

Strategy Review Group Minutes

26th July 2018, 10.00am

St Andrews House, Edinburgh

Present: **Matthew Day**, Autism Initiatives; **Lesley Evans (minutes)**, Autism Network Scotland; ; **David MacKenzie** NAS; **Jean MacLellan**, Autism Network Scotland; **Annette Pyle (chair)**, Scottish Government (Care, Support and Rights Division); **Charlene Tait**, Scottish Autism; **John Urquhart**, COSLA

Apologies: **Gillian Barclay**, Scottish Government; **James Fletcher**, ARC Scotland; **Richard Ibbotson**, The Richmond Fellowship Scotland; **Cathy Steedman**, Autism Initiatives;

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions

AP welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies for those unable to attend.

2. Update from Policy

AP advised that Jane Freeman has been appointed new Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, with Clare Haughey appointed as the new Minister for Mental Health. As Geoff Huggins has accepted a position in Digital Strategy, Mental Health considering a standalone director, under which all of CH's remit might fall.

3. Review Group

AP distributed papers at the meeting which were used as points of reference for further discussion.

Roles and Remit

Key points raised include:

- ◇ The Group will provide strategic leadership and advice, sharing best practice and encouraging participation through involvement and challenge of all key players.
- ◇ The Group will be responsible for overseeing the strategic delivery and implementation of a programme of work to ensure:
 - a. Continual progress on the priorities
 - b. A robust challenge function of all stakeholders, including Scottish Government
 - c. Work with the Cross-Party Group on Autism to drive forward change
- ◇ Parents and autistic individuals will be represented at the Group (3 or 4 members maximum)
- ◇ The Group will be smaller than the Governance Group
- ◇ The Group will alternate meeting locations
- ◇ The Group will have input where monies are spent to ensure Task Group deliverables
- ◇ Frequency of meeting dates to be confirmed

Membership

JU asked if the Group should have representation from Social Work Scotland? **AP** agreed that finding the right person to commit was important and agreed to approach Duncan McIntyre. **JU** also asked how the voice of the parents and autistic individuals would be represented in the Group.

A general discussion then followed on how best to attract and retain fair representation of young people, autistic adults, parents and carers from across all the regions. It was agreed that regarding process of appointment and expectation of commitment, transparency is key. An advertisement inviting applications suitable for social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, organisation's websites), is to be created, with **AP** agreeing to supply the wording and criteria.

JMacl asked how we get the role of the IJB's represented, to which **JU** suggested approaching the Chief Officers Forum. It was agreed that **AP** would approach.

ACTION: AP to approach Duncan McIntyre, Social Work Scotland and Chief Officers Secretariat.

ACTION: AP to supply wording, including criteria for membership advertisement to attract representation from autistic young people, autistic adults, parents and carers for promotion via websites and social media platforms.

Task Groups Roles

MD asked how the task groups will work, which was followed up by **JMacl** asking how the Task Groups and the Review Group will connect.

A discussion then followed looking at which of the priorities should be delegated to the Task Groups.

Task Group topics discussed included:

- ◇ **Criminal Justice and how best to develop resources to raise awareness**
AP suggested a task group of representatives including Police Scotland, SOLD, NAS to conduct a process mapping exercise and develop a criminal justice resource. **JMacl** advised that Police Scotland had already approached the University of Strathclyde to develop an Autism Pathway across Criminal Justice, and that she is happy to share the deliverables with the Group once they had evolved. The next stage is a meeting with the Criminal Justice Partners and once the pathway agreed and moves to consultation stage, all partners can contribute. The Group agreed this was not for a Task Group at this time and were happy to support the current project.
- ◇ **Post Diagnostic Toolbox / Support**
AP said the consultations highlighted that people were unaware of the resources available to them, which emphasised the need for a comprehensive national website and resource which details both national and local level resources. When asked by **JMacl** the purpose of the Knowledge i-Hub, **AP** said it will sit within NHS Educations' professional hub as it was not aimed at parents and individuals. **MD** raised concern at the level of influence / power the Group

has to tell IJB's they need to change something, with **JMacL** asking where it was in Policy and where the money was to make it happen? **AP** advised that the Group has input as to where monies are spent and can challenge.

There was general agreement among the Group that prior to the Task Groups being allocated projects, a work plan be drawn up first to determine the Group's remit.

4. **National Awareness Campaign**

Organisations currently have their own awareness campaigns, however, following the consultations, it was clear that there is a need for a national campaign. Rachel Wood (intern with Visit Scotland) wishes to be involved and tell her story. Visit Scotland changing Accessible Tourism to Inclusive Tourism, so how we link with this and perhaps tap into employment opportunities within the Tourism industry? **GB** is keen to replicate the See Me campaign as people's stories are the most powerful tool to encourage change.

CT asked if a project of this nature should go to tender / collective proposal with the role of the Review Group to monitor and evaluate the outcomes? **AP** advised that **GB** would give direction on this.

5. **National Autism Awards**

AP circulated a paper at the meeting for further discussion and advised that the intention was not to duplicate what is already in the marketplace. **CT** asked if these Awards could enhance knowledge with the winners sharing best practice, to remove the tokenism which is often associated with Awards. At Equality Scotland Awards, the winner is an Ambassador for a year, becoming a resource for other organisations to tap into.

The Group agreed that something meaningful and of value was required for the winners such as funding for a project.

ACTION: Group to consider criteria and panel

6. **AOCB**

Nothing to discuss.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

In summary, it was agreed that a further full brainstorming day is required to determine the role, remit and priorities of the Group and Task Groups. **AP** agreed to send Workplan to the group and set tasks for the group prior to the next meeting. **LE** will send out a Doodlepoll with proposed dates.

ACTION: AP to send Workplan to the Group and set tasks for the current members prior to the next meeting

ACTION: Group to bring suggestions to next meeting

ACTION: LE to send Doodlepoll with suggested dates