

# Governance and Working Group Activity Overview

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The Network Secretariat has ensured that all working groups have had one further meeting since the last Governance Group meeting. The groups are at varying stages in the evolution of their work plans.

Working Group 2 has been analysing data in relation to the prominence of transitions in local autism strategies as well as data from eSay and Pupils in Scotland in relation to the correlation between the levels of children and adults receiving support, the numbers decreasing for adult support. Further data from the Microsegmentation report, when available, may also influence the focus of their work plan, which is being presented at the Governance meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June with clear proposals for endorsement. These proposals have been developed from those in the draft Principles of Good Transitions report and are grounded in the reality of finite budgets, outlining aspirational goals and practical first steps.

Working Group 3 is also working towards some practical first steps, considering the relation between good autism practice and commissioning. Potential actions being considered are the publication of a Scottish research-focused edition of the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders and a good autism practice festival. The group is keen to see the completion of two key pieces of work: the final report from the Action on Autism Research Series and the outcomes from the review of the Autism Development Fund projects, which has also been a focus for Working Group 2. The group plans to launch a Knowledge Network on the Autism Network Scotland website, which will be a place where researchers and practitioners can share examples of good practice and discuss it with each other.

Further findings include the difficulty of painting a clear national picture of transitions, both in local policy and in practice. There is also ongoing analysis of eligibility criteria in relation to autism, with comparisons being made between different data sets from social work and Department of Work and Pensions. There are arising needs being identified in relation to resources and logistics, with transport and needs being key elements. Another key outcome of the Working Groups is the publication of the NES Training Plan, including a range of tools for assessing development needs. This is now live on their website.

The Coordination team now attends meetings of Working Groups 2 and 3, given policy-related synergies in their work. Working Group 2 will work with the National Autism Coordination Project in relation to the next Autism Strategy Collaborative event in August, which will be focussed on Transitions.