

Governance and Working Group Activity Overview

The Network Secretariat has ensured that all working groups have met since the last Governance Group meeting.

It was announced at Working Group 1's meeting that Scottish Government intends to employ an improvement consultant to continue the AAA work, in order to address the outcome within the work plan related to the improvement of diagnostic service provision. This group is also progressing links with health boards in order to ensure the collection of routine data related to learning disability and autism. The group also reviewed the work of the National Coordination Project, which has been successful in ensuring most local autism strategies have been submitted and which is now progressing their implementation. A progress report on the Microsegmentation Project has also been requested.

Working Group 2's draft work plan was submitted to the Governance Group at their June meeting and was well-received. Group 2 has now identified first steps to improve young adult transitions and how to implement these. These address the themes identified during the 'Digging Deeper' road show events. They are: eligibility and unmet need, options and choices, resources and logistics, processes, accountability, information and training. The group also co-produced the last Autism Strategy Collaborative event, presenting their work plan and the "Digging Deeper" report at that event.

Working Group 3 requested the outcomes from the Autism Development Fund projects; however, the evaluation of these projects is reliant on final reports and evaluations being completed by the project organisations and for these to be analysed to identify good practice. The Group will be creating an online knowledge network, in the form of a forum hosted on the Autism Network Scotland website, which will be called the "Sharing Practice Network".

Working Group 4 heard an update from Janine Robinson, NES, who reported that an updated web resource for primary care physicians has been completed. The updated web resource was recently published and is available online now. The group will be taking a look at training levels in diagnostic facilities across Scotland, as well as at data from a recent ADOS project on diagnostics. The group is also keen to know more about autism in teacher training, and will be gathering data from a number of sources related to this. The group is gathering local intelligence on autism alert cards for future analysis.

Further findings include the varying national picture of diagnostic services, with some robust multi-disciplinary approaches improving service provision. A key outcome has been the local implementation of the NHS Education for Scotland Training Framework and Plan, which local integration boards are now starting to use to standardise the quality of their training delivery across public services.