

Governance Group Meeting Minutes

21st September 2017, 1.00pm

Technology and Innovation Building, Glasgow

APPROVED

Present: Gillian Barclay, Scottish Government; Kabie Brook, Autism Rights Group Highland; Lesley Evans, Autism Network Scotland; Kjersti Fergusson, Scottish Government; James Fletcher, ARC Scotland; Anne-Marie Gallagher, NHS GGC; Thom Kirkwood, Parental Peer Support; Jean MacLellan (Chair), Chair of the Scottish Strategy for Autism Governance Group; Donald Macleod, National Autism Co-ordination Project; David MacKenzie (substituted for Jenny Paterson), NAS; Robert Mitchell, Scottish Government; Annette Pyle, Scottish Government (Care, Support and Rights Division); Cathy Steedman, Autism Initiatives; Lynsey Stewart, Autism Network Scotland; Darren Tierney, Scottish Government

Apologies: Fiona Bain, DWP; Diane Ferguson, North Ayrshire Council; Richard Ibbotson, The Richmond Fellowship Scotland; Iain McClure, NHS Lothian; Duncan McIntyre, Social Work Scotland; Donna Nicholson, Learning Disability Alliance Scotland; Jenny Paterson, NAS; Alan Somerville, Scottish Autism; John Urquhart, COSLA

1. Welcome, apologies

JMacl advised that Michael Dawson has retired from the Group and offered sincere thanks on behalf of the Governance Group for his valued contribution over the years.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were checked for accuracy and approved with minor amendments.

3. Matters arising

- The Working Groups will discuss both at their next meetings and between each other what they would like to precisely focus on achieving and the process for doing so, with invitations to innovative and appropriate new members to follow. Outcomes must be both impactful and measurable.

Update: Covered under agenda item 7 at June meeting

- Work Group 2 will start to gather examples of parent / carer peer support networks and seek opportunities to encourage this approach. They plan to link with the SG Carers team on this.

Update: Covered under agenda item 4 at June meeting

- AP to action the following in the next version of the Strategic Priorities

- Revisit the recommendations in the Seminar Series Report.
- Include links to strategic reports to be made.
- Re Strategic Outcome 3 – Independence, AP agreed to include early interventions and to consider inclusion of any recommendations from Tommy McKay's microsegmentation report.
- Look at wording concerning data collection.

Update: Ongoing

- Group to send initial comments on V1 to **AP/GB** by 9th June 2017
Update: Complete

- **LE** to cancel Working Group 1 and set up a meeting with Working Group Leads, **AP** and **ANS** to discuss topics.
Update: Complete

4. **Our Strategic priorities until 2021 – Update Paper** **AP**

In order to broaden the scope of the document, the revised paper has been delayed, as the Policy Team receive narrative from wider policy areas such as employment, criminal justice and mental health. **AP** and **KF** are meeting with Andy Margerison on 6th October to look at what Dumfries and Galloway has been doing around education and teacher training resources and **GB** and **AP** meeting with COSLA week commencing 25th September.

A discussion on the draft paper then followed with the group agreeing that a draft document would be welcomed as soon as possible and would help policy redevelopment. The group were advised by **AP** that the outcomes will remain the same as before, it will be the priorities which differ. **GB** advised an online questionnaire was currently being designed which would widen the consultation. No timescale was given at this time for publication of the Outcomes document or questionnaire.

5. **Local Implementation** **DMaCl**

DMaCl submitted a paper in advance of the meeting.

Update

The group's attention was drawn to the topic of Integrated Joint Boards (IJBs) and their responsibilities in relation to autism. He stated that having met with Social Work Scotland's Learning Disability subgroup, its membership concurred that autism is not on the agenda of IJBs. They also indicated that Learning Disability Funding has an underlying overspend on autism as some people with autism who do not have learning disabilities are being offered learning disability services.

A round table discussion on IJBs followed:

- **AP** asked if connections had been made with local Chief Officers, or are they asking the Government for help as there is a Policy Lead for Commissioning of Joint Boards? **DMaCl** replied that help was not requested.
- **GB** asked about resource allocation analysis. **DMaCl** replied this was anecdotal and that although the boards knew referrals were not for Learning Disabilities, they were being funnelled through anyway.
- **TK** commented that every authority has differing criteria, thus offering no uniformity. **JMaCl** said that in terms of reporting there was no robust analysis.
- **AP** said that **Geoff Huggins** was meeting with the chief officers of the IJBs later today.
- **JMaCl** asked where the IJB's are in understanding their community's needs. **AP** commented that action plans show they are crisis driven in terms of older

population, with **GB** adding there is nothing in place for dementia or for autism. **JMacl** said that Shetland's IJB had a connection to the local autism strategy which **DMacl** said has IJB approval.

- **GB** said that prioritising is at locality level and not at IJB level. **AMG** stated that the needs of people with autism are not necessarily being met by specific autism services but through general mental health services.
- **JMacl** said it was important that generalist services were autism aware and that mainstream systems are able to meet the needs with that bridge of understanding.
- **KF** spoke of the Scottish Government funded Improvement Programme, to improve CAMHS, diagnostic pathways etc, where data development is being undertaken, however, it might be years before we see results.
- **JMacl** asked who ensures that IJB's understand the conditions relating to autism as it is often hoteliers, post masters etc who are the local leads, who are far removed from our work. Do IJBs need to understand what is required to be strategic? **GB** agreed saying that perhaps general awareness campaigns would help.

JMacl wrapped up the discussion by asking the group to consider how we gather more intelligence.

Work Streams Update

DMacl advised new working groups are being established, **TK** was engaged to undertake a 3 month wider engagement project and **ANS** will be undertaking a pilot scheme with 5 areas (Shetland, Highland, Ayrshire, Argyll and Inverclyde), looking at specific areas of work, such as criminal justice, education, mental health, which if productive will be rolled out nationally. All 5 areas will engage in a small, manageable project, looking at what's already out there, different interventions and how to ultimately make an impact. **JMacl** stated the project content is very much at the scoping stage, but that the pilots will be completed by the end of March 2018. **CS** said it would be good to share their findings.

Events Update

DMacl advised the Lead Officers Collaborative Business Meeting and Workshop, partnering with NES was confirmed for Wednesday 27th September. **AP** gave her apologies as she is no longer able to attend.

AP said that the Scottish Government is committed to supporting its work with NES and will chase up the findings of the NES evaluation of the ATF and disseminate.

6. Policy

AP

AP submitted a paper in advance of the meeting.

Ministerial Activity: **AP** covered under Agenda Item 2.

Autism Improvement Programme

KF was asked to give a verbal update.

- Although Working Group 4 has not been formally re-established, **KF** and **AMG** are working together on diagnostic work and the facilitation and project management of a series of Improvement Projects across Autism Services.
- **AMG** is working with people who have requested a diagnosis and who have no previous involvement with mental health. She is also visiting individuals to discuss the common ways adults with ASD manage their health and well-being. Individuals being asked if their needs have been met or if they still require a diagnosis.
- Adult services are involved only if people meet the threshold for mental health services and conditions, not just autism.

NHS Education for Scotland (NES)

- **AP** met with the team re their work-plan and replacing Dr Gail Milroy. Going forward, the work-plan focuses on building training resources and networks in key areas of Identification, Screening, Assessment and Diagnosis as well as Management Support and Intervention.

Innovation and Improvement Fund

- **GB** and **AP** met with Inspiring Scotland highlighting sustainability and capacity in the 3rd sector. **JMaCL** asked if a main theme was arising re sustainability, **AP** said it was how the 3rd sector will be supported when the funding streams they are all chasing cease. **GB** agreed there will be far fewer 3rd sector organisations going forward.
- **CS** informed the group Autism Initiatives had closed the Café on the Corner due to a lack of available funding and starting new projects will be difficult due to diminished funds. **TK** asked how we secure work placements and volunteer opportunities if closures are happening; saying there is a need to focus on the ability not the disability and suggested looking at employability schemes within City Deals.
- **GB** advised that there will be an approx. £800m gap in funding from Scottish Government.

JMaCL asked what can we do as a Governance Group if we have little or no control. **GB** replied, that it was useful to have a forum which was honest and realistic to where the gaps are (not just relating to funding), acting as a barometer of what is happening country wide.

- **JF** said projects end, but that we need to learn from them to generate sustainability. **KB** mentioned the One Stop Shops were a good model and yet no-one wants to pay for these with **CS** saying No 6 struggles year on year. **TK** commented the One Stop Shop in South Lanarkshire, now ARCH is running.

GB suggested efficiencies could be made if organisations merge.

Principles of Good Transitions 3 and Autism Supplement

AP and **JF** working together on the Facing the Future national survey. **JF** gave a verbal update on the report, with copies available to the group.

In Summary:

- The 32 local authorities were approached to consider transitions across the lifespan with 17 responding, providing rich and interesting information from which the report was created.
- Useful to have a national framework re transitions and to bring strategic leads from local authorities together.
- The survey produced a healthy response and although there was nothing new to note, the number of responses gives it a national validity. There is a definite feeling of optimism in the responses received from youths; the responses from the parents/carers were more concerning.
- Scottish Funding Council provided funding for transitions trainings in further education colleges which was evaluated thoroughly and is now in the advanced stages of rolling out to colleges and universities.

Wider Policy Update

AP met with mental health colleagues and there continues to be cross policy discussions. Cross policy engagement continues with colleagues in the development of a Disabled Person framework which will be published in the autumn. Re employability, Skills Development Scotland has Diversity Regional Managers in post covering Scotland prioritising disabled young.

7. Working Group Updates

Working Group 2 - JF

- Much has been happening around transitions including influencing the structure of the ILF fund which will be live in November. The fund is aimed at 16-21 year olds seeking a specific outcome, especially those with no other support. The Scottish Government has set aside £5m.
- Facing the Future survey has helped frame the work-plan.
- 2 x training sessions undertaken with Inspiring Scotland (Glasgow, Edinburgh with one to follow in Aberdeen), looking at how projects are aligning with Principles of Good Transitions 3.
- Still looking at Peer Support.
- **TK** brought up the lack of awareness and discussion surrounding the Brain in Hand app, saying it should have been brought to the table before now, which **JF** agreed with considering the revolution surrounding assisted technology and will bring the topic of the role of assisted technology to the attention of the Governance group going forward. **KB** was concerned that this app gathers personal data which is an issue and **AP** said that as it was a for profit organisation, as a strategy group we cannot recommend its usage.

Employability Network (Working Group 1)

No-one was available from the group, however it was noted that the existing membership had agreed to become Working Group 1 and that Lynsey Stewart and Richard Ibbotson were in the process of addressing the future work-plan.

Working Group 4 – KF/AMG

AP, KF and **AMG** still to discuss the membership and work-plan for Working Group 4

DMaCl said that the criminal justice working group had not been established yet. **JF** said that he had discussed the potential of this with members of the SOLD group, to which **AP** said that she and **RM** had found their recent meeting with them positive.

8. MS MN Report SG meeting with MWC

GB met MW Commission 15.10.17 and discussed the report and the recommendations of the governance group. Dr Morrison was in attendance. It was a positive meeting and there will be a themed inspection visit for adults with autism (complex and those at greatest risk) next year. Scottish Government will work with them to identify the theme and gather information on people with autism, visiting supported living or specialist care homes where the most complex cases are located.

The Commission said they were still awaiting a response from the governance group. **JMaCl** said this was given to **AP** who will follow up. **AP** said that NHS England have their GP register established and asked if this could this be replicated in Scotland as the NICE indicator is in place?

A brief round table discussion followed:

- **KB** said many autistic people were against this and didn't want it called a national register.
- There is an issue concerning the data gathering around "primary condition" as people do not like to make a choice concerning their "primary condition" and could this be removed?
- **KF** said the data would not be used for clinical coding.

9. AOCB

KB asked what is happening with the ANS/tendering renewal. **GB** replied that this had been discussed with **JMaCl** and nothing had been agreed as not sure re the funding available for 2018.

10. Date of Next Meeting

LE will send a Doodlepoll with January 2018 dates for consideration.

ACTION POINTS

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