

GREATER MANCHESTER AUTISM CONSORTIUM

STEERING GROUP REPORT JUNE 2007

FAMILY SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT (Period covered 26th February 2007 – 31st May 2007)

DISTRIBUTION OF REFERRALS

| Local Authority | Total referrals | Male referrals | | | Female referrals | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------|------------------|------------|----------|
| | | All ages | Under-19 | Under-5 | All ages | Under-19 | Under-5 |
| Bolton | 158 | 122 | 63 | 2 | 36 | 15 | 0 |
| Bury | 131 | 112 | 74 | 0 | 19 | 13 | 0 |
| Manchester | 411 | 369 | 238 | 5 | 42 | 29 | 1 |
| Oldham | 86 | 70 | 38 | 0 | 16 | 7 | 0 |
| Rochdale | 106 | 86 | 46 | 2 | 20 | 12 | 1 |
| Salford | 173 | 144 | 90 | 0 | 29 | 16 | 0 |
| Stockport | 276 | 227 | 145 | 7 | 49 | 34 | 1 |
| Tameside | 114 | 98 | 69 | 1 | 16 | 7 | 0 |
| Trafford | 187 | 155 | 101 | 3 | 32 | 15 | 1 |
| Wigan | 90 | 77 | 41 | 2 | 13 | 6 | 0 |
| Left GMA | 22 | 18 | 10 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| Closed Cases | 12 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| | 1766 | 1487 | 918 | 22 | 279 | 159 | 4 |

During the last quarter (28th February – 31st May 2007)
there has been a total of 23 new referrals.

- 9 referrals had a diagnosis of ASD
- 7 referrals had a diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome
- 6 cases were awaiting a diagnosis

EXPLANATION & ANALYSIS OF TABLES
(Period covered between 28th February 31st May 2007)

| AUTHORITY | NO OF FAMILY/ INDIVIDUAL CALLS | NO OF PROF CALLS | TOTAL TIME PER AUTHORITY | | ISSUES RAISED | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|--|---|
| | | | HRS | MINS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | | |
| BOLTON | 2 | 0 | | 45 | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| BURY | 10 | 0 | 1 | 29 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | | |
| MANCHESTER | 19 | 8 | 8 | 32 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | | |
| OLDHAM | 2 | 3 | 1 | 00 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| ROCHDALE | 12 | 5 | 4 | 03 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | |
| SALFORD | 7 | 4 | 2 | 41 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | |
| STOCKPORT | 25 | 4 | 10 | 30 | 6 | 4 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 3 | | |
| TAMESIDE | 12 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | | |
| TRAFFORD | 12 | 5 | 5 | 47 | 6 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | | |
| WIGAN | 3 | 0 | 1 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | | |
| OTHER | 3 | 3 | 0 | 54 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | | |
| TOTAL | 107 | 36 | 41HRS | 52MINS | 19 | 17 | 56 | 25 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 40 | 5 | 6 | | |

KEY TO ISSUES RAISED

1. Issues around diagnosis
2. Behaviour management
3. Family support
4. Support for adult with ASD
5. Respite (overnight accommodation)/ Residential care
6. Benefits
7. Leisure
8. Transition (14yrs-19yrs)
9. Education
10. Mental Health – Children
11. Mental Health – Adults

A number of other issues were raised:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Events (x2) | employment |
| counselling | befriending |
| Sex education | Social skills |
| fundraising | NHS special project |
| training | Dietary considerations |
| Wills and trusts | |

AUTISM SERVICES DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Mari and Debbie have attended 18 development group and sub-group meetings since the last meeting.

Mari has met with two adults with ASD and there has also been a visit to the Project on spec by a parent seeking information.

Bolton

Professionals in Bolton are planning to get together to publish a care pathway for children with autistic spectrum disorders. This has proved helpful for children with ADHD.

The Adult Autism Strategy group has not met so far this year.

Bury

There have been two meetings since the last CSG.

The group is looking at making better links with FE, in particular Bury College, to ensure smoother transitions. A sub-group is looking at this to build up relationships and to ensure that the needs of young people with ASDs are understood by the college. The group hopes to ensure long-term continuity of the ASD Youth Group by involving youth services in the ASDG and to engage them to become involved in delivery of the youth group as well as to help identify other opportunities for leisure for people with ASD. The group also plans to raise awareness about existing services in particular around short breaks within the borough and improve the sharing of information.

Manchester

There has been one meeting since the last CSG. The Assessment and Diagnosis group are completing the care pathways for the city for pre-school and school-age and hope to bring the final version to the next meeting in June. The Intervention Group is hoping to start to run the communication workshop for parents. The Transition Group has made representations to the LSC about FE and Employment support for young people with ASD and the LSC have agreed to send a rep to come and hear these concerns in person.

The Adult Group is meeting at the end of June and there has been work underway to engage the Mental Health Commissioners to this group. The chair of the group will now be Professor Duncan Mitchell who works for the University of Manchester as well as for the Manchester Learning Disability Partnership. The group's priority will be to agree a pathway for adults with ASD who do not have a significant Learning Disability or Mental Health problem.

Oldham

There has been one meeting since the last CSG.

There is currently work underway to map what gaps there are in provision for education within Oldham. This will inform where the future resource bases are within Oldham.

Oldham have commissioned a piece of research from the NAS to interview the parents and children of those attending the 2 resource provisions within Oldham to identify what needs there are around extended schools activities. The post has been appointed and the project is due to begin in July 2007 and report in March 2008.

Rochdale

The Youth Group has identified more funding to continue to ask *Aspirations* to run the group for another year. Funding has also been identified to produce the information packs for parents of newly diagnosed children.

Discussions are still underway about restarting the Adult Group.

Salford

The Adult Group has met twice since the last CSG and the Children's Group has met once.

The Adult Group is continuing with the work towards accreditation, including providing more training. There is a project to bring 3 complex people with ASD back in borough. The group is also looking at the needs of adults with Asperger's Syndrome within the borough and Janet Tuohy has been asked to identify suitable services to support this group.

The Children's Group has had a number of parents join them from Springwood. The primary resource provision is due to start in September 2007 and the teacher has been appointed for this. There are also 2 secondary resource bases planned for the future with additional outreach capacity. The assessment classroom issue is still under negotiation.

Funding has been agreed to train staff in the NAS Early Bird plus. This will be based at Springwood school.

Stockport

A new group has been set up to plan a care pathway for school age children with ASDs. Members of the Children and Young People's Directorate are also in the process of running a series of parent workshops with help from a local parent-run charity.

There is a possibility that a separate group to address development issues for adults with ASD will be set up following a meeting with service managers in July.

Tameside

The event in Tameside took place on 9th March and was very well subscribed with over 35 parents of children and adults attending. The day focused on how important person centred planning is for people with ASD. By the end of the day parents had started to put together plans and the evaluations for the day were overwhelmingly positive. The event also triggered a great deal more calls from Tameside and this has continued since that day. At least 5 members of Tameside staff also attended the day and found it useful. The multi-agency diagnostic care pathway has had its pilot and is currently being evaluated.

Trafford

The main development group has not reconvened yet. Mari was invited to attend a meeting within Trafford looking at a multi-agency care pathway for school-age children and has agreed to link this group with a number of other groups within the consortium looking at this issue.

Mari has also had a meeting with a clinical psychologist who has been asked by the Commissioner for Learning Disabilities to reconvene a meeting of the development group.

Wigan

The group has met twice since the last CSG. The main piece of work is to recruit an ASD Development Worker to research the needs of adults and children with an ASD within the borough. The closing date is 6th June and the interview date is 14th June. There will be a steering group made up of key reps from the ASDG for this project and there will be a 3 year action plan produced at the end of this period of research. Landgate School now have a member of staff offering outreach to schools within the borough and there are also 3 new resource schools with a number of children with ASD.

The group also plans to look at the protocols for diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome within the borough.

OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS SUPPORTED OR ATTENDED BY THE PROJECT

- Mari attended one parent support group in Salford and one post-diagnostic workshop in Rochdale.
- Mari attended the Managing Anger help!2 programme in Stockport to meet GM parents.
- Mari attended the Manchester Learning Disability and Mental Health Clinical Effectiveness Day event and made a presentation.

- Mari attended the NAS Criminal Justice Forum and the Policy Forum at the NAS head office in London.
- Debbie attended the 'It's Our Life' conference in Manchester.
- John Davies (Information Officer) attended and reported back in the Summer edition of AutismGM Newsletter.
- The project part-funded a Manchester parent to attend a BME Conference on Autism, Ethnicity and Education. A review of the conference is in the Summer edition of AutismGM Newsletter.

TRAINING

The training strategy group has met once since the last CSG and has made further progress on the sibling workshops. It is hoped that after the next meeting in October the workshops will be ready to pilot. If anyone is interested in joining this group please get in touch with Mari.

CSIP IDENTIFICATION, DIAGNOSIS AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT

Questionnaires will shortly be sent to all PCT's in the North to benchmark their diagnostic processes against the National Autism Plan for Children (2001). Funding has also been secured for Lancaster University to undertake some qualitative in-depth interviews with parents across the region about their experiences. An event to present initial findings is planned for November 1st in Preston.

NW SEN PARTNERSHIP MENTAL HEALTH

North West Regional Centre of Expertise: Autism Mental Health Module Development Framework

Background and Purpose:

The North West Regional Centre of Expertise will provide access to enhanced mental health services for children and young people with low incidence and complex needs across the region. Children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorders/Asperger's Syndrome, are included in the target cohort.

The newly established multi-agency/cross sector development group for a new training and learning module for the mental health and well-being of children and young people with autism has drawn up a development framework and identified the steps to be taken to progress this work.

The 'unique selling point' of this module is that it will introduce an integrated multi-agency dimension to workforce development and capacity building for autism mental health and well-being. It will build on and bring together existing practice in the fields of autism and mental health and introduce a focus on:

- Diagnostic over-shadowing to avoid assuming that all behaviour is related to autism
- How signs of distress present in children and young people with autism
- Monitoring changes in behaviour to identify underlying difficulties
- Working with parents, carers and families
- Designing and implementing appropriate interventions
- Supporting children and young people with autism to establish and maintain mental health and well-being
- Linking to the safeguarding agenda

The Regional Centre of Expertise initiative is funded by the Department for Education Skills from September 2006 to March 2007. The outcomes of Phase 1 of the autism mental health module development programme will inform a further bid to the Department in February 2007 for funding until April 2008 when it is anticipated that the initiative will become self-sustaining.

HELP! PROGRAMMES

There are a number of free parent programmes in this area in the coming months including:

- A 20 hour help programme in Manchester in June
- A one day help! in Bolton in July
- A one day help! in Wilmslow in July

- A 20 hour help! programme in Wigan in September
- A 2 day programme in Trafford in Nov/Dec
- Two help!2 seminars in Eccles in June.

In addition, a parent in Rochdale has been fundraising to buy in extra help! programmes for Rochdale for the coming 2 years.

All programmes are currently free, although some funding will end in March 2008 and some in December 2008. It is unclear how future programmes will be funded, if at all.

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