

Report

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| Report to: | Executive Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 8 March 2017 |
| Report by: | Director, Health and Social Care Executive Director (Education Resources) |

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| Subject: | Development of South Lanarkshire Autism Strategy |
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the development of a South Lanarkshire Autism Strategy.
- ◆ request approval for the establishment of a Project Co-ordinator and Clerical Assistant post to support the establishment and coordination of the Autism Resources and Co-ordination Hub (ARCH) based at the Jean Brownlie Centre.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Executive Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of this report and the progress made to date be noted;
- (2) that the proposed posts of a Project Co-ordinator and Clerical Assistant as detailed in section 8 be established for a period of two years be approved; and
- (3) that the proposed developments and costs of the Autism Resources and Co-ordination Hub (ARCH) at the Jean Brownlie Centre be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. Following the closure of the Lanarkshire One Stop Shop based in Motherwell in May 2016, South Lanarkshire established a One Stop Shop based on the delivery model as previously delivered in Motherwell.
- 3.2. Interim arrangements were put in place with an initial location within Fairhill Lifestyles until 1 July 2016. On 4 July 2016 the service provision moved to Hamilton Academicals Football Club (HAFC), primarily in recognition of the needs of children with autism and their siblings requiring a more suitable venue during the school summer holiday period.
- 3.3. Sports Worx, a local community enterprise, was commissioned by the local authority, to deliver a summer play scheme for children affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their siblings. The service was also able to build on partnership working with HAFC Community Outreach Team who had developed a concurrent summer programme for children with additional support needs. Given the success of the

2016 summer provision the service would intend to replicate this for future school holiday provision in 2017.

- 3.4. The service moved on a permanent basis to the Jean Brownlie Centre, Burnbank on 22 August 2016. This move has represented a positive way forward in the development of a recognised Autism Hub within South Lanarkshire.
- 3.5. The service continues to provide an advice line and drop in facility three times per week. The parent carers group meets twice weekly supported by an Early Years Home Link Worker (Integrated Children's Services) in partnership with Lanarkshire Carers Centre.
- 3.6. A significant proportion of enquiries to the service continue to be in respect of requests for advice or support in relation to social wellbeing from parents of children aged 5 to 14 years. The service will however be available to support individuals with ASD throughout their lifespan.
- 3.7. The service has been delivered in partnership with managers and staff from Social Work Resources, Education Resources, Lanarkshire Carers Centre and workshops delivered by a range of other professionals. There is an ongoing commitment from Social Work Resources and Education Resources to continue to provide staff to deliver services from the HUB.

4. Ongoing Development of the Service

- 4.1. The service has been pursuing a community asset approach focusing on capacity building using the existing expertise and experience of carers and service users linking with professionals from across the Partnership. The service will continue to offer support, information and sign posting to relevant services and autism specific providers.
- 4.2. The service has developed links with a range of partners across the statutory and voluntary sectors to establish strong partnerships and draw upon specialist knowledge. This will include the delivery of workshops and advice sessions on autism specific issues. These have been informed by feedback from parent/carers.
- 4.3. Feedback has highlighted a need for a parent/carer evening support group. In partnership with Supporting Autism in Lanarkshire (SAIL), a peer led group, we would intend to facilitate evening provision, with a view to further developing this to weekend provision. Other peer led support groups have also expressed an interest in using the premises to host other day/evening and weekend provision.
- 4.4. The service will facilitate the delivery of the Early Bird and Early Bird Plus programmes currently funded by Education Resources, and delivered by trained staff within Social Work and Education Resources. These programmes are being further expanded by the training of a further eleven staff across Education, Social Work and Health, on the Early Bird Healthy Minds Programme which provides support to parents of children aged 8 to 14 years.
- 4.5. The development of age and content appropriate services for young adults will be further explored and the service would wish to develop these in partnership with appropriate providers.
- 4.6. The service has also produced its first newsletter with details of activities developments and plans for the service as it develops.

5. Further Development of South Lanarkshire Council Autism Strategy

- 5.1. The developments and partnerships established since June 2016 embody the principles and ethos of the National Autism Strategy and align with the local autism action plan. It would be appropriate for the future development of a local autism strategy to rest with the ARCH service. This would allow networks and partnerships currently established to actively update and develop a South Lanarkshire Autism Strategy.
- 5.2. In addition to the opportunity to contribute to the further development of the local autism strategy and action plan, there will be the opportunity to contribute to national work streams, for example the National Autism Co-ordination Project. In line with local and national participation strategies, the service would seek to establish a 'users group' comprising interested stakeholders within the South Lanarkshire Autism community.
- 5.3. To date, the contacts and communication in relation to ARCH has been through established networks which continue to expand. It is our intention to reach out to others in the wider Autism community within South Lanarkshire who may not yet have engaged with the service. It is proposed that we build on the current communication links through the development of information leaflets for distribution and direct communication with individuals. It is also proposed that an awareness raising publicity event is organised in the future.

6. Resources

- 6.1. A South Lanarkshire Autism Steering Group has been established and this will oversee the developments of a South Lanarkshire Strategy. The steering Group is a multi agency group. This group will give clear governance and regular reporting of progress. It has representation from all relevant stakeholders from:
 - ◆ Social Work (Children, Adults and Justice)
 - ◆ Education
 - ◆ Housing
 - ◆ NHS Lanarkshire (Adults and Children)
 - ◆ VASLan
 - ◆ Lanarkshire Carers
 - ◆ Justice Services
 - ◆ Skills Development Scotland
- 6.2. The Autism Steering Group has identified the following priorities and work streams:
 - ◆ assessment and diagnosis
 - ◆ life opportunities
 - ◆ information and awareness
 - ◆ support for families and carers
 - ◆ transitions
 - ◆ Employment and opportunities

7. Recommendations

- 7.1. The aim is to establish the ARCH as a South Lanarkshire resource that reaches out to all parts of the local authority through existing groups and to work towards supporting the Autism community to assume the running of the resource on behalf of the community.
- 7.2. The experience and outcomes from the coordinated activities programme for children on the autistic spectrum and their siblings over the school holiday periods

was found to be beneficial and it is planned that it is continued and further developed.

8. Employee Implications

- 8.1. A new job profile has been created and evaluated by the Council at Grade 3, Level 4 – 8 £31,972 to £38,231, and 35 hours per week. The Clerical Assistant grade is an established Grade 1, Level 1-3, £7701 to £8677, 17.5 hours per week. These posts are fixed terms for a period of two years.
- 8.2. The annual staffing costs are: £51,693 - £61,120. These costs will be met with a 50/50 split between Social Work Resources and Education Resources for the two years of the posts.

| Post Title | Current Number of Posts (FTE) | Proposed Number of Posts (FTE) | Grade | SCP range | Hourly rate | Annual salary | Gross Cost (inc on costs) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Project Co-ordinator (35 hrs) | 0 | 1 | Grade 3, Level 4-8 | 68-80 | £17.52 - £20.95 | £31,972 - £38,231 | £41,659 - £49,814 |
| Clerical Assistant (17.5 hrs) | 0 | 0.5 | Grade 1, Level 1-3 | 19-27 | £8.44 - £9.51 | £7701-£8677 | £10,034 - £11,306 |
| Total Costs | | | | | | | £51,693 - £61,120 |

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1. The annual staffing costs are £51,693 - £61,120. These costs will be met equally between Social Work Resources and Education Resources within existing budgets for the two years of the posts.
- 9.2. Social Work Resources will provide £4,200 per annum to meet the costs of a school holiday activity provision for children on the autism spectrum and their sibilings. They will also meet the £8,000 per annum operation costs from the Jean Brownlie Centre.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1. There are no additional risks implications associated with this report. It will be essential to have a clear exit plan in place at the start of the project to ensure the long term sustainability can be delivered after the two year project.
- 10.2. There are no sustainable development issues associated with this report.
- 10.3. There are no other issues associated with this report

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 11.1. The development of the South Lanarkshire Autism Strategy will require an equality impact assessment to be carried out and a children's rights impact assessment. This will be undertaken as the strategy develops.

11.2. There has been ongoing consultation with a number of stakeholders in the development of the ARCH and this will continue through the engagement with individuals; parents/carers and our partner agencies.

Val de Souza
Director, Health and Social Care

Tony McDaid
Director Education Resources

Date: 17 February 2017

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- ◆ improve health, care and wellbeing
- ◆ Get it right for every child
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children young people and adults
- ◆ Strengthen partnership working community leadership and engagement

Previous References

- ◆ none

List of Background Papers

- ◆ none

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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