the day, others having since given their commitment.

Next steps

The team's focus is now at an increasingly strategic level, ensuring that we engage the key strategic figures in each locality, both from social care and health, in light of the pending integration agenda, to ensure strategic commitment. We are supporting joint working with these key partners at a local level, in exploring solutions to improving outcomes for people on the spectrum given finite resources.

Now that we have made an impact on increasing the numbers of plans submitted, we will continue to work with ongoing strategy development. We will also work with areas developing implementation plans and support consultation with people with autism and their families.

Feedback from the workshops at our lead officers' events and from our co-ordination visits continues to shape the focus of our project plan. Where the initial event had a more general focus,

each forthcoming one will now have a single theme. The key theme for our next event on 29th April will be out of area placements and complex care, with a focus on housing, risk management and financial resources.

Appendix 1

Local Authority Strategies

Final versions

Aberdeen City – strategy and action plan submitted in January 2015

Aberdeenshire – strategy

Argyll and Bute – strategy. NACP supporting the development of an implementation plan

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar – strategy and action plan. NACP supporting strategic discussions with NHS partners

Dundee – Short action plan only. NACP working with Dundee to further develop this

Edinburgh - Autism Plan (includes strategy and plan)

East Dunbartonshire Autism Strategy – Includes action plan and needs assessment. NACP supporting implementation

Falkirk Autism Strategy and action plan – NACP working with strategy group

Fife – Inclusive of improvement plan. NACP working in partnership regarding out of area placements

Inverclyde Autism Strategy and Action Plan – NACP/ANS supporting local implementation

Moray - Strategy

North Lanarkshire – strategy, consultation and return

Orkney – Strategy. NACP supporting development of implementation plan

Renfrewshire - Strategy

Stirling and Clackmannanshire Autism Strategy Summary – full strategy to be launched soon. NACP has been supporting the lead officer

Draft versions

Ayrshire Draft Delivery Plan – NACP has been supporting strategy group to develop a full strategy

Dumfries and Galloway – Strategy and action plan. NACP supporting the lead officer to further develop this for launch on World Autism Day

East Lothian - Strategy

East Renfrewshire – Strategy. NACP working with lead officer to develop this and to include an action plan

Highland – separate Adult and Children plans. NACP supporting and facilitating local consultation

Midlothian - strategy

Perth and Kinross – action plan

Scottish Borders – Strategy and delivery plan. NACP working with the strategy group to ensure strategic commitment

Shetland - Action plan. NACP working with Shetland to support a fully developed strategy, as well as implementation.

South Lanarkshire - Strategy and action plan

No strategy

Glasgow – NACP working with lead officers and local ASD group

West Lothian – NACP working with lead officer to finalise plan

West Dunbartonshire – working with lead officer and plans to engage strategic lead to revise existing draft

Angus – Had submitted finalised plan, but new lead officer has withdrawn it to further develop it to reflect local needs. NACP/ANS supporting this and engagement events.