

ASD Reference Group Template – Database of Skills and Experience

Health and Social Care Integration Directorate

Adult Care and Support Division

Richard Ibbotson

National Director Scotland

Autism Initiatives

1. Academic background / Training

Registered Nurse (1986)

B Phil Autism – University of Birmingham

2. Work Experience

1986 – 1995: Management posts in Learning Disability (Local Authority, NHS and Voluntary sectors)

1995- 2005: Assistant Director – Scottish Society for Autism

2005 – present: National Director Autism Initiatives UK

Presented at national and international conferences in Autism (including the world conferences in Oslo, Melbourne, Cape Town)

Member of local Autism Strategy Groups (Lothian, Aberdeenshire, Scottish Borders)

Confederation of Service providers for people with Autism: Committee Member

IWORK4ME: Trustee and founder member

Scottish Autism Services Network – Steering Group and member of the Employability network

National Centre for Autism Studies – leader of the ‘autism in adulthood’ module (2003-2008)

3. Strengths

Links with autism strategy and local support groups (PASDA / ELAS)

Particular interest in development of:

- Employment solutions (including Social Firms and Self Employment) – developed the ‘What I do’ occupation spectrum
- Services for adults with Asperger Syndrome (Number 6 – One Stop Shop model)
- Environmental good practice (created the good practice guidelines in management of environments to support people with autism)
- Intensive support service solutions
- Housing support solutions

4. Skills