

Local Implementation

Collaborative working

Appendix 1 gives an ongoing status report in relation to local autism strategies. The National Autism Coordination Project was established a year ago to provide the bridge between the Scottish Strategy for Autism and local implementation. When we started our work, the national picture of local autism planning was patchy, with different authorities at different stages in the evolution of their local autism strategies. A year on, the picture looks dramatically different, with most plans now finalised, so that we now have a base line for further advances. The Coordination team has made a range of visits across the country, supporting the development of these plans individually, based on local needs. Those who have made significant advances have showcased their efforts at our events, having established a collaborative of lead officers and offered a safe forum for sharing ideas and challenges in order to learn from each other and engage with the national strategy as it develops.

Now that we have made an impact on increasing the numbers of plans submitted, we will continue to work with ongoing strategy development. The main focus of our work at the moment is with areas developing implementation plans, supporting consultation with people with autism and their families, as well as professionals. Our focus is now at an increasingly strategic level, ensuring that we engage the key figures in each locality, both from social care and health, in light of the integration agenda, to ensure commitment. We are supporting joint working with these key partners at a local level, in exploring solutions to improving outcomes for people on the spectrum given finite resources

The Coordination team has been working with strategic leads in East Renfrewshire in order to finalise their local strategy, as well as areas such as West Dunbartonshire, where we have given feedback to support the completion of their strategy. We have also supported Glasgow City Council to further develop its strategy which has now been approved by the shadow integration board.

We have been working with the strategy group in Midlothian, where an innovative approach has been taken, in that they have engaged Artlink to creatively facilitate their autism strategy by commissioning a writer to capture the views of parents and people working directly with people with autism. The lead officer from Midlothian Council is keen to bring a more human feel to the document with the expressed interest of engaging people with a practical understanding of the needs of people with autism. This is a unique local approach.

We continue to work in partnership with NHS Education for Scotland in relation to the roll out of the Training Framework and Training Plan, which we discuss with practitioners, parents and people with autism during our coordination visits and implementation events.

We continue to work with Ayrshire, which has recently produced a draft pan-Ayrshire strategy, currently out for consultation, and we continue to support North and South Lanarkshire in relation to their strategies and implementation plans.

Findings

Recent focus has shifted to the development of implementation plans, to which end we have facilitated a number of consultation events in order to initiate local engagement with people with autism, their families and practitioners.

We recently facilitated an implementation event in Aberdeen, involving practitioners and people with autism. This took the form of presentations illustrating the link between the national picture and local implementation, with workshops concerning local priorities. Over the past year, we have managed to embed the four mid-term strategy goals within local plans. Now, with the development of the Scottish Government Outcomes Framework, we have been able to make a straightforward link between local priorities and national outcomes. This has been helpful in our implementation events, in illustrating how people at a local level have an influence on and connection with the development of national policy and outcomes. The workshops in Aberdeen focussed on awareness raising and training, diagnostic pathways, support, prevention and intervention and data collection, all of which have an identifiable connection with the mid-term goals and outcomes framework.

More recently, in Dumfries and Galloway, we co-facilitated a consultation event with parents and practitioners, regarding the local strategy. Again we were able to establish a link with national developments and ensure that developments in national strategy are influencing local implementation. The tone in this event was positive and emotional, with parents being able to share their experience and knowledge in order to influence their local strategy in a safe, supportive environment.

In the course of our visits, we have been shown excellent examples of good practice. Recently, we visited a facility in West Dunbartonshire, developed by a third sector organisation in partnership with the local authority. This was a purpose built site aimed at people with autism who were placed out of area, with complex support needs. Simple, imaginative steps had been taken in the physical design of this environment, including the integration of assistive technology, which has afforded significant independence with minimal support hours for the tenants there. One of the key steps we have been able to make is the sharing of such practice with other areas facing the same challenges. This has largely been in the form of sharing practice at our lead officers' events, but in this and other cases, we were able to make a direct link, taking a lead officer from another area on the visit, given that he is trying to develop a similar resource. We have since put others in touch with West Dunbartonshire, following our last lead officers' event.

Next steps

With our main focus now on effective local implementation, the Coordination team continues to work in partnership with NHS Highland, with strategy group meetings planned, as well as regular network events, open to all who wish to engage with the local strategy. We supported a multi agency Autism Study Day at the end of last month in Inverness, and worked with both the adults' and children's strategy groups the following day. In January, we have arranged an induction day for the newly formed strategy group, to look at the synergies between the local plan and the Outcomes Framework.

Following the initial "Engage with Strathclyde" event in May, aimed at facilitating discussion between general provider organisations and commissioners, we continue to work with the collaborative established then. In August, we delivered a session looking at the practicalities of service design, including physical environment as well as a session building on the foundation level of the NHS Education for Scotland Training Framework. Ongoing sessions are planned. Following discussion with Julie Haslett, JIT consultant, with whom we met to discuss support for sustainability

of the One-Stop Shop model, an offer has been made to focus on strategic commissioning at a future event. We are currently evaluating feedback to form the agenda for the next session.

We also have an ongoing schedule of implementation consultations, which we are facilitating, the most recent being an event in Ayrshire, with a broad range of practitioners looking at the main themes from the local strategy, with a view to the development of an implementation plan and associated group, linking with the new lead officer. A range of events is planned in Ayrshire this month aimed at involving people with autism, their families and practitioners in their local strategy. Further events are being planned across the country, our next being two events in East Dunbartonshire, aimed at involving practitioners at one event, and people with autism and their families at an evening event. Other events are planned with North Lanarkshire and East Lothian.

The last Lead Officers' Collaborative Business Meeting and Workshop was held on the 25th September. This was been co-produced with Working Group 2 and Scottish Government, with a focus on transitions. The event built on the delivery of the group's work plan, showcasing examples of practice with workshops on Assets in Action and Legal Obligations in Relation to Transitions. There were some very practical sessions, notably from Stirling and Clackmannanshire, who have developed a Transitions App, and from a group of Mum's in Aberdeenshire, who had pooled SDS budgets to facilitate smooth transitions from school to further education. Feedback from this last event has been very positive, the next event in January being co-produced with the Wider Engagement Group.

Appendix 1

Local Authority Strategies

Final versions

Aberdeen City – strategy and action plan submitted in January 2015

Aberdeenshire – strategy

Argyll and Bute – strategy. NACP supporting discussion with strategic partners

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar – strategy and action plan. NACP supporting strategic discussions with NHS partners

Dundee – Dundee shared their joint commissioning strategy at the lead officers' event in April

Edinburgh - Autism Plan (includes strategy and plan)

East Dunbartonshire Autism Strategy – Includes action plan and needs assessment. NACP supporting implementation

Falkirk Autism Strategy and action plan

Fife – Inclusive of improvement plan. NACP working with the implementation group, which is developing a plan

Inverclyde Autism Strategy and Action Plan – NACP/ANS supporting local implementation

Moray - Strategy

North Lanarkshire – strategy, consultation and return. NACP working with HOPE for autism to consult on the local implementation plan

Orkney – Strategy. NACP supporting development of implementation plan

Renfrewshire - Strategy

Scottish Borders – Strategy and delivery plan. NACP working with the strategy group to ensure strategic commitment

Stirling and Clackmannanshire Autism Strategy Summary – strategy has been published. NACP has been supporting the lead officer

Draft versions

Ayrshire Draft Strategy – NACP has been supporting strategy group and lead officer. Consultation event planned

Dumfries and Galloway – Strategy and action plan. NACP supporting consultation/Implementation

East Lothian – Strategy. Development of this and implementation plan being supported by NACP

East Renfrewshire – Strategy. NACP working with lead officer to develop this and to include an action plan

Highland – separate Adult and Children plans. NACP supporting and facilitating local consultation and development of the strategy group

Midlothian - strategy

Perth and Kinross – action plan

Shetland - Action plan. NACP working with Shetland to support a fully developed strategy, as well as implementation.

South Lanarkshire - Strategy and action plan

Glasgow – Draft strategy has been submitted, which has been approved by Glasgow’s HSCP Shadow Integrated Joint Board. The document still has to get political approval from both Social Work and Education Committees.

West Dunbartonshire – NACP working with strategic lead on final draft

No strategy

Angus – Had submitted finalised plan, but new lead officer has withdrawn it to further develop it to reflect local needs. NACP/ANS supporting local consultation to finalise draft.