

Working Group 4 meeting minutes
31 August 2015
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

REVIEWED BY CHAIR

Members present: David Breslin, Speaking Literally; Kabie Brook, Autism Rights Group Highland; Bill Colley, Caledonia Learning and Care; Elizabeth Coyle, Service User; Anne Marie Gallagher (CHAIR), NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; Anne MacDonald, The Richmond Fellowship Scotland; Jenny Paterson, National Autistic Society; Annette Pyle, Care, Support and Rights, Scottish Government; Anna Robinson, University of Strathclyde; Janine Robinson, NHS Education for Scotland; Annie Watson, Autism Network Scotland

Apologies: Andrew Stansfield, Patrick Wild Centre, University of Edinburgh

Absent: Kirsty Forsyth, Queen Margaret University/Autism Achieve Alliance

Minutes by: Tracy Wenzl, Autism Network Scotland

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Draft agenda was approved.
- II. **Minutes** – approved
- III. **Review of Action Items**
 - a. Carried forward from March meeting:
 1. 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) – it is believed that the data is available but it hasn't been looked at yet
ACTION ITEM: AP to follow up with KF on levels of training at diagnostic facilities across Scotland
ACTION ITEM: AP to follow up with Edinburgh University on recent ADOS project, which could also provide useful information about diagnostics
 - b. From June meeting:
 1. AMG to contact David Watt, Education Scotland, about adapting Framework for Education – Information was gathered from head teachers in primary and secondary education about the content of the framework with regard to citizenship, valuing others and equalities, to ascertain if there was mileage in considering teaching on autism within the framework. The framework does not consider specific conditions or specific groups of people and therefore was not considered a realistic option.
 2. MCS to contact Carolyn Brown for further information about the Fife model - DONE
 3. BC to contact Jayne Porter at Autism Network Scotland/Working Group 3 member, and Moira Park, Scottish Autism/Autism Toolbox, to see if they have information about current teacher training programmes – DONE

A brief discussion ensued about applying the NES Training Framework to Education. BC noted that the General Teaching Council should be included when considering ways to reach educators. AR noted that Strathclyde University has an optional 24 module on

autism for undergraduate teaching students. She further noted that previous training framework has been done ([MacKay & Dunlop, 2004](#)) and that perhaps that work could be updated. JR noted this was outside of the remit of NES. KB noted that a school in Dingwall received funding to hire an autism trainer – perhaps there is useful information there.

ACTION ITEM: AP to ask Moira Park about current autism training within teacher training programmes (core vs. optional)

IV. Discussion of Strategic Outcome 3 and Group 4 workplan

AP has reframed the Scottish Strategy for Autism into four outcomes. These outcomes align with the strategy goals. There is no change in the Strategy's priorities; it simply reframes the Strategy to align it with current national Scottish Government priorities and provide a rationale on what we are doing and why. It is an approach framework; a way to look at what we've done and what are priorities are going forward in the next phase as agreed when we developed the strategy priority action plan.

The group then reviewed Outcome 3.

ACTION ITEM: AP to revise Outcome 3, moving the One Stop Shop items into Outcome 1 and revising achievement 4 and what we will do next 4.

AP suggested that the group consider evaluating the impact of the Open University and Strathclyde University funded autism modules.

ACTION ITEM: AR to gather data on who attended and what is next for Strathclyde University attenders

ACTION ITEM: AP to invite Open University to provide data and attend next meeting

BC and AR noted that a video presentation from Dr Jackie Ravet from the [Action on Autism Research Series seminar 4](#)¹ could provide further insights.

AMG noted that the working groups' role is seen as advisory.

AP noted that the Development Fund will now be known as the Innovation and Improvement Fund, and the Scottish Government has funding for this fiscal year (15/16) and, subject to review, hope to secure funding in the next financial year through March 2017 to deliver on our priorities. The letter calling for applications is out and gave a six-week turnaround from the date of issue. The Scottish Government has asked for applicants to focus on the four strategy outcomes. £1.5 million will be available in this financial year and there is no minimum or maximum project award. They are particularly keen to see projects that offer sustainability. They are also keen to see where projects align with local strategies and plans. AP noted that they may ask the Working Groups for assistance in reviewing applications relevant to the groups' new outcomes.

DB noted his concern for projects intended for "raising autism awareness" – he noted concerns about media portrayal of autism "sufferers." He hopes to see funding go towards formal courses and trainings rather than general flyers and other types of mass "awareness raising" campaigns as they haven't been effective in the right ways. Further discussion ensued around

¹ Video is unavailable due to audio issues

improvements in education, and how the group could feed into project selections for this round of funding.

ACTION ITEM: AP to send out timescale for funded project review to the group to seek available volunteers for the review panel

V. **NES web resource and update**

JR reported that NES has produced an e-learning module and has just updated their autism web resource. It is nearly ready to go online pending IT upload processes. JR has had a poster accepted at an upcoming Royal College of General Practitioners conference in October. She has been trying to reach Miles Mack, head of the Scottish RCGP, for further discussion.

ACTION ITEM: JR to send poster to AP

NES is committed to delivering five key pieces of work before their funding ends in March:

1. Adapting CBT training (for children and for adults) courses
2. A symposium on “good practice” in early December
3. A good practice guide document to come out of the symposium
4. An event on complex presentation and co-morbid conditions at the end of January (this event will be video recorded)
5. NES is piloting Ask Autism training to determine recommendations for future use

JR also noted that her NES colleague is working with Jayne Porter, Autism Network Scotland, on training for preschool teachers

ACTION ITEM: AP to send links to resources on learning disability and bereavement to JR

VI. **Proposed process model**

EC explained her proposal document, which breaks down tasks into manageable chunks. The group can then discuss options and solutions, and then write recommendations for the Governance Group. She also requested that meeting materials (agendas, etc) be sent out far in advance of the meetings. AP noted that this was a great paper and thanked EC for the work she did. She noted this process would be very useful when dealing with specific pieces of work.

VII. **Autism Alert Card Report (2013)**

After a quick review of the report, the group discussed current Alert Cards and the process to get them. Some groups require registration while others, like ARGH (Autism Rights Group Highland) do not. KB expressed concern that the Alert Card programme could lead to authorities not believing people if they didn't have an “official” card – people should be able to choose to carry, or not, whichever card they like. The real message should be that if someone shows a card, or says they have autism, they should get the supports required. AP wondered if there was a phone app for this – KB noted she's part of a group that is developing this. She also noted ARGH works with their local police.

ACTION ITEM: Everyone to think about where alert cards are offered and how to access them – send this information to TW for collation.

VIII. **Any other current business** – none

IX. **Date for next meeting** – the next meeting will take place Monday, January 11, 2016.

X. Close – meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

KEY MESSAGES:

The group heard an update from Janine Robinson, NES, who reported that an updated web resource for primary care physicians has been completed and will be online soon. The group will be taking a look at training levels in diagnostic facilities across Scotland, as well as at data from a recent ADOS project. The group is also keen to know more about autism in teacher training, and will be gathering data from a number of sources related to this. The group has been asked to gather information on autism alert cards available in their areas and forward this information to Tracy Wenzl for collation.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

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