

ASD Reference Group Template – Database of Skills and Experience

Health and Social Care Integration Directorate
Adult Care and Support Division



We would like to develop a repository of skills / experience which ASD Reference Group members have, in order to ensure that these are adequately covered within the Group to finalise and take forward the Recommendations of the Autism Strategy. Please could you complete and return the short template below:

(Madeline) Jane Hook. M.B.E. M.A.

1. Academic background / Training

Born Lerwick, Shetland. Attended Anderson Educational institute (now High School). Continued education at Glasgow University from 1966-1970. Completed M.A degree with extra subjects. Attended Jordanhill and complete Secondary teaching course for English and History. While at university was President of Queen Margaret Union and took part in competitive debating.

2. Work Experience

Taught English and History before joining B.E.A (British European Airways). This later amalgamated into British Airways. Participated in a large number of courses over the 28 years in the airline business. These included –Industrial Relations, Cabin Crew Training, Communication and Business Planning. During this time also did some journalism and Radio and T.V. freelance work. After diagnosis of daughter Rachel with Autism in 1990 used these skills to set up two charities Strathclyde Autistic Society in March 1992 and Buddies Club Playscheme in October 1994. One of the first people to campaign in the field of Autism in Scotland. Past board member, vice chair and chair of Scottish Autism. Helped launch the Cross Party Group for Autism.Helped Instigate Public Health Institute Needs Assessment on Autism. Member of the A.S.D . Reference group past and present. Has attended and spoken at so many course on a range of topics about Autism that she has lost count!! All have added to a wider understanding in the field.

Member of The M.M.R. expert group and a range of other Scottish Executive/ Government Initiatives.

At present Chief Executive of Buddies Club Playscheme which now provides services for a range of children and young people from aged 6 weeks to 35 years. The majority of children and young people from 5-35 have Autism Spectrum Disorder. This role includes managing a large team of staff, creating new services, being innovative. Running a business which includes financial skills, H.R skills, funding applications, inspiring and managing staff to see A big picture and develop innovative services.

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3. Strengths and Skills

Good communication skills verbal and written. Good at listening and giving appropriate family support by telephone and face to face. Excellent networking skills in Scotland and UK in Autism /social services/health care/politics/ media/ other areas at local and national level. Received an M.B.E for services to people affected by Autism in Scotland in June 2003. Good public speaker/interviewer/making the case in public for services for Autism. Persuasive, well informed on Autism and other disabilities. Good at defusing difficult situations.

Understanding the imperatives of other organisations/ government and individuals.

Sense of humour!!

Being the mother of a 25year old with Autism and associated learning disability who knows better than mother!!