
ASD Reference Group Meeting
22 February 2011 (2 - 5pm)
Apex Hotel, Waterloo Place, Edinburgh

MINUTES

Present

Dr Ken Aitken Action against Autism

Carolyn Brown Fife Council Psychological Service

Bill Colley ADES

Linda Connolly Social Work Inspection Agency

Prof. Aline-Wendy Dunlop University of Strathclyde

Kirsten Gooday Camphill Scotland

Ryan Gunn Scottish Government - Adult Care and Support

Nadia Hanif (Minutes) Scottish Government - Adult Care and Support

Ian Hood Learning Disability Alliance Scotland

Jane Hook Parent

Richard Ibbotson Autism Initiatives

Alison Leask Chair, Autism Argyll & Parent

Stella MacDonald Fife Council/ NHS Fife

Jean Maclellan (Chair) Scottish Government - Adult Care and Support

Peter McCulloch ADSW

Dr Tommy McKay Psychology Consultancy Services

Dr Robert Moffat The National Autistic Society Scotland

Andrew Morrison COSLA

Jane Neil-MacLachlan NHS Lothian

Val Sellars NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Charlene Tait Scottish Autism

Win Wood ADES

Apologies

Kirsty Butts Scottish Government - Adult Care and Support

Jane Cantrell NES

Idem Lewis Learning Disability Alliance Scotland

Dr Iain McClure NHS Lothian

Nigel Rooke Autism Resource Centre, Glasgow

Alan Somerville Scottish Autism

Dr Andrew Stanfield Co-Director of the Patrick Wild Centre

David Thompson Scottish Government - Support for Learning

David Watt HMIE

Item 1: Welcome, introductions and apologies

Jean Maclellan welcomed members to the meeting. For the benefit of new members, she gave a brief background summary of the work of the group. The Private Members Bill on Autism is not to proceed beyond Stage 1. This enables the Reference Group to now focus on finalising the Scottish Government draft Autism Strategy, on which public consultation concluded in December 2010.

To respond positively to the Education Committee view that the membership of the group should be more diverse, members reviewed how best to achieve this outcome. A particular aspiration is to involve users and carers more directly.

At the previous meeting on 21 January, members agreed to include users and carers by inviting representatives from the east and west of Scotland. Jane Neil-McLachlan indicated that Caroline Hamilton, a Number 6 user, is likely to be able to attend our next meeting. Aline-Wendy Dunlop had hoped to identify someone who would be able to fulfil a similar role covering the west of Scotland. However, when she discussed this with a group of individuals, they indicated that it would be difficult for one of their number to represent their collective views. It was agreed that Aline-Wendy would have a further discussion with those individuals, with a view to them coming up with a way in which they could be involved collectively in the work of the group. Ian Hood added that he had identified two potential candidates representing carers to join the group and hoped that they would join us in March.

On a more general point, Carolyn Brown suggested that it would be helpful for members to fill out a short template in which they describe their name, the organisation they represent and the work that they are able to contribute.

Action Point 1: Kirsty Butts to send out short template for members to complete on their role and return to her.

Item 2: Minute of the last meeting held on 24 January 2011

It was agreed that this was a correct record with the proviso that the attendance list needs to be amended to accurately reflect members' organisations.

Item 3: Update from the sub-groups

The Training Sub-group indicated that it had grappled with a potentially very wide agenda and a lack of clarity about the resources available to deliver. Others had encountered similar issues which led to a discussion about whether the Strategy should be finalised before the Sub-group remit was. However, it was agreed that both pieces of work would be undertaken in tandem because of the urgency to deliver. Members were advised of the financial resource that would be forthcoming from Scottish Government for 2011/12. It was also recognised that a critical aspect of resource is what members are able to contribute in terms of their time and talents. For

instance, COSLA's role is critical in reflecting the views of local authorities and they have committed to working as members of the Reference Group to find the best means of improving outcomes for people affected by autism. It was also accepted that when the Sub-group remits are more clearly defined, that it will be critical to co-opt others.

The current members in the sub-groups are:

ASD Sub-groups			
Training	Diagnosis, Assessment & Intervention	Adults:	Transitions:
Aline-Wendy Dunlop	Ken Aitken	Ian Hood	Aline-Wendy Dunlop
Ian Hood	Carolyn Brown	Jane Hook	Kirsten Gooday
Alison Leask	Ian Hood	Richard Ibbotson	Richard Ibbotson
Stella MacDonald	Iain McClure	Jane Neil-McLachlan	Stella MacDonald
Charlene Tait	Tommy McKay	Robert Moffat	Robert Moffat
	Jane Neil-McLachlan	Nigel Rooke	David Thompson
	Val Sellars		
	Alan Somerville		

Action Point 2: Ryan Gunn is to work closely with the sub-groups to ensure that the remits are finalised and clear work streams identified.

Action Point 3: A copy of the consultation report will be circulated to members once it has been approved by Jean Maclellan .

Item 4: 1st Draft of ASD Action Plan

The group agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

Item 5: Role of the National Autistic Society (NAS) - Overview, Dr Robert Moffat

Robert Moffat delivered a short update and overview on the role and function of NAS. The organisation has provided a wide range of information resources, which includes websites, ASD services directory, help lines, information centres and parent to parent phone line services which are confidential. Moreover, it has provided help and support in education which includes Daldorch House School which is the first 52 week residential school in Scotland specifically for children and young people with autism. NAS has also been working on employment for people with Autism. They have set up an employment service called Prospects which supports people with an ASD and provides training services for people who wish to work. NAS also works with employers where they help with the recruitment, training and retention of staff with an ASD. NAS have been looking into what unique skills people with autism have and have provided meaningful jobs for 60 people in various sectors, such as, Lloyds TSB, Tesco and IKEA.

Based on the 2010 audit, the results showed that NAS has responded to over 10,000 enquiries for advice and support from e-mails, telephones and face to face interactions. There have been around 60,000 hits on the website. NAS has also trained up over 200 volunteers and have influenced the lives of over 1000 people with regards to supported living, youth groups and further education. Moreover, NAS has supported 1500 families through network parent groups and has placed 60 people in the employment service.

Robert concluded by saying that now that the Bill has fallen, NAS fully supports the Strategy and will continue to feed in the views of parents, carers and people with ASD.

Item 6: Criminal and Forensic Issues and ASD - Presentation, Dr Tommy Mackay

[Hand-outs for this presentation are attached](#). It was agreed that the content be taken into account and added to the Strategy.

Item 7: Review of Autism Network - Presentation, A-W. Dunlop

Aline-Wendy Dunlop's [presentation is attached](#).

Action Point 4: Aline-Wendy Dunlop and Jean Maclellan are to set up a meeting about SASN.

Item 8: Sleep - Short presentation, Dr Kenneth Aitken

The group agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

Item 9: Schedule of future meetings

A handout detailing the dates for the next meeting was issued to the members. Members agreed that 3 additional dates for the group should be organised.

Action Point 5: Scottish Government to arrange meetings for May, June and July.