

Working Group 4 meeting minutes  
15 January 2016  
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**REVIEWED**

**Members present:** **Kabie Brook**, Autism Rights Group Highland; **Anne Marie Gallagher (CHAIR)**, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; **Emma Hanley**, Autism Network Scotland; **Jenny Paterson**, National Autistic Society; **Annette Pyle**, Care, Support and Rights, Scottish Government; **Anna Robinson**, University of Strathclyde; **Andrew Stansfield**, Patrick Wild Centre, University of Edinburgh; **Janine Robinson**, NHS Education for Scotland; **Ruth Adams**, The Richmond Fellowship; **Charlene Tait**, Scottish Autism

**Apologies:** **Bill Colley**, Caledonia Learning and Care; **Moira Park**, Scottish Autism; **David Breslin**, Speaking Literally; **Jayne Kemp**, City of Edinburgh Council;

**Absent:** **Elizabeth Coyle**, Service User; **Kirsty Forsyth**, Queen Margaret University

**Minutes by:** **Christine McMillan**, Autism Network Scotland

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Draft agenda was approved.
- II. **Minutes** – approved
- III. **Reiterate focus of the Working Group**
  - a. The group continues to act as an advisory group to facilitate the implementation of the Autism Strategy. Current priorities of group 4 remain NES Framework and Alert Cards.
    1. **ACTION ITEM:** CM to circulate outcomes document with meeting documents.
- IV. **Review of Action Items**
  - a. AP to follow up with Kjersti Fergusson (KF) on levels of training and diagnostic facilities across Scotland.
    1. AP has been able to provide information to both MCS(Marie Clair Shankland) and JR on the groups of people currently ADOS trained.
    2. AP highlighted work being carried out by KF of NHS HIS on an improvement programme within all NHS Boards. There have been two events held on this and they were well received.
      2. **ACTION ITEM:** AMG/CM to circulate information on diagnosticians in Scotland trained on ADOS or DISCO to working group.
      3. **ACTION ITEM:** AMG gathering information on those who are DISCO trained and how recent accreditation has impacted on their practice.
  - b. **Completed** - AP to ask Moira Park about current autism training with teacher training programmes (core vs. optional)

1. AP spoke with Moira Park and was signposted to the Autism Toolbox and options to support learners with additional support needs within mainstream schools.
2. Further discussion considered how to embed 'teaching people on the autistic spectrum' as a core component of future teacher training programmes. Additionally, the group discussed the potential to raise awareness of autism. Particularly the need to build capacity of teaching people on the autistic spectrum within mainstream schools through discussions with HMIE.

**4. ACTION ITEM:** AP to speak with Education colleagues within Scottish Government and Education Scotland about the provision of autism courses in teacher training. AP to investigate contacts at the HMIE.

**c. Completed**—The National Outcomes framework has been revised.

**d. Completed** - AP has invited contacts from Open University to provide data and attend future meetings, however AMG(chair) and AP will arrange a meeting with OU to gather data and bring back to group

**5. ACTION ITEM:** AMG(chair) and AP will arrange a meeting with OU to gather data and bring back to group

**e. Completed** - AR to gather data on who attended, outcome of training and future targeting of funded places.

**f. Completed** - JR to send poster to AP

**g. Completed** - AP to send links to resources on learning disability and bereavement to JR.

**6. ACTION ITEM:** Group to identify current use of Alert Cards in agencies, including how they are disseminated. CM to add this Alert card item to agenda for the next Working Group 4 meeting.

V. **Information on previous training initiatives**

- a. AR presented information on outcomes of Strathclyde University modules on. She presented preliminary findings on newly acquired information and the full report will follow.

Preliminary findings show that not all delegates completed the assignment on teaching people on the autistic spectrum to gain academic credits. Some continued to undertake further modules and others undertook teaching which enabled them to develop skills in cascading their knowledge to others.

The full report on the autism unit is not yet complete. However the decision on how and who to target to improve provision of teacher training for those teaching learners on the autistic spectrum with future learning opportunities will be informed by this report. A commitment to putting learning into practice would ensure greater outcomes and impact on the lives of people with autism.

CT discussed outcomes of their 'Train the Trainers' award.

A useful discussion, took place on opportunities to target specific professions and sectors with regard to capacity building.

AS spoke of his research, which indicates a reduction in contact with mental health services after a diagnosis of ASD has been reached. The group are seeking an opportunity to discuss the potential impact of increased awareness of ASD within mental health services with John Mitchell, Principal Medical Officer in the near future.

**7. ACTION ITEM:** A summary report of previously funded projects with recommendations will be compiled by group 4.

VI. **DISCUSSION** – how does the Scottish Government target training initiatives to make maximum impact on the quality of lives for people on the autistic spectrum? Target specific professions, specific sectors or a specific level or deliver a less focussed and more wide spread training agenda.

**8. ACTION ITEM:** CM to add new agenda item on ways in which the Scottish Government target training initiatives to make maximum impact.

VII. **Any other Current Business**

**9. ACTION ITEM:** CM to carry forward item to next agenda on NSPCC and access parenting capacity with Bill Colley.

VIII. **Date for next meeting**

TBC

Close – Meeting adjourned at 2.00pm

### **KEY MESSAGES:**

The group has been able to list individuals in Scotland who have been recently trained in the use of autism diagnostic tools. It has further highlighted areas of interest for more investigation. The work on diagnostics for people on the autistic spectrum remain a focus for this group.

Discussions on educating teachers on 'working with people on the autistic spectrum' have developed. The group are looking for opportunities where they can influence curriculum development in teacher training institutions.

### **SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:**

1. **ACTION ITEM:** CM to circulate outcomes document with meeting documents.
2. **ACTION ITEM:** AMG/CM to circulate information on diagnosticians in Scotland recently trained on ADOS or DISCO to working group.
3. **ACTION ITEM:** AMG gathering information on those who are recently DISCO trained and who have changed their practice as a result of undertaking this training
4. **ACTION ITEM:** AP to speak with Education colleagues within Scottish Government and Education Scotland about the provision of autism courses in teacher training. AP to investigate contacts at the HMIE.
5. **ACTION ITEM:** AMG(chair) and AP will arrange a meeting with OU to gather data and bring back to group
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8. **ACTION ITEM:** CM to add new agenda item on ways in which the Scottish Government target training initiatives to make maximum impact.
9. **ACTION ITEM:** CM to carry forward item on NSPCC and access parenting capacity with Bill Coley.