

## Scottish Strategy for Autism

### Work Group 1

**Update: July to September 2016**

Work Group1 met again on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Attendance at the group has begun to dwindle and members present felt this may be a reflection of the need to review again the role and membership of the group and reconfirm its function .

The work plan was reviewed in detail and a number of activities have been achieved, such as the appointment of the National Coordination Team.

Some activities have been overtaken by events or the work of others, such as considering the impact of new diagnostic criteria.

Other priorities are outwith what the Work group can address, such as the sustainability of the One Stop Shops.

The 2 remaining priorities which the group feel there remains significant work outstanding to bridge the gap between strategy and reality are diagnosis and commissioning.

- Although the work of the Improvement Advisor around the work of diagnostic services continues, there remains the challenge in many parts of Scotland that people are still falling 'between the gaps' in diagnostic provision particularly for adults with no learning disability or mental health condition.
- There is activity regarding the commissioning of services for people with autism through the ANS network and events but there are still many examples of commissioning processes and priorities not addressing the needs of individuals.

In addition the group reflected that the overall Goal '**Access to integrated service provision across the lifespan to address the multi-dimensional aspects of autism**' is too vague an aspiration to provide a sense of purpose for the group without further guidance.

The conclusion of the group is that clarity should be sought about what the Governance Group requires from the workgroup (that is achievable by the group), and the optimal structure and membership of the group to achieve this and in particular move forward the 2 priorities described above.