

**Strathclyde University**  
**28<sup>th</sup> June 2006**  
**Lothian Learning Disability review - ASD Sub group meeting**

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**Present:**

Liz LaPorte  
LorraineCull  
Suzi Wong  
Rebecca Dale  
Richard Ibbotson  
Jane Neil-MacLachlan  
Denis Rowley  
Pam Spence  
David Bain  
Gordon Simpson  
Carol Turnbull

**Apologies:**

Bill Davies  
Moirra Dickinson  
Mike Penney  
Eric Hughes  
Tracy Sanderson  
Duncan McIntyre  
Lisa Dunn

**1. Members**

Dawn asked group if the group agrees to invite West Lothian LAC'S. All agreed

Action: Dawn to make contact with West Lothian LAC's

**2. Life of Group**

The group are happy to continue after LD review as a forum for ASD. Les McKeown likely to chair this.

**3. Transitions**

Dates to be set for joint meeting with transitions & AS groups. Les, Suzi & Moira are to be involved. Liz and Lorraine volunteered and Rebecca suggested Lisa may want to be involved.

Rebecca said that transitions team wont be going in with LAC's now, but will be working alongside them and hopefully they'll have a developmental role. There is a national LAC review in August and changes may happen after that.

Action: Rebecca to ask Lisa if she would like to be involved

Action: Denis will pick transitions related items from our discussions for the agenda.  
Wed 14<sup>th</sup> June (am or pm), Tues 20<sup>th</sup> (pm) or Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> (pm)

#### **4. Mental Health**

There will be a joint group with the mental health sub group

#### **5. Service users views**

Jane pointed out that to organise this you need clarity and specific questions and the group may need to think up questions. Denis responded; that those from People First gave views to the board and said they were fed up with being asked and people should just get on with it. Denis asked people about good services and their experiences and people found it hard to respond but information poured out when asked about bad services.

David said he could provide a copy of their evaluations that have questions which can be adapted. Denis also has key questions for review which can be adapted.

Lorraine asked how views of those who cannot communicate will be sought - would we be asking carers? Denis suggested they make this a strong point and look at the Carers Information Strategy Document.

Richard asked how the difference between Carers views and getting views of those who can't communicate will be assessed. Carol pointed out that advocates need to be involved. Jane queried this whether Lorna Winn from advocacy is still involved with this group. Dawn stated that she has previously sent her apologies and seemed keen to be involved.

Action: Dawn will contact Lorna Winn (advocacy)

Lorraine asked what they would do with the views. Denis replied that they will be looked at for any changes that could be made and then let the NHS, and tell them what works and why. Richard pointed out that this is a huge piece of work. Richard commented that services also have their own reviews & information can be taken from these. Denis answered suggesting that after the report is drawn up, we can consult in the Autumn with people. Dawn advised that information can be passed on from the Scottish Autism Network audit for the Lothian area.

## 6. Looking Over Draft information for Report

Action: Denis will fill technician report and commission someone to do easy read/short version.

It was asked whether the group will have one report or two (autism/AS)? Denis suggested there was a worry about sign posting and that autism/AS information will be chunky and outbalance the report compare to the rest of the info.

Suggestion was to have a short bit in the ASD section and then appendix/appendices for more autism/AS information. Denis said that the AS group decided they did not need a full decision yet and could decide on whether to have one or two sections when the groups come together in August. Richard said that the AS group felt that whichever way we went it could be used to make a points (e.g.: gap in middle between autism/AS, two different sets of needs? etc). Denis made a point to the board that ASD has been missed out for so long that having more information would readdress the balance. Richard thought that information might get lost if there are two stand alone documents. Jane suggested one report could be separated out in autism/AS sections. Denis advised that he has brought together information we are looking at and made headings from all things this group discussed and from documents looked at such as 'Taking Responsibility'. Denis agreed with Jane and having two documents may be easier, although there will be common ground and it is currently sitting as two sets for information. He said that Taking Responsibility headings could also be applied to autism. Jane agreed that the headings could apply to this group. Denis mentioned that there could be an editorial group and it could be done electronically, or if groups got together for one day they could blitz it. It should adequately reflect groups' views and opinions.

Action: Suzi, Jane & Dawn volunteered for editing on Fri. 7<sup>th</sup> July at No 6 with Denis.

Liz to draw up a list of parents thoughts

Lorraine is to discuss this at the PASDA meeting.

Denis mentioned that Duncan McIntyre from the Needs and Numbers Sub group worked on a visual breakdown of numbers. He continued to mention there is a review website ([www.lothianlearningdisabilityreview.info](http://www.lothianlearningdisabilityreview.info)) and links for other documents etc are here (speak button on pages etc). He wants to set up links to all organisations involved in review.

Action: Everyone to email Denis with relevant links for their organisations for this site.

Liz suggested there was a need to bring up about sexual issues for those with ASD in the report. Carol suggested that Community LD teams may be able to help. Dawn suggested that Caledonia Youth may also be able to help with this.

There was discussion surrounding referral routes and these are currently through Mental Health (for Lothian Borders, Forth Valley, Fife). It was asked why there couldn't be a direct route? it was suggested that in our proposal it needs to clarify that the mental health route is appropriate for some but direct referral appropriate for others.

## **7. Other business**

Action: Next meeting (joint with AS sub group) Tues 29<sup>th</sup> August 10am-2pm.

Carol gives her apologies for the next meeting.