

Working Group 2 meeting minutes  
2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015  
Number 6 One Stop Shop, Edinburgh

**APPROVED**

**Members present:** Laura Dykes, Parent; James Fletcher, ARC Scotland (CHAIR); Lynsay Haglington, East Dunbartonshire Council/Social Work; Kirsten Hogg, Camphill Scotland; Ian Hood, Learning Disability Alliance Scotland; Annette Pyle, Scottish Government Care, Support and Rights; Scott Richardson-Read, ARC Scotland; Lynsey Stewart, Autism Network Scotland

**Apologies:** John Butcher, Directors of Education; Anna Cooper, National Autistic Society; John Dalziel, Skills Development Scotland; Leia Fitzgerald, Higher Education/Scottish Government;

Absent: Arlene Johnstone, Social Work Scotland / NHS Highland

**Minutes by:** Tracy Wenzl, Autism Network Scotland

**I. Previous minutes and action points** – previous minutes were approved.

**Review of action items**

1. JF to follow up previous action items 1-4 with Scottish Government – these items relate to Autism Development Fund (ADF) projects. AP reported that she is collecting self-evaluation reports from the projects. She noted that the working groups may be asked to review relevant projects for good practice that could be shared.

She 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. KH offered to help

**ACTION ITEM:** Anyone interested in serving on Innovation Fund sort panel to contact AP

2. **ACTION ITEM:** JF, LS and SR to review Work Plan and update – DONE (review today)
3. **ACTION ITEM:** Group members to think about topics for workshops for the lead officers' event for further discussion at next meeting – DONE (review today)
4. **ACTION ITEM:** SR to check with his commissioning contact (self-directed support) about possibly participating in the lead officers' event – not done, too late/agenda is set now

## II. Draft Work Plan and action points

AP reported she 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. This group's work aligns with Outcome 4. She also noted that her Care, Support and Rights Division will have two new employees starting at the end of September.

JF noted his appreciation for LS and SR, who have done a great deal of work on the workplan. He noted there is work to be done in streamlining the document into something public-facing. The group discussed each item on the latest draft workplan, with the following action items arising:

**ACTION ITEM:** AP and JF to discuss data needed with Learning Disability Observatory

**ACTION ITEM:** AP to check with SDS and/or COSLA contacts on eligibility criteria

**ACTION ITEM:** JF to attend next meeting of One Stop Shops in October, will gather information about how they do rural outreach and support.

**ACTION ITEM:** LS to make a single sheet document, based on findings from Digging Deeper events, with specific One Stop Shop feedback

AP suggests adding the new Innovation Fund project review to the workplan.

## III. Lead officers' event (Collaborative)

LS reported that invitations have been issued and about 40 attendees were confirmed so far. JF noted that he would like for the Working Group members to attend and be involved, and those present at the meeting committed to attending and participating.

**ACTION ITEM:** LS to send draft report on Digging Deeper Transitions Roadshows to JF; this should be published before Sept 25 event

**ACTION ITEM:** LS to send JF event evaluation form so they can consider how to gather input on group's workplan

During the discussion of the event, it was noted that ARC Scotland will fund the travel of the two parents from Aberdeenshire who are presenting in the morning session.

## IV. Transitions document (DRAFT)

The group has received the document for review and information. SR will assure relevant items are being addressed in Principles of Good Transitions 3. He noted that the issues raised around transport aligned with what they heard in their roadshows in rural areas in particular.

**ACTION ITEM:** AP to check with colleague Pauline on transport policy links

- V. Key messages – to be written by chair after meeting
- VI. **Date of Next meeting:** Thursday, November 5 in Glasgow, venue TBD.

#### **KEY MESSAGES**

Following information gathering and consultation, including the 'Digging Deeper' events, Working Group 2 has agreed initial actions to support improved transitions for young people with autism. The group will be working with the Scottish Government to establish an improved picture of the numbers of young people with autism who receive post-school support. The group will be working with the National Autism Coordination Project to organise a transitions event for lead officers. The group is seeking examples of peer support networks for parents and carers. The group is also seeking opportunities to work with the Scottish Government and Governance group to review how policy and legislation that impacts on transitions can be joined up and clarified.

#### **ACTION ITEMS (see also Work Plan)**

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