

Governance Group meeting minutes  
23 October 2015  
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**REVIEWED BY CHAIR**

**In attendance:** James Fletcher, ARC Scotland; Anne Marie Gallagher, NHS GGC; Emma Hanley, Autism Network Scotland; Ian Hood, Learning Disability Alliance Scotland; Richard Ibbotson, Autism Initiatives; Thom Kirkwood, Parental Peer Advocate; Jean MacLellan (CHAIR), National Autism Co-Ordination Project, Strathclyde University; Donald Macleod, National Autism Coordination Project; Peter McCulloch, Social Work Scotland; Jess McPherson, Scottish Government (Care, Support and Rights Division); Annette Pyle, Scottish Government (Care, Support and Rights Division); Alan Somerville, Scottish Autism; Nicola Thomson, Scottish Government (Care, Support and Rights Division)

**Guests present:** Fiona Bain, National Autistic Society (for Jenny Paterson); Charlene Tait, Scottish Autism

**Apologies:** Kabie Brook, Autism Rights Group Highland; Carolyn Brown, Fife Council/Education; Maureen Bruce, Scottish Government (Care, Support and Rights Division); Michael Dawson, an autistic person; Beth Hall, COSLA; Iain McClure, NHS Lothian; Jenny Paterson, National Autistic Society

**Minutes by:** Tracy Wenzl, Autism Network Scotland and National Autism Co-Ordination Project

- I. **Welcome, apologies and introductions** – Apologies were read. Introductions were made.
- II. **Minutes** – minutes from 16 June 2015 were approved.
- III. Policy update – AP (handout tabled – [Priorities and Outcomes 2015-7](#))

AP has reframed the Scottish Strategy for Autism into four outcomes. These outcomes align with the strategy goals. There is no change in the Strategy's priorities; it simply reframes the Strategy to align it with current national Scottish Government priorities and provide a rationale on what we are doing and why. It is an approach framework; a way to look at what we've done and what are priorities are going forward in the next phase as agreed when we developed the strategy priority action plan. A few updates to this document are planned (move One Stop Shops to Working Group 1's outcome.) JMCP added that the UK Spending Review will take place in late November, and this will decide what budget the Scottish Government will receive. Then there will be a quick turnaround on finalising specific funding priorities in Scotland. It is still unclear how many years the funding review will cover.

AP noted that the Scottish Government received 115 Autism Innovation and Development Fund applications, and that these were still under review. Funding awards are expected to be decided at the end of October.

There was a discussion about the outcomes framework and how those were being used in local authorities' autism strategies and plans. DM reported that they were being used widely in both the writing of new strategies, as well in the review and update of existing

strategies. TK noted that the outcomes are reflected in the most common 10-12 priorities in local plans.

JMcP and AP also noted that they are working with Inspiring Scotland, an organisation which works with third sector partners to build capacity. They currently manage funded projects for some Scottish Government initiatives, like Early Years, and are currently working with Self-directed Support.

[Inspiring Scotland](#) will work with the Autism Development and Innovation funded projects to share practice and assess outcomes. This will help Scottish Government identify good practice that can be scaled and taken forward.

- IV. Situation update on One Stop Shops (OSS) – AP reported that Julie Haslett, Joint Improvement Team, is working with all of the OSSs on becoming embedded in their communities through local authority partnerships. She is helping the OSSs go to finance committees within councils to secure sustainable funding. It may be down to the wire for some of the OSSs, whose current funding is through March 2016. Scottish Government is monitoring the situation and considering next steps with funding.

RI noted that the funding requests are getting positive feedback, but money is tight in local authorities.

- V. Working Group Overview – DM reported that all four working groups had met since the last Governance meeting. [Please see his full report for details.](#)

VI. Updates from working group chairs

- a. Working Group 1 – RI reported that the group would meet in November. At the last meeting, the group reached a better understanding of their role. They are sticking to the work on their original workplan which includes the One Stop Shops and the impending microsegmentation report, and will look at self-directed support next.
- b. Working Group 2 – JF reported there was good participation from the group in planning and executing the recent National Autism Coordination Project’s Business Meeting and Workshops, focused on transitions. This event took place on September 25. The group will consider feedback from the event at their next meeting in November. Of note was the parent group from Aberdeenshire’s presentation, as well as the video of a young man’s transition experience. Attendees enjoyed the workshop on transitions and legislation, which included a “transitions legislation quiz.” The quiz, while presented in a light-hearted way, showed that there are gaps in knowledge about transitions and related legislation. The group is working with the Govan Law Centre on a transitions legislation map. JF met with AP and Angela Henderson from the Learning Disability Observatory to discuss data. She suggested they look at the 2011 census.
- c. Working Group 3 – AP noted that at a Chairs’ meeting in August, Jane Neil-MacLachlan retired from leading the working group. AP would like to ask members of Group 3 to choose to join one of the other three working groups and provide input on promoting good autism practice within that group’s remit.  
**ACTION ITEM:** TW to email Group 3 members to ask them to join another group
- d. Working Group 4 – AMG noted her group was also more clear about their role. She noted that Janine Robinson regularly updates the group on the progress of the NES work, most recently the web resource for general practitioners. The group has discussed how to apply the NES Autism Training Framework in social work and

education – the group is seeking further information in both areas. They have discussed Autism Development funded training programmes and are gathering information on the programmes offered through Strathclyde and Open University. The group is also gathering information on Autism Alert Cards – AMG asked the Governance Group to send any information they have to Tracy. Discussion about the card types (registered vs unregistered) followed. TK noted he felt the one with the green cross on it and two contact numbers on the back was the most useful. PMc wondered about the role of the police in these conversations, and pointed to the [Keep Safe programme](#) as a good example.

Discussion followed about the upcoming Scottish Strategy for Autism Fourth Annual Conference, to be held on December 8 at the University of Strathclyde's Technology and Innovation Centre. The theme will be good practice, and the day will focus on examples in transitions, employment and local authorities.

- VII. National Autism Coordination Project – DM read [excerpts from his report](#). He noted that the NACP team had recently visited [Baxter View](#), a housing development in Dumbarton. FB noted the recent event in Ayrshire was very positive, with some new people getting involved.
- VIII. Autism Network Scotland update – EH tabled her report and read excerpts. The Network is considering how to do consultation on a wider scale. She also reported that the new [Employment web resource](#) had been launched at the October 5 Employment Event. RI noted that the event, which focused on the employment “journey,” was very successful. EH also noted that SWAN would be holding a second event in partnership with the Network on October 28 and the Network is now planning the National Conference for December 8 and assisting with the NES Symposium on good practice on December 9.
- IX. Autism Trainer Award – CT gave an overview of the award and an update on how the pilot offering of the course is going. 18 local authorities sent someone to the course, which was funded by Autism Development Fund monies. [More detail can be found in her slides](#). Scottish Autism, who offers the course, is considering cost, and how to promote the benefits of the programme to local authorities for future offerings. PMc offered to assist in putting the word out about the course.
- X. Update on microsegmentation – AS reported that he recently received a message from Tommy Mackay which indicated that the full analysis of data was expected imminently – perhaps at the end of October. Once the data is received, Tommy expects that the report will need another month to complete.
- XI. AP noted that the National Autistic Society's Autism Europe Congress would take place in Scotland in September 2016. There is a call for papers and AP encouraged everyone to submit papers.
- XII. There will be a poll to decide the next meeting date, tentatively in March 2016.

## **KEY MESSAGES**

As the Scottish Strategy for Autism nears the end of its fourth year, the Strategy has been reframed into outcomes. This will align the Strategy with other national priorities. The Strategy's Fourth Annual Conference will take place on December 8 at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. Invitations will be sent out the last week of October.

The Autism Innovation and Development Fund applications are still under review due to the high number received. Decisions are expected to be made at the end of October. The Scottish Government expects to work with Inspiring Scotland, who will partner with funded projects to help them identify and share good practice.

The One Stop Shops across Scotland continue to work towards sustainable funding, and are partnering with Julie Haslett, Joint Improvement Team, to assure that funding is secured.

The group heard about key events taking place, including the September 25 National Autism Coordination Project's third business meeting, which focused on transitions. Working Group 2 put together the programme for the day. They also heard about the Employment Event held on October 5, which was also saw the launch of a new employment web resource.

The group heard an update on the Autism Trainer Award and the progress of its pilot cohort, made up of representatives of 18 local authorities.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**ACTION ITEM:** TW to email Group 3 members to ask them to join another group

## **NEXT MEETING**

**Poll to be held for date in February 2016, to be held in Edinburgh**