

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:

ALISON LEASK

1. Academic background / Training

2005-2007	MSc in Autism Spectrum Disorders, University of Strathclyde
2000-2002	Post Graduate Diploma in Autism, University of Strathclyde
1997-2000	BSc Health Studies, University of Paisley
1977-1978	State Certified Midwife, Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow
1973-1976	Registered General Nurse, Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow

2. Work Experience

Employment:

2000-present	Autism Argyll, Elected Chair (Voluntary role). Founder member of parent/professional ASD support and information group
2003-present	Regional Tutor, University of Birmingham, Webautism under-graduate course
2006-2011	Teaching Associate (post-graduate), National Centre for Autism Studies, University of Strathclyde
2004-2007	Project Manager, NHS Education for Scotland
2003-2004	Practice Nurse, Muasdale Surgery, Kintyre
1992-2000	Senior Staff Nurse, Accident, Emergency and Outpatient Department. Campbeltown Hospital
1978-1984	Sister, Medical Unit, Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow

Directorship:

2007-present	Non-executive Director (currently Vice- Chair), Scottish Autism
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Advisory Committees (invited member):

2003-present	Community Support Services, Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay
2004-present	ASD Reference Group, Scottish Government
2004-present	Scottish Autism Service Network Advisory Group, University of Strathclyde
2006-present	SIGN, Mental Health and Learning Disability Subgroup
2007-present	NHS Education for Scotland, ASD Learning Resource Advisory Group
2008-2012	Scottish Autism Services Network, Employability Group (Chair)

Experience (Since 2000):

- Founding member of Autism Argyll, a parent and professional support and information group (www.autismargyll.org.uk). Membership increased from eight to 180 and raised

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the profile of the group to national level through initiatives such as developing parent information resources.

- Developed and deliver autism awareness raising materials for multiprofessional groups, parents and carers across Argyll and Bute.
- Developed autism specific resources for use in the NHS across Scotland (Booklet for parents of newly diagnosed children: National Directory of diagnostic teams).
- Organised capacity building in autism specific instruments for Scottish diagnosticians.
- Nine years tutoring students studying autism with the University of Birmingham webautism programme.
- Member of the Scottish Government ASD Reference Group.
- Writing group member of the clinical guideline for the Scottish Intercollegiate Guideline Network 'Assessment diagnosis and clinical intervention of children and young people with an autism spectrum disorder'(SIGN 98, 2007).
- Writing group member of SIGN 98 on-line CPD resource
- Co author of 'The Autism Toolbox: A resource for Scottish schools.'(2009) A Scottish Government Education Department initiative.
- Present at local, national and international conferences, including as a member of a symposium presentation at the Inclusive and Supportive Education Congress, Queen's University Belfast(August 2010).
- Non-executive Director(currently Vice- Chair)of Scottish Autism since 2007

3. Strengths

I have 25 years general nursing experience (1973 -2004) in large and small hospitals and primary care. Since 1996 my professional and personal interest is in autism spectrum disorders. This includes dealing directly with families and professionals who live and work within the field of autism as well as involvement in local and in national initiatives at Scottish Government level.

I am a parent of a young man diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder at age 12 years.

4. Skills

Personal profile:

I am committed to improving the life journey for families and individuals living with autism.

Publications:

Leask, A. (2006) Information for parents and carers with a child or young person recently diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. NHS Scotland.

Available at: www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk/information/index.html

Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) (2007) Assessment, diagnosis and clinical interventions for children and young people with autism spectrum disorders. Edinburgh.SIGN Publication no 98.

Available at: www.sign.ac.uk

Leask, A. (2007) Developing Written Information for Parents of Children Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Analysis of a Project. Masters Thesis. University of Strathclyde, Jordanhill Library.

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Dunlop, A.W., Tait, C., Leask, A., Glashan, I., Robinson, A and Marwick, H. (2009) The Autism Toolbox: An Autism Resource for Scottish Schools . Edinburgh: Blackwell. Available at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/07/06111319/60>

Reports:

Leask, A. (2008) Report on a partnership for inclusive Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) specific training. A model of delivery for remote and rural areas. Online publication only. Available at:

http://www.autismargyll.org.uk/autismargyll/AA_documents.html

Leask, A. (2009) Report on the delivery of autism awareness sessions for front line health staff. A model for remote and rural areas. Online publication only. Available at:

http://www.autismargyll.org.uk/autismargyll/AA_documents.html