

Working Group Activity Overview

The Network Secretariat has ensured that Working Groups 1, 2 and 4 have met once since the last Governance Group meeting. The membership of Working Group 3 has been subsumed into the remaining groups, who will all now consider good autism practice within their work plans. The following report is a brief overview of the emerging outcomes of the three groups.

Working Group 1 is considering the national picture of Self Directed Support and its implementation in relation to people with autism. They are going to focus their ongoing work on findings from local consultations as well as a national approach. The NHS Education for Scotland (NES) work in relation to training and capacity building continues, a recent outcome being that GPs are working on the e-learning module on the NES autism resource website. NES also has an event planned for February on complex care and co-morbidities, targeting practitioners who have completed ADOS and related courses.

Locality statements have been provided in relation to sustainability of One-Stop Shops, following the end of current funding arrangements in March 2016, options for which will be forwarded to the Minister.

Working Group 2 has evaluated data from the 2011 Census to provide a snapshot understanding of autism transitions at that time, based on economic activity. It will explore other data gathering resources in further developing the picture. Following a successful Autism Strategy Collaborative, the group proposes to maintain links with the autism leads in each locality through the National Autism Coordination Project and will review its work plan in the context of synergies with the work of local autism lead officers. As part of the group's work plan, agreement has been reached to produce an autism supplement to the Principles of Good Transitions 3 document this year. This document will seek to simplify the complex legislative landscape for transitions in Scotland.

Working Group 4 focusses on what training and capacity building initiatives will have the most impact on improving the lives of people with autism. Discussions seek to prioritise training issues and take guidance from outcomes realised by previously funded projects, Strathclyde University and Open University modules. The group will assess uptake of courses from Further Education to post graduate courses in autism through Education teams in Scottish Government and Education Scotland.

The group has been able to list individuals in Scotland who are trained in diagnostics interviewing for autism. It has further highlighted areas with little or no provision of practitioners trained in the usual diagnostics methods of DISCO and ADOS.