

Working Group 1 meeting minutes

8 June 2016, 1pm

University of Strathclyde Lord Hope 211, Glasgow

APPROVED

Members present: **Richard Ibbotson**, The Richmond Fellowship for Scotland (CHAIR); **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); **Tom Wightman**, Parent/Carer; **Cathy Steedman**, Autism Initiatives; **Aline-Wendy Dunlop**, University of Strathclyde; **Judith Piggot**, NHS Tayside; **Des McCart**, Joint Improvement Team; **Chris Melling**, Glasgow City Council.

Apologies: **Lisa Sturgess**, National Autistic Society; **Audrey Espie**, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; **Roo Philip**, Tailor Ed; **Kirsty Forsyth**, Autism Achieve Alliance/Queen Margaret University; **Alison Leask**, Autism Argyll; **Stella MacDonald**, Autism Consultant; **Nicola Thomson**, Scottish Government (Care, Support and Rights); **John Mitchell**, Principal Medical Officer, Scottish Government;

Absent: **Basel Switzer**, NHS Borders.

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

- I. **Apologies** - apologies were shared.
- II. **Welcome and introductions** – Des McCart and Chris Melling were introduced to the group.

ACTION POINT – Working Group to create a one page document summing up last year to be shared prior to the meeting of the Governance Group on 21st June.

III. **Minutes of previous meeting and action points**

- a) Hayley of Inspiring Scotland to be asked to provide a link to Cantraybridge's film on SDS direct payments. Done.
- b) EB to share distribution list of SDS leads with NACP via AP.

ACTION POINT – DM to share newly updated list with group via AP.

- c) AG to share copy of EB report on SDS funded projects with group. Done.
- d) Des McCart to be invited to next WG1 meeting to input on commissioning and SDS. DM present.
- e) 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.

ACTION POINT – CS to contact ANS to arrange for remaining hard copies to be delivered to them at the University of Strathclyde.

ACTION POINT – ANS to investigate whether a straightforward method of evaluating the impact of the document can be arranged.

The document is not to be published on the SDS website until it has been refreshed. CS is happy to discuss this with the National Autism Co-ordination Project.

ACTION POINT – Guidelines for Assessing Adults with Autism for SDS document to feature in the upcoming Scottish Strategy for Autism newsletter, inviting recipients to contribute comments on their previous experiences of its implementation ahead of the new edition.

- f) AP to email AL to put Kjersti Ferguson in touch with Fiona McClean, lead for autism diagnostic services in Argyll and Bute. Done.

- g) AP to distribute Autism Northern Ireland resource on Early Intervention to the group. Done.

The group had a short discussion on Early Years and the events ANS and NES are running to upskill Early Years practitioners. This has been identified as a key area of need and it was suggested that a 'train the trainers' approach could be beneficial, with possible online resources.

Matters arising from the previous minutes:

Self-Directed Support

CM initially led the group in a discussion of self-directed support practices, structures and challenges, and in particular how these relate to and affect the experiences of people on the autism spectrum. CM shared findings from Glasgow City Council's recent audit of their SDS practices. This audit was not specific to autism, but included information regarding the experiences of people on the autism spectrum.

GCC found that 80% of people polled said that their quality of life was much improved following the implementation of SDS. While it is not regarded as a perfect system, and in some cases the assessment can be seen as prescriptive, the standards and quality of assessments are thought to have been much improved in recent times.

The group discussed the issues around gaps in service provision for those with autism who do not have Learning Disabilities or Mental Health issues. They also discussed the challenges of SDS in relation to the most complex cases, especially in relation to housing provision. The impact of the current financial climate was recognised in terms of the challenges it presents to existing funding models.

ACTION POINT – CM to circulate document on Glasgow audit of SDS implementation.

DM gave an overview of current commissioning practices and how they can support SDS. He noted that since the recent Procurement Reform which came into action in April 2016, there is more flexibility available in the way services are commissioned. Currently, tendering is the norm for

establishing best value for money, but this sometimes conflicts with the desire to provide choice and control to service users. It was discussed how sometimes there may be value in simply renewing successful schemes rather than retendering.

DM outlined several different options and tools available to commission services in a more collaborative, flexible and innovative way. These include Public Service Partnerships, Collaborative Commissioning Tools, Social and Micro Enterprises, Community-led Social Work and the Buurtzorg Model from the Netherlands.

ACTION POINT – DM to provide links to further information about these practices.

DM also described the importance of understanding community development and the need to take radical and innovative measures in the current context of austerity. RI suggested that examples of successful practice could be replicated in other areas of the country if the conditions are conducive.

IV. Updates and review of work plan

Priority 1.

Kjersti Ferguson has been in post as Improvement Advisor for 2 years, and is working with the Scottish Learning Disability Observatory to make the best use of their data on people on the spectrum.

Maureen Watt MSP is the new Minister for Mental Health with responsibility for learning disability and autism. She has been briefed on current concerns, particularly the funding situation regarding the One Stop Shops, as have the First Minister and her Deputy.

AP met with Ailsa Stein of Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), the new edition of the autism guidelines are to be published on 30th June. There will also be three patient booklets to accompany the guidelines, due for publication in September. It was suggested that it would be useful to ensure that practitioners accessing the new guidelines are also made aware of publications such as the *Menu of Interventions* and the *Principles of Good Transitions*. It was suggested that ANS might co-host an event to assist publicising the new guidelines and accompanying patient booklets and offer workshops to discuss their key points.

ACTION POINT – AP to share new SIGN guidelines after publication for discussion at next meeting.

Priority 2.

Three further events on Early Years are planned to be co-hosted by ANS and NES.

'The Matrix: A Guide to Delivering Evidence-Based Psychological Therapies in Scotland' is published and available on the NES [website](#).

Priority 3.

NACP is to be updated at the Governance Group meeting on 21st June. Its upcoming event is to focus on Commissioning. NACP are currently working closely with the new strategic lead in Argyll and Bute, Alan Stevenson, to work on the implementation of their local strategy.

The Shirley Foundation is launching a report through the [National Autism Project](#) which has similar aims and contributors to the Microsegmentation Report. The NAP report is due to be launched in the autumn. The Microsegmentation Report is still awaiting publication.

Priority 4.

The group discussed the funding situation of the remaining One Stop Shops, following the recent closure of the branches in Lanarkshire and in Aberdeen. The remaining shops will continue with changes to their models in some cases.

Discussions are ongoing with Aberdeen Council around creating new autism services to replace those offered by the OSS.

The Fife One Stop Shop is to move its location to Kirkcaldy in order to be more central to the area.

RI suggested that it may be beneficial to step back and review the factors that have amounted to the sustainability or closure of the respective OSSs, and consider the lessons for future projects.

ACTION POINT – CS to speak to the Directors of Scottish Autism and the National Autistic Society, with a view to putting together a two page summary about the lessons to be learnt in regard to the commissioning of the One Stop Shops.

CS stated Autism Initiatives remain committed to the One Stop Shops they facilitate and are looking into further potential funding streams for to support them, including national UK fundraising activities. They are extremely keen to retain the huge knowledge and experience of the OSS staff in working with people on the spectrum.

V. Any Other Business

The Report into the Death of Ms MN.

Each of the Working Groups has been requested to offer a formal response to a key recommendation of the report for the attention of the Governance Group. The Governance Group will then in turn offer the Working Groups' responses to the Mental Welfare Commission.

The group discussed the issues of the case and which of these are particularly relevant to the group's remit as outlined in its work plan.

ACTION POINT – RI to initiate the writing of the Working Group's response to be shared by AG for others to then contribute.

VI. Date for next meeting

ACTION POINT – AG to share Doodle poll for new date in September.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION POINT – DM to share newly updated distribution list of SDS leads with group via AP.

ACTION POINT –CS to contact ANS to arrange for remaining hard copies of Guidelines for Assessing Adults with Autism for SDS to be delivered to them at the University of Strathclyde.

ACTION POINT – ANS to investigate whether a straightforward method of evaluating the impact of the above document can be arranged.

ACTION POINT – Guidelines for Assessing Adults with Autism for SDS document to feature in the upcoming Scottish Strategy for Autism newsletter, inviting recipients to contribute comments on their previous experiences of its implementation ahead of the new edition.

ACTION POINT – CM to circulate document on Glasgow audit of SDS implementation.

ACTION POINT – DM to provide links to further information about SDS practices.

ACTION POINT – AP to share new SIGN guidelines after publication for discussion at next meeting.

ACTION POINT – CS to speak to the Directors of Scottish Autism and the National Autistic Society, with a view to putting together a two page summary about the lessons to be learnt in regard to the commissioning of the One Stop Shops.

ACTION POINT – RI to initiate the writing of the Working Group's response to be shared by AG for others to then contribute.

ACTION POINT – AG to share Doodle poll for new date in September.