

AUTISM STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION GROUP
Minutes of meeting held on Thursday, 17th March 2016
Teith House, Stirling Council

Attendees: LC, LF, SF, KS, LU, SW

In Attendance: LA, LR (Minutes)

Apologies: FB, OH, VK, AL, L-AL, JM, EM, IS, KS, RS

Agenda Item	Action
Welcome	
<p>LA welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced LC Campbell, who is joining the Committee as our parent contact.</p> <p>LC gave a short narrative on her background and connection with Autism: her son (who is now 16) was diagnosed with Autism when he was three. He entered mainstream school in P6 and attends St Modan's High School, where he receives lots of support. However, when he was diagnosed LC felt that there was very little help and support, and poor information on where to get it. She set up a branch of the National Autistic Society in Stirling to support families and carers, which she is still involved with. Her work with the group means that she supports and visits families from Perth, Falkirk, Fife and Stirling.</p>	
(1) Minutes & Actions from the Previous Meeting	
<p>The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. All actions are addressed on the Agenda, except for the following items:</p> <p><u>(1) Autism Services Directory</u> LA confirmed that a review of the Autism Services directory will be undertaken every 6 months by her to ensure the information is current.</p> <p><u>(2) Post-Diagnosis Toolkit</u> Karen mentioned that the CAMHS Pack is 5 years old and requires updating. LA contacted MR regarding the post-diagnosis support provided to families in Edinburgh. MR has shared information about organisation of their services. LC mentioned there is also a NAS Toolkit. It was mentioned that Enable also has post-diagnosis service. It was agreed to discuss this further at the May meeting with the views of creating our own post-diagnosis tool kit.</p> <p>It was agreed that it might be worth having Stirling Council Post-Diagnosis information available (even in draft form) for the event on 23rd April, so that delegates can provide feedback.</p>	<p>Post-Diagnosis Toolkit discussion at May meeting.</p> <p>Post-Diagnosis Information available in draft form for the event on 23rd April.</p>
(2) Parent Involvement in Strategy	
<p>LC confirmed that she would be delighted to liaise with carers and families regarding the Autism Strategy and suggested the following ways for engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilising school contacts – information sent out to Parents (Text /Twitter). 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLUS Families Facebook Page / NAS / Autism FV Website. • Quarterly Meetings (evening / day) at Raploch for parents and carers (potential childcare requirements). Opportunities for informal discussion. • Newsletters / Posters in schools, so <u>all</u> parents can be informed. • Visits to schools to ask Headteachers for support in reaching parents. • Increase visibility of the Autism FV website, encourage engagement and sharing via Social Media. <p>Susan suggested that some Parent Meetings could be held during the day (perhaps at PLUS) and that everyone in the group would be willing to help LC out with the organisation.</p> <p>The Steering Group agreed that it would be helpful for the Parents & Carers Group to define its structure and potential goals going forward. LA suggested creating a quick questionnaire for parents (5 questions max) that could be used to define contact preferences and communication styles (meetings / social media).</p>	<p>Autism FV Parents Group to define structure and potential goals.</p>
<p>(3) Autism Awareness Month Event @ Raploch – Saturday, 23rd April</p>	
<p>LA updated the Steering Group on the proposed programme for the day:</p> <p>10.00 Registration, Refreshments- Market Place 10.30 Introduction by a Council Official (Liam Purdie 5min) 10.35 Welcome and Update on the Strategy (10 min) 10.50: Parental Perspective (5 min) 10:55: Adult with Autism Perspective (5 min) 11: 05-12:20: Division in smaller groups 20 min per workshop + 20 min relaxation, choice of up to 3 workshops. Workshop 1 – Directory of Autism Services Workshop 2 – The Autism App Workshop 3 – Autism Forth Valley website Workshop 4 – Safe Place Scheme For all: Refreshment and Market Place, Relaxation Session (20min) 12.25 Feedback 12.30 Close of Event</p> <p>The Event poster has been created for both A3 (poster) and A5 (flyer) sizes. LA asked if Steering Group members could help distribute copies to their contacts and requested that members get back to her with how many posters they would like. PLUS offered to distribute posters to their Parent contacts.</p> <p>Feedback on the poster was that the FV Autism website needs to be more prominent, and that it would also be useful to have a telephone number for bookings. These need to be larger.</p> <p>LA has been unable to get beauty therapy students from Raploch for the relaxation sessions, as most of them work on Saturday. However, she has contacted the University of Stirling Physiotherapy department to see if they can help.</p>	<p>Steering Group to provide numbers for posters/flyers.</p> <p>Poster approved pending increase in size and prominence of FV Autism Website and booking telephone number.</p>

<p>Aileen has come back to say that the SDS booklet would not be suitable for service users as it's only for Practitioners. However there is information on the Council website regarding SDS options, so service users could access this from the website.</p> <p>LA confirmed that all contacts for the Marketplace have been invited to take a stall, and that an event invite to all contacts has been sent via Eventbrite. The current numbers are looking good with minimal promotion.</p> <p>LA informed the Steering Group that she has recently spoken with an older individual (79 years) who has recently been diagnosed with Autism. She is hoping to meet with him and discuss his potential involvement in our event.</p> <p>There has also been a problem getting in touch with Alex Brown, as potential Parent speaker. LC agreed to try to get in touch.</p>	<p>LC to get in touch with Alex Brown.</p>
<p>(4) Film at the Macrobert Arts Centre with Q&A</p>	
<p>The film agreed by the Steering Group is: "Stand Clear of the Closing Doors" and will be shown on Wednesday, 20th April, followed by a Q&A session. The Steering Group agreed to promote this event via their contacts and social media.</p> <p>LA asked whom should be invited to join the Q&A panel. Suggestions were: a Parent; representatives from ANS; Scottish Autism; Carers' Groups; PLUS/Play Alloa; New Struan and Jenny Wilson from NAS.</p>	
<p>(5) Directory of Services</p>	
<p>The Directory of Services has been sent round and feedback received. The information is going live on the website very soon. An e-mail will be sent to everyone to confirm when this has happened, which can be circulated to networks.</p>	<p>LA to check NAS contact info to ensure that LC's details are provided.</p>
<p>(6) Involving Falkirk</p>	
<p>LA outlined the historical context of the Autism FV Strategy & website and lack of input/co-operation from Falkirk Council. A discussion followed.</p> <p>LC agreed to check with friends in Falkirk to see what their experience has been of gaining information and support from Falkirk Council.</p> <p>Karen agreed to ask her Line Manager, the Principal Educational Psychologist, to contact her equivalent in Falkirk for further information on any Autism Strategy for the area.</p> <p>Involving Falkirk to be added to the Agenda for the next meeting in May.</p>	<p>LC to reach out to Falkirk contacts.</p> <p>Stirling's Principal Ed. Psychologist to contact equivalent in Falkirk Council.</p> <p>Falkirk Council to be discussed at next meeting.</p>

(7) Autism App	
<p>The Autism App naming competition has been launched, deadline 15th April, so that the name can be chosen and announced at the event on 23rd April. We are also asking for feedback on the technology by 20th March. Information on how to download the is available via the following:</p> <p>http://autismforthvalley.co.uk/adult-austim/transition/transition-autism-app</p> <p>Feedback can be submitted to the following:</p> <p>https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AutismApp2016</p> <p>LA asked if it would be possible for the Steering Group to promote the App, and encourage feedback, particularly from young people (Schools, ASN Outreach, etc.) and carers of individuals with complex needs.</p>	<p>All Steering Group members to promote the Autism App via networks and social media.</p>
(8) Safe Place Scheme / I Am Me	
<p>LA provided an update on the Safe Place Scheme, including information on a similar scheme called “I am Me”, which is Scotland-wide. The “I am Me” Scheme has lots of useful resources and is supported by Police Scotland.</p> <p>It was agreed that we would join with the “I am Me” Scheme. LA will take this further with the Safe Place Scheme sub-group at their next meeting.</p> <p>The Safe Place Scheme sub-group are working on a number of videos for promotion/training, as well as an infographic film to introduce the Scheme. This film will be used at the launch on 23rd April.</p> <p>In the meantime, help is required to identify organisations who might be willing to provide a safe place as part of the scheme. Susan suggested contacting University of Stirling Student Support Services; Forth Valley College and any organisation involved with support/training for ASD.</p>	
(9) Promotion & Communication	
<p>It was agreed that this had been covered elsewhere in the Agenda.</p>	
(9) Monitoring Employability & Employment	
<p>Sarah updated the Steering Group on progress made on the Visual Pathways that she has been working on with LU, LF and Z from PLUS.</p> <p>Three draft pathways have been produced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Leaving School – opportunities at college or in the workplace. (2) Am I ready for work? What needs to be in place before I look for work? (3) How do I look for work? <p>Liz has sent these to Elaine so that she can check if they are Autism-friendly before they are posted onto the Autism FV website.</p>	

<p>Discussions have also taken place with Forth Valley College with a few to providing a 1-year ASD college access course, thus enabling students to avoid travelling to Perth. Laura mentioned that City of Glasgow College currently provides this course and she is checking to see what other local authorities also provide it.</p>	
<p>(10) Future Meeting Dates</p>	
<p>19th May, 3pm- 5pm, Room G49, Teith House, Stirling</p>	
<p>Next meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy Implementation Steering Group 19th May at 3pm Teith House (Room G-49) Stirling Council</p>	