Autism Strategy – Transitions Group

10th February 2015, 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Committee Room 1   Municipal Buildings, Stirling

Note of Meeting

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

   Attendance: Denisa Dashi; Mairi Duncan; Athanasios Faliagkas; Kevin Flett; Jenni Fulton; Thom Kirkwood; Mattie Mclachlan; Liz Urbanczyk (chair).

   Apologies: Sheena Allan; Fiona Bairner; Jamie Kirkby; Cath Knox; Fiona Edward-Smith; Janet Stirling.

   Kevin welcomed everyone to the meeting, and handed over to Liz, who will chair the group in the future. There was an opportunity for everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Update on Passport Development

   Liz updated the group on recent developments, including a recap of previous progress for the benefit of those attending for the first time. The draft paper version of a transitions passport had been piloted with more able pupils at St Modan's, which had provided valuable insight. We also had discussion with someone who had recent experience of transition, and his input was also really helpful. The student previously identified from Abertay to do some work on developing an App version of the passport had to withdraw. Liz had contacted other local colleges to identify another student, and Lorene had advertised across Stirling University. There had been some positive interest, and it is hoped that discussions can get under way soon so as to progress this development. This group will be kept informed of progress, and it is anticipated that those selected to take the App development forward will meet with this group early in the process. Ensuring links with those who will use the App and the Transitions Passport are also very important.

3. Update on App development/ Electronic version (see above)

4. Links to wider development/ GIRFEC etc.
   Liz outlined the links that existed with wider work going on around transitions. She sits on the Transitions working group, and with Mairi now attending this group it will help to ensure that what we do ties in with these wider developments, and in particular with colleagues in Ed Psych. It was agreed that as the passport is developed in its different forms (including for young people encountering transitions at other life stages) it needs to sit within GIRFEC frameworks, and be compliant with other policy and practice drivers.

5. Research Project, Stirling University

   Athanasios and Denisa introduced the project they are working on as part of their masters' research. This is focussing on web-based information (an online one-stop

shop), and they have already identified around 60 relevant sites. The aim is to develop a local (FV wide) Autism website with information, links and support for those impacted by Autism.

6. Autism Strategy
The consultation events in November/ December had been well attended, and responses to the process and the information shared had been generally very positive. The feedback will be written up and disseminated, and will contribute to the final strategy.

7. Update on Funding application

Applications for funding for two projects had gone in to Scottish Government, and had been successful. One is to fund the development of "Creative Autism" which will support and engage with people across the autism spectrum through a range of creative activities (expressive arts, music etc.)
The second application is for the online one-stop shop, and this includes an element of funding to support the development of the App.

8. Any Other Business
Thom circulated a case study for information. This outlined his daughter's recent transitions pathway with good and bad experiences along the way to what has been a broadly positive outcome. This will provide valuable learning for the group.
The need for input from SWS was highlighted again, particularly SW staff who are to be working specifically with those in transition.

9. Date of Next meeting

It was agreed that a meeting in around 6 weeks' time would allow an opportunity for an update on developments. The preferred date would be Wednesday 1st April, probably in Alloa. Details will be confirmed as soon as possible.