

Working Group 2 Meeting Minutes  
17<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
Number 6 One Stop Shop, Edinburgh

**APPROVED**

**Members present:** James Fletcher, ARC Scotland (CHAIR); Ian Hood, Learning Disability Alliance Scotland; Arlene Johnstone, Social Work Scotland/NHS Highland; Anna Cooper, National Autistic Society; Laura Dykes, Parent; John Butcher, Directors of Education; Nicola Thomson, Scottish Government Care, Support and Rights.

**Apologies:** Lynsey Stewart, Autism Network Scotland; Lynsay Haglington, East Dunbartonshire Council/Social Work; John Dalziel, Skills Development Scotland; Zoe Robertson, Perth and Kinross Council; Kirsten Hogg, Camphill Scotland; Jane Hook, Parent; Annette Pyle, Scottish Government Care, Support and Rights.

Absent: Scott Richardson-Read, ARC Scotland.

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

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

**Review of action items**

- **AP: Meeting with the Learning Disability Observatory feedback**  
NT reported that the meeting is yet to take place and is in the process of being scheduled.

There was discussion surrounding how best to use individuals' personal Health Information System (HIS) data to track the health of people with autism in a manner similar to that of people with learning disabilities.

**ACTION POINT** - NT is to discuss this issue with her policy colleagues at the Scottish Government and feedback to the next group meeting.

New duties under the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 come into effect on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. The group discussed the impact this will have on the requirements for data collection and ways in which this data can be used.

JB is chairing the project that is introducing the SEAMIS information management system into all 32 local authorities, the first time all will have worked from the same system. Discussions are taking place with Skills Development Scotland about integrating with their existing data for those leaving school.

**ACTION POINT** – JB to present an overview paper of the project and offer a demonstration of the system at the next Working Group 2 meeting in May.

- **IH: Census summary document update on age groups 16-25**  
IH has updated his document to include snapshots of each age group, from 16-25. This document is being shared with the Scottish Learning Disabilities

Observatory and IH will attend the upcoming meeting between SLDO, JF and AP.

- **JD: Skills Development Scotland and the Fair Work Directorate**  
Shelved in JD's absence.
- **AW: Strategy Conference Feedback**  
AW shared general feedback figures from December's Autism Strategy Conference. AW reported that there were some comments regarding the transitions workshops which emphasised the value of practical elements that people could apply in their work.
- **AP: Links with work of SCLD**  
NT reported that AP is yet to meet with Chris Creegan but the Scottish Government is keen that there is more joined-up working between the separate policies on learning disability and autism.

## II. **Review of January 2016 Work plan and next steps**

### **Priority 1.**

AW of Autism Network Scotland provided feedback from the National Autism Co-ordination Project that provision for transport is not mentioned specifically in either national strategy or the Outcomes and is therefore not a focus in Local Authority Strategies. However, following the collaborative event on transitions, local authorities are more aware of the issues and some, such as Highland, are looking at ways to address them.

The group is aware that, while it has a limited ability to implement changes in this area, transport remains a consistently raised issue around the country – in rural areas it defines what you are able to do and to access.

This is a complex issue – in some rural areas the major issue is the near-total absence of public transport while in other, better-connected areas, issues are around the understanding of autistic needs amongst public transport staff. IH spoke of the need for a cohesive transport plan and described his work with Stagecoach and First Bus to help educate service providers in the needs of people with autism in order to make services accessible.

There is a national group, Bus Users Organisation, which represent the interests of passengers.

**ACTION POINT** – IH to email NT details of the Bus Users group.

### **Priority 2.**

JF is to meet with Donald MacLeod and Jean MacLellan of the National Autism Co-ordination Project on 29<sup>th</sup> March to discuss how the work of Working Group 2 can be best communicated to local authority lead officers. The lead officers' feedback is that the sharing of the WG2 work plan document would be very helpful.

LS and SRR are to press on with plans for their upcoming training events, Autism and Transitions: Understanding Your Role, as a constructive follow-up to the Digging Deeper series of events. The upcoming events offer an opportunity for multiple events in some locations to try to reach practitioner, parents and strategic leads.

The Scottish Transitions Forum (STF) is working with some local authorities to increase access to transitions training and to share examples of good practice. Simon Jacquet, a consultant to the STF, is working with stakeholders to develop the methodology of a mapping exercise to assess levels of transitions provision in these local authorities. JF suggested WG2 might look at how this work can be sustained.

NT said the Scottish Government would be interested in attending any launch event for the *Principles of Good Transitions 3* document.

**ACTION POINT** – LS is to write a brief summary for the Working Group on the content and aims of the Autism Supplement to *PoGT3* for the Group's next meeting.

NT reported that the Scottish Government is soon to publish its list of successfully funded projects.

**ACTION POINT** – NT to provide the Group with a list of the funded projects and to investigate whether any of the projects are looking at peer support.

### III. **Any Other Business**

The Group spent some time reflecting on its work to date and items it wishes to address in future.

The Group members feel that the group has identified its purpose and objectives quickly and has successfully raised the profile of transitions in discussions among government bodies.

JB raised three points for future group discussions.

#### 1. GIRFEC (Getting It Right For Every Child)

Childhood transitions are particularly pertinent, as getting transitions right in the early stages will build skills and experience in both children and parents and lead to more effective transitions at later stages. The structural map for autistic families is complex, between government bodies, third sector and other autism organisations, but the GIRFEC policy framework unites the various groups involved in transitions.

**ACTION POINT** – NT to invite a representative from GIRFEC to attend the next Group meeting to feedback about their work. This invitation is to be to the next meeting initially with potential for a permanent membership going forward.

2. Links to the National Improvement Framework and what it means for children with autism.
3. The use of recorded data for improving quality of life for children with autism.

The group also discussed its potential communications strategy for the dissemination of its work, with members keen to ensure that interested stakeholders are able to access and implement the group's work. This will be focussed upon after the May elections to the Scottish Parliament and the completion of the current review of Autism Network Scotland. With this in mind, JF suggests it would be helpful if the points of the work plan were reviewed and prioritised in line with the Strategy Outcomes Framework.

**ACTION POINT** – Nicola to share copies of the Strategy Outcomes Framework 2015-17 document.

- IV. **Date of next meeting** – Dates for all 2016 meetings have been circulated by email. The next meeting is on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May at Number 6 in Edinburgh.

#### **KEY MESSAGES**

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

**ACTION POINT** - NT is to discuss the use of individuals' personal Health Information System (HIS) data with her policy colleagues at the Scottish Government and feedback to the next group meeting.

**ACTION POINT** – JB to present an overview paper of the SEAMIS information management project and offer a demonstration of the system at the next Working Group 2 meeting in May.

**ACTION POINT** – IH to email NT details of the Bus Users Organisation.

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