

Working Group 1 meeting minutes  
2 March 2016, 1pm

University of Strathclyde Lord Hope 211, Glasgow

**APPROVED**

**Members present:** **Audrey Espie**, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; **Richard Ibbotson**, The Richmond Fellowship for Scotland (CHAIR); **Alison Leask**, Autism Argyll; **Paul Lennon**, Autism Resource Centre Glasgow; **Annette Pyle**, Scottish Government (Care, Support and Rights); **Marie Claire Shankland**, NHS Education for Scotland; **Annie Watson**, Autism Network Scotland; **Elaine Black**, Scottish Government (Self-Directed Support Team).

**Apologies:** **Tom Wightman**, Parent/Carer; **Cathy Steedman**, Autism Initiatives; **Roo Philip**, Tailor Ed; **Aline-Wendy Dunlop**, University of Strathclyde; **Lisa Sturgess**, National Autistic Society; **Stella MacDonald**, Autism Consultant; **Nicola Thomson**, Scottish Government (Care, Support and Rights);

**Absent:** **Judith Piggot**, NHS Tayside; **Kirsty Forsyth**, Autism Achieve Alliance/Queen Margaret University; **Basel Switzer**, NHS Borders; **John Mitchell**, Principal Medical Officer, Scottish Government.

**Minutes by:** Alistair Gilmour, Autism Network Scotland

- I. **Apologies** - apologies were shared.
- II. **Welcome and introductions** – Elaine Black was introduced to the group as a representative from Self-Directed Support.  
RI pointed out that in future the Group is likely to be joined by former members of Working Group 3.
- III. **Minutes of previous meeting and action points**
  - a) AL to send copy of consultation document to group (Done)
  - b) PL to send link to consultation report to CM for distribution (Done, sent out on 26<sup>th</sup> February)
  - c) AP to invite Sarah Stuart, SDS or colleague to next meeting (Elaine Black present)
  - d) RI to send information from letter to AP to be forwarded to SDS (This was discussed amongst the group at length. These discussions will be summarised below under *updates to the work plan*.)
  - e) PL to invite Chris Melling, Glasgow City Council, to next meeting for local authority perspective on SDS (PL to forward date of meeting to CM)

**Matters arising from the previous minutes:**

AP offered an update on the projects funded through the recent Innovation and Improvement Fund that will be working towards Strategic Outcome 1. The number of applications received and the amount of funds awarded were discussed, and AP noted that a couple of projects are still being agreed and the full list of projects will soon be published. AE suggested a ceiling for applications might be considered in future and the groups discussed the potential issues with such an approach.

AP explained that following discussions, Inspiring Scotland has been charged with the evaluation of the success of the funded projects in meeting their stated outcomes. As well as evaluating how

effectively the funded projects are meeting their expectations, Inspiring Scotland will offer support to enable the sustainability of the projects. RI noted that some projects will clearly meet the remit of WG1 and it will be useful to have contact with these.

Inspiring Scotland will host four events featuring the funded projects, one event of which will focus on the projects working towards Outcome 1 which will be of interest and relevance to Working Group 1. Members of Working Group 1 will be invited to attend this. AP also suggested that Autism Network Scotland could share the examples of best practice that come out of the project.

AP confirmed that the current funding covers the 2016/17 financial year and as such there will not be another round of bids invited later in 2016. It was noted that if organisations wished to present ideas for funding applications outside of the stated timescale, these would be considered if any of the existing funding remained unallocated.

### **Self-Directed Support (SDS)**

EB offered an update on SDS projects funded through their Innovation Fund. She explained how Self-Directed Support should not be seen as being solely for people with disabilities, but as an opportunity for all people, whether young or old, with learning disabilities or autism to be free to make their own choices in obtaining the best support for them.

EB also drew attention to four projects in particular that Inspiring Scotland had drawn together as having explicitly identified as working with people with autism.

In Highland, **Cantraybridge** provide funding to support people with autism, offering peer advisors work, supporting information and advice on raising autism awareness. Cantraybridge have also created a film of one family's experience of receiving direct payments, an option of SDS.

**ACTION POINT** – Hayley of Inspiring Scotland to be asked to provide a link to this film.

Other examples provided included **Carr Gomm**, and **Third Sector Interface** in Argyll & Bute.

In East Ayrshire, **Community Brokerage Network** offer small budgets to assist individuals obtain support. The group watched a video on Lewis Drummond, a remarkable SDS success story giving an example of how funding is spent to maximise an individual's potential. The video can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LI-ZWtROjN4>

Contact details for all examples are on the SDS [website report](#) on *Self-directed Support Support in the Right Direction Funding Summaries*. Inspiring Scotland is helping organisations to self-evaluate their success in meeting criteria.

EB noted that it is only two years since the introduction of the SDS Act, and as such there are lots of examples of positive and innovative work happening, however, there is still a lot of progress to be made in ensuring a joined up approach in order to meet the needs of all. She noted that this should move forwards with the integration of Health and Social Care.

RI thanked EB for her input and noted that it was useful to hear examples of success stories, as failures tend to be more often discussed. The group discussed SDS and some of the progress that has been made, and ongoing issues such as those without a learning disability not meeting eligibility criteria. It was noted that some good resources have been created and that these should be promoted.

The group discussed how each Local Authority has a lead for SDS, though in some areas the responsibility is split between several individuals which can complicate things.

AP suggested that the SDS leads are put in touch with their local autism leads via the National Autism Coordination Project (NACP).

**ACTION POINT** - EB to share distribution list of SDS leads with NACP via AP.

**ACTION POINT** – AG to share copy of EB report on SDS funded projects with group.

**ACTION POINT** – Des McCart to be invited to next WG1 meeting to input on commissioning and SDS.

**ACTION POINT** – Cathy Steedman at Autism Initiatives to be contacted to distribute remaining hard copies of Guidelines for Assessing Adults with Autism for SDS document via ANS, and provide a link to the document for the SDS website.

#### **IV. Updates and review of work plan**

##### **Priority 1.**

Progress – Kjersti Ferguson in post as Improvement Advisor. She will be looking at outputs from AAA work with children and adult services to support boards to ensure appropriate pathways are in place, and look at what can be improved.

**ACTION POINT** – AP to email AL to put Kjersti Ferguson in touch with Fiona McClean, lead for autism diagnostic services in Argyll and Bute.

**Priority 2.** NES – MCS updated on event in December with ANS ‘Good Practice Symposium on Adapting Practice for Support and Intervention in ASD’ which was a success. Janine Robinson and Gail Milroy are working on the resulting Good Practice Guidelines which will likely be published in the new financial year. ANS are hosting an upcoming event on good practice in education in March, following NES receiving many such examples prior to December’s event. ANS and NES are also co-hosting two sessions on Autism and Early Years in March which are oversubscribed.

**ACTION POINT** – AP to distribute Autism Northern Ireland resource on Early Intervention to the group.

MCS reported that 60 clinicians have attended their training on Adapted CBT, and they are hoping that some who have completed it will now take on an advisory role.

On 24<sup>th</sup> February NES hosted an event on Differential Diagnosis and Comorbidities which was attended by 200 people, mostly those involved in autism diagnosis. The event was filmed and videos will be used to create an online training resource.

The group discussed the success of the work NES have been doing and the wide reach it is having. AP noted that NES are considering what contribution they can have to training of mental health and learning disability services, following the Mental Welfare Commission report on ‘The Death of Ms MN’.

MCS noted that there have been requests for Training Frameworks from the Care Inspectorate and the group agreed that this was positive. AE has also been approached by West Dunbartonshire Care Inspectorate to deliver training for them.

**Priority 3.**

AW gave update on behalf of NACP. All plans are on Strategy site in draft or complete form except Angus. NACP continue to be invited to Local Authorities across Scotland, including an upcoming visit to the Western Isles, and are working on implementation of plans.

AP noted that she is due to meet ANS and NACP to discuss progress of the ongoing evaluation.

Microsegmentation report – AP noted that they are yet to receive this and The Scottish Government is due to meet with the authors.

**Priority 4.**

AP gave update on current funding situations for the One Stop Shops. Some are now fully funded, and others are still in discussions with potential funders.

**V. Any other business**

PL noted that the Autism Resource Centre in Glasgow has moved to a temporary new location in Partick, sharing premises with Sensory Impairment and Social Work Services. Long term plans are still under discussion.

Autism Europe Congress – AP recently attended this meeting and noted that a decision was made to create a film AP where people with autism speak about what the Strategy has done for them. Several organisations will be involved in creating this. It is hoped that the opportunity will be taken to involve the First Minister, potentially by hosting an event at The Scottish Parliament for key delegates.

**VI. Plan for next meeting**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at the University of Strathclyde, Lord Hope Room 211.

**VII. Key messages (summary of meeting for circulation)**

**KEY MESSAGES**

Working Group 1 continued its discussion of Self-Directed Support from its previous meeting, including specific examples of successful support to people on the autism spectrum and also further discussion of the types of issues that arise. The Working Group is keen to see examples of good practice both in SDS and in recent projects funded by the Improvement and Innovation Fund shared widely.

The Working Group has been impressed to see the level of interest in recent and upcoming NHS Education for Scotland events and will continue to watch with interest the resultant training resources and examples of best practice arising from these events.

The group is pleased to see that the majority of the One Stop Shops in Scotland have or are close to securing the funding necessary for their continued good work.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**ACTION POINT** – Hayley of Inspiring Scotland to be asked to provide a link to Cantraybridge’s film on SDS direct payments.

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