

Summary of key messages and action items
Working Group 4 meeting, March 24, 2015

KEY MESSAGES

Workgroup Four is looking at the Goal: *Capacity and awareness building in mainstream services to ensure people with ASD are met with recognition and understanding of autism*

The Scottish Government has confirmed additional funding for NES to continue their work around the Autism Training Framework (published) and Training Plan (currently in draft). They will be attending various conferences and events across Scotland to widen their reach, and are partnering with Autism Network Scotland to accomplish this. NES is also commissioning some training after identifying gaps, but will evaluate the effectiveness of the trainings before commissioning anything further.

The group agreed that the earliest diagnosis of autism was important, and that people commonly in contact with children (teachers, general practitioners, and parents) should be able to identify key behaviours that might indicate a need for further assessment. The group further agreed that a true understanding of autism and autistic behaviours is reliant on experience as well as information. This is key in schools and in health settings, especially adult mental health settings. The group would like to know what is happening in local authorities and in diagnostic facilities across Scotland.

ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

1. **ACTION ITEM:** AP to contact NAS director with invitation – DONE
2. **ACTION ITEM:** TW to send Royal College of General Practitioners Scotland lead contact information to JR - DONE
3. **ACTION ITEM:** AM will see if she has any service provider group contacts – DONE, AM will pass to JR for follow up
4. **ACTION ITEM:** All: Please read materials and think about where we focus our activity for greatest impact (discussion today)

NEW ACTION ITEMS

1. **ACTION ITEM:** KB to send JR her input on how best to include this in the Training Plan
2. **ACTION ITEM:** JR to send KB pharmacist web resources on autism
3. **ACTION ITEM:** AMG and JR to partner on creation of a questionnaire for April conference
4. **ACTION ITEM:** KF to send Circle information to BC
5. **ACTION ITEM:** KF and AMG are to look at available diagnostic facilities across Scotland and determine what their current level of training is (informed, skilled, enhanced or expert)
6. **ACTION ITEM:** JR to meet with National Autism Co-Ordination Team in April, to consider ways of determining best practice in diagnosis in local authorities, and how to disseminate the Training Framework and Plan in local authorities for inclusion in local strategies and plans.
7. **ACTION ITEM:** AT to consider the best route to getting information with regard to what local authorities report to be doing on diagnosis as per each local strategy. (DONE - AT reported that the National Autism Co-Ordination Project team would be better placed to take up this work.)

[Full minutes can be viewed by clicking here](#)