

Listening to Community Event
Summary for Governance Group

The event was attended by about 40 parent/carers, with a couple also practitioners and autistic individuals less than would have liked but this was due to venue and cost limitation.

The format was as below:

Morning

Introduction to the day - Kabie Brook
Introduction to Strategy - Jean MacLellan
Supporting Local Plans – Donald McLeod
Communications Plan – Emma Hanley
NHS Training Framework – Janine Robinson
Input and Using Building Block for Person Centred Outcomes – Thom Kirkwood

Afternoon

Working Together – Going Forward.
Introduction Michael Dawson

4 Discussion Groups. Jointly facilitated by a Member of ANS and either Idem, Kabie, Michael or Thom.

The workshops focused on key questions.

How is the overall Voice of the stakeholder communities heard?
Sub Question - Does the process outlined in the organogram serve communities?

What can the communities do to be involved locally and nationally taking into account local and geographical differences?

How do the communities link up locally and nationally with each other?

How do we create a fair and representative process?

Points for considerations.
Geographical representation.
Level of Ability and effectiveness.
Age Groups.
Lessons from the Past.

Overall Conclusions for Discussion with the Aim of Taking Things Forward

Evaluations

Verbally – Relaxed informative stakeholder inclusive day.

From Evaluation Forms Returned	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Overall, how satisfied were you with the event?	2	5	2
How useful did you find the presentation?	1	3	4
How useful did you find the afternoon session?	0	5	4

From Social Media Feed Back after event. Note maybe some duplication.	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Overall, how satisfied were you with the event?	3	12	12
How useful did you find the presentation?	3	14	11
How useful did you find the afternoon session?	0	17	10

The above clearly supportive of the format for the day with the following being findings for taking things forward.

Key points in taking things forward.

1. Develop a pilot project using a format similar to Carers UK, create local Autism Awareness Volunteers and Autism Ambassadors – representative within the local community.

6 Pilot areas. Two Urban, Two Rural and Two a mix of Urban/Rural

Develop local awareness and champion community voices feeding into local and national strategies. Increase activity around specific campaigns.

Confirm/Highlight good practise from a service user's perspective.

Be a collective representative voice for the autism community.

Be a local driver for greater inclusion. Age, gender, locations.

Funding would be required to provide literature and out of pocket expenses for both.

Funding would be required initially for a p/t time coordinator.

Funding would need to increase if pilot was proven successful.

TK to draft proposal outline based on Carers UK format.

2. Restructure the way in which events are delivered to cover broader scope overall and become more inclusive, more meaningful to deliver two way co-productive outcomes.

Less events which are single topic related.

More events, more often which are

More relaxed,

Multi-topic,

Less Presentational,

More Inclusive -- national and local and community – both professional and non-professional.

More inclusion in the NACP – Local Leads Events by the non-professionals.

Utilising other experienced and training organisation.

Eg. Determine a programme of content.

Plan a series of events – on a rolling, repeating cycle around different venues, for example within Health Board area, **not** a local authority area

Differing event styles that there's a need to continue other types of event and inclusion.

E.g. Online chat & focus groups, twitter / other social media etc.

By implementing a joined up wider format approach will serve to foster a spirit of openness and responsiveness.

All new and future ideas should be considered as they arise, although obviously not all ideas will be progressed.

3. Create and develop more effective pathways.

Within local plans,

Show positive examples of what works, not for the process, but for the individual and families.

Encourage as policy parental/carer practitioner, autistic individuals with professional practitioner partnerships.

Advocacy can be peer to peer as well as independent. Needs acceptance by professional practitioners.

Within national strategy we need a format and process where all the non-practitioners within the governance group and work groups get to meet on regular basis. To ensure that we are all effectively joining the dots and not missing major relevant issues. These people should also be involved in every practical sense with the work of NACP and Local Leads.

4. Learning and Influencing both Policy and Practise.

It's important that what is learnt is not just utilised to influence policy and practise, but is seen to be doing this.

Deliver regular updates on what has been learnt and how it has impacted.
Highlight beneficial changes.

Acknowledge weaknesses or ineffective poor practice and seek in partnership with others to identify appropriate improvement actions.

Provide evidence of actions being taken to address.

5. Expenses and Support. Need to explore ways of funding and supporting participation.

Many, especially the non-practitioner are either dependent on DLA/PIP or Carers Allowance and Income Support.

Make events more local, or cover expenses -- needs explored for solutions.

Support in and during participation for those less articulate or who struggle with theory of mind. Provide a range of support tools.

Support to enhance wider participation for parents who require child care to enable attendance. – For example work in partnership with voluntary sector to meet need.

Compiled by Thom Kirkwood, Kabie Brook, Michael Dawson, Idem Lewis, from the write up and feedback from all those who attended.

Thank You for the organisational and administrative support from Annie at ANS.

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