

Working Group 2 meeting minutes
5th November 2015
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

REVIEWED BY CHAIR

Members present: **John Butcher**, Directors of Education; **John Dalziel**, Skills Development Scotland; **James Fletcher**, ARC Scotland (CHAIR); **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; **Nicola Thomson**, Scottish Government Care, Support and Rights

Apologies: **Anna Cooper**, National Autistic Society; **Laura Dykes**, Parent; **Lynsay Haglington**, East Dunbartonshire Council/Social Work; **Arlene Johnstone**, Social Work Scotland / NHS Highland

Absent: **Leia Fitzgerald**, Higher Education/Scottish Government

Minutes by: Tracy Wenzl, Autism Network Scotland

- I. **Previous minutes and action points** – previous minutes were approved.
Review of action items
 - a. **AI 1 – re: innovation fund** – AP reported the Innovation Fund applications are still under review.
 - b. **AI 2 – Learning Disability Observatory** – discussed later today
 - c. **AI 3 – SDS/COSLA eligibility criteria (Carers' Bill)** – AP reported that eligibility criteria will remain the responsibility of each local authority. Ministers can go to local authorities to request changes if LA responsibilities are not being fulfilled.
 - d. **AI 4 – attend One Stop Shop group meeting** – JF attended meeting in October. JF received some data from some of the OSSs, which indicated that young people aged 16-25 are using the OSSs in large numbers. He reported that there was a mixed picture in OSSs across Scotland in terms of the transitions support offered. OSS Highland is very involved with local schools. They also offer transitions groups. JF would like to see Group 2 contribute to growing transitions programmes in other OSSs.

AP reported that six OSSs are working towards becoming embedded in their local communities and are seeking sustainable funding from local authorities. The local authorities in these areas have said that the OSSs are valued but that funding remains unclear. The Scottish Government is closely monitoring the situation with these six OSSs. KH noted that it was important for the group to show their support for the OSSs and their continued funding. SR and JB suggested referencing relevant policies (Education, etc) when discussing funding with local authorities, directors.

ACTION ITEM: Group to monitor funding developments and consider how to engage with the One Stop Shops on transitions

ACTION ITEM: AP to send the Digging Deeper report to local authority decision makers and include a note of support for the OSSs from Working Group 2

- e. **AI 5** - LS to send page of quotes of support for OSSs to AP – to be done (new ACTION ITEM)
- f. **AI 6 – Digging Deeper report** – DONE
- g. **AI 7 – LS to send JF event evaluation fund in advance of Sept 25 event** – DONE JF and AP spoke to Pauline and received a report on existing transport accessibility. AP is staying involved and assuring autism is included in the conversation.
ACTION ITEM: JF to circulate transportation report to Group 2. He noted the report cover existing transport links and doesn't get into social isolation where people aren't currently served by transportation
ACTION ITEM: Group 2 to consider transportation report and bring ideas to next meeting
- h. **AI 8 – JF and AP to speak to Pauline about transport, links with Keys to Life** – DONE

Other items discussed: AP reported Healthier Scotland would have a stand at the Fourth Annual Conference and would be gathering input from an autism perspective.

SR wondered about sensory issues and bus colours – AP suggested the group contact David Simmons to see if this has been studied.

ACTION ITEM: TW to contact David Simmons to ask about studies related to sensory issues and public transport

- II. **Feedback from Lead officers' event** (Collaborative) – JF reported the event was well-received and the evaluations were positive. LS and SR both reported they are receiving enquiries from local authorities interested in learning more. JF noted that SR's legislation quiz was a highlight, and that it showed there is more work to be done in this area. SR's flowchart is still in draft, with healthcare still to be added. The end goal is to have a version for professional use and one for families.

ACTION ITEM: SR to send flowchart draft out to Group 2 for review and input
 SR also noted that the Principles of Good Transitions update to version 3 was expected to take place in April 2016. The group consider that a supplemental document on transitions and autism would be beneficial. LS is happy to draft the document with input from the Group. Further work is required to establish where ownership and funding for this publication will lie. For discussion at next meeting.

- III. **Review of Workplan** – JF reported that the feedback received from the Lead Officers event was positive. There was a lot of concern about eligibility requirements.

ACTION ITEM: JF to follow up with NACP team on following up with Lead Officers event attendees

- a. AP and JF met with Angela from the Learning Disability Observatory. She recommended the Group look at data from the 2011 census.

ACTION ITEM: SR to circulate Chips report, group to look at their data collection methodology

Discussion ensued about whether the group's key questions from the workplan would be answered by the census data. It was decided that the group would review the census data and pass along their key questions to the LDO for response. AP noted that the LDO is holding a launch event on December 1.

ACTION ITEM: JF to send key questions to LDO and request census data

ACTION ITEM: IH to create questions for census data, send to Group for consideration via email

- b. JD and JF met with Fair Work Directorate. They are looking at 16-19 year olds and where they are (employment, education, etc.) They are also looking at those not engaged and how to move them into positive destinations.

ACTION ITEM: NT to follow up on current status of Participation Matters

KH suggested that group adds a “What have we done?” column to workplan. This was agreed and JF will trim the evidence column to make room.

IV. Gathering transitions data covered in Workplan review

V. Scottish Strategy for Autism Fourth Annual Conference

After discussion, it was decided that:

- The main transitions presentation would focus on the Principles of Good Transitions document
- Workshop 1 would be at practitioner level, and LS is to contact the agreed presenter with an invitation
- Workshop 2 would be at strategic level, and representatives from two successful transitions projects in local authorities, one Development-funded, would be invited to present. SR and JF are each inviting one of the agreed local authority representatives.

VI. Key messages: JF to write (see below)

VII. **Date of Next meeting:** dates for 2016 to be determined by poll

KEY MESSAGES

Working Group 2 continues to carry out the actions identified in our work plan. In partnership with the National Autism Coordination Project, we have delivered an event for Autism Strategy lead officers which highlighted the findings from our ‘Digging Deeper’ consultation events and promoted solutions to improve young adult transitions at a local level. We are working with the Learning Disability Observatory to get a clearer picture of the numbers of young people with autism that receive support when they leave school. We are particularly interested in establishing a clearer picture of the extent of unmet need within the 14 to 25 years group. Finally, we will be making contact with transitions-focused projects that are supported by the Autism Development and Innovation Fund with a view to helping to ensure that resulting learning is shared and support for transitions sustained in the long term.

ACTION ITEMS (see also Work Plan)

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