

MORAY AUTISM PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

Wednesday 5th November 2014 at 12.30pm

The Gallery, Elgin Library

Chair:	David Silvester
Co-Chair:	John Campbell

In Attendance:	Anne Taylor	Pat McLennan (CF)	Fiona McPherson (HSC)
<u>Key:</u>	James Maxwell	Fiona Geddes	Glyn Morris
	Louise McKenzie	Lorraine McKay	John Atkinson
	William McLean	Heidi Sands	Anne Pendery (CF)
HSC = Health & Social Care	Jackie Paterson	Elliot Russell	Ann Maxwell
CF = Children and Families	Emma Sharpe (HSC)	Anne McKenzie (HSC)	Robert Maxwell
PS = Police Scotland	Maggie Simpson	Lesley Bell (CF)	Pearl Thatcher
	Lyn Wilkinson	Aimee Killa (HSC)	Leah Desmier
	Beccie Thornhill (CF)		
	Minute taker – Rachel Foster (HSC)		

AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	ACTION POINT	ACTION REQUIRED
1. Welcome from the Co-Chairs	David and John welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the meeting's agenda.	
2. Minutes of Last Meeting	<p>John referred to the actions noted in the last minute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appointment of an Autism Development Co-ordinator for one year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – John advised Aimee Killa is now in post and has made great progress with the starting up of One Stop Shop drop in sessions. See Item 3 for update. • The delivery plan, to support delivery of the strategy, to be presented to members for scrutiny and ongoing monitoring. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – John advised that meetings have been held between the 3 lead officers; himself, Pat McLennan (Inclusion Manager) and Anne McKenzie (AHP Lead (Moray)) to progress the plan. • Diagnostic pathway had been requested as the theme for the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – John advised that the NHS lead is not Ali Walker (Clinical Directorate Service Manager) but Anne McKenzie, who is linking with Susan Dean (Principal Educational Psychologist). See Item 4 for update on the Children's Services Pilot. <p>Fiona McPherson (public involvement officer) presented a feedback sheet from the Table Discussions at the last meeting. Various points that were raised have been actioned, including</p>	Rachel to circulate dates of 2015 meetings.

	<p>dates being set for 2015 – to be circulated by Rachel Foster. She also noted that more advertising has been carried out; a press release went out and notification was put on the Moray Autism Facebook page – however this has not generated more attendees. It was discussed that this is an evolving process. A suggestion was made to have an advert in the ‘Spotlight’ booklet.</p> <p>Title of the group: John advised that the use of the word ‘board’ has been questioned by councillors as the group has not been set up to function as a board. At the September meeting it had also been suggested that the use of the word board was too formal. The group agreed to just drop ‘board’ and hereby be named “The Moray Autism Partnership”. It was clarified that this will not change the role and remit of the partnership.</p>	<p>Fiona to co-ordinate continued promotion of the partnership</p>
<p>3. News of Latest Developments</p>	<p>Moray One Stop Shop - Aimee advised of her progress in setting up a One Stop Shop; it will be different from other one stop shops as we do not have one fixed location, instead ‘Drop In Sessions’ will be held at Elgin Library, starting on Monday 10th November at 2pm. These sessions are open to everyone who has ASD or has an interest. Aimee advised a diagnosis is not required and she hopes that these drop in sessions will help to bridge that gap until a diagnosis can be made.</p> <p>Outreach locations have also been sought and sessions will be available in Buckie and Keith, in the Libraries, and the Learning Centre in Forres is to be confirmed.</p> <p>Draft Pilot Programme of Activities – The trial will be taking place from 1st to 11th December 2014, various sessions have been arranged to including Parent/ Carer Support groups and Job Skills Workshops for those with ASD. For more information contact Aimee at aimee.killa@moray.gov.uk or autism@moray.gov.uk.</p> <p>Volunteers are welcome, along with any ideas on how to improve the service. If you wish to volunteer, give suggestions or have any queries, contact Aimee (details above).</p> <p>Praise was given to Aimee for the progress she has made in the few weeks she has been in post.</p>	
<p>4. Moray Autism Strategy Update</p>	<p>The 3 lead officers have met to discuss the Delivery Plan that was drafted by Anne Pendery. Aimee has been tasked with working the Delivery Plan into a suitable format showing progress being made that can be shared with the group.</p> <p><u>Pat gave an update on Integrated Children’s Services:</u> Principal Teachers of Autism are now in post, Lesley Bell and Beccie Thornhill and working with schools to try and build capacity for supporting children with ASD. Pat suggested that a regular slot be on the agenda for Lesley/Beccie to update.</p>	<p>To be added to agenda.</p>

	<p>Communication – school bulletins are being used to circulate information.</p> <p>Engagement with playgroups was queried and Pat advised that Lesley and Becci are involved from age 3 and work with the early years’ service.</p> <p><u>Education Auxiliaries</u> – Pat advised that they are now all on the same contract and they are looking to make permanent contracts to have a constant person for the child.</p> <p><u>Inclusion Policy</u> – Pat advised there is not a formal policy in place at the moment; instead there is a statement which schools adhere too. This is being looked into to develop an overarching policy which goes beyond the Equalities Act. A discussion took place regarding ‘inclusion’ and an example was given of ASD children being included in a mainstream class and the terrific effect it has on the other children.</p> <p><u>Anne McKenzie spoke of the ADAPT Diagnostic Pathway for Children:</u> There is a group that meets to provide a multi-disciplinary contribution. She acknowledged that communication with parents is critical and a discussion group is in place. The pilot is underway with children who have not yet had a diagnosis, and although there is not a final process, progress has been made. Anne to return to the next Partnership meeting with an update.</p>	<p>Anne to return with an update on the pilot.</p>
<p>5. Autism In Education</p>	<p>Lesley Bell and Beccie Thornhill introduced themselves. They are part of a team of 5 who work with children with, or who display traits of, ASD, from ages 3 – 18 years old. They have 110 young people on their caseload. They work both in schools and at home. Referrals generally come through schools however Parents/ Carers can self-refer.</p> <p>Various training is provided, both general and bespoke, including the Autism Toolbox which Teachers are keen to be involved in. Beccie has also been working closely with Emma Sharpe to promote the Autism Awareness training sessions.</p> <p>Lesley advised that they are working towards standardising visual timetables throughout schools in Moray. This will not be on an individual basis but for the whole class. As 72% of language is visual, this will not be detrimental to anyone. Lesley and Beccie carried out an interactive session to demonstrate how visual prompts aids communication.</p> <p>Out of Area Diagnosis Assessments – one parent gave an example of contacting out of area support, Dorn House, via Education to have an assessment carried out. A query was raised about self-referrals – details to be sought.</p>	<p>John to investigate and report back.</p>
<p>6. Any Other Business</p>	<p>Emma advertised the Training Session that is being delivered specifically for Parents/Carers on Wednesday 19th November in Forres and Wednesday 3rd December in Elgin, both at 10.30am</p>	

	<p>– 1pm. Any interest or queries contact Emma Sharpe.</p> <p><u>Communication</u> – it was discussed that communication is key and that NHS representation should be at this meeting. John agreed to take this forward.</p>	<p>John to contact NHS re attendance.</p>
<p>7. Theme of Next Meeting</p>	<p>It was agreed the Delivery Plan will be taken to the next meeting and the session will be more interactive.</p>	
<p>7. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>Tuesday 24th February 2015 at 12.30pm in the Gallery, Elgin Library.</p> <p>Dates for 2015:</p> <p>Thursday 21st May at 12.30pm in the Gallery Monday 31st August at 12.30pm in the Gallery Wednesday 4th November at 12.30pm in the Gallery</p>	