

# GREATER MANCHESTER AUTISM CONSORTIUM

## STEERING GROUP MEETING

To be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009  
Between 1pm – 3.30pm  
The Link Centre  
140 Union Street  
Oldham  
OL1 1DZ

## FAMILY SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT

### DISTRIBUTION OF REFERRALS

Local Authority	Total referrals	Male referrals			Female referrals		
		All ages	Under-19	Under-5	All ages	Under-19	Under-5
Bolton	168	132	58	0	36	12	0
Bury	144	122	62	1	22	13	0
Manchester	475	426	261	4	49	33	0
Oldham	97	81	43	1	16	8	0
Rochdale	127	106	51	2	21	10	0
Salford	182	152	85	0	30	15	0
Stockport	304	250	142	3	54	32	0
Tameside	122	106	65	4	16	6	0
Trafford	206	172	100	0	34	17	1
Wigan	103	89	41	2	14	6	0
Left GMA	25	20	8	0	5	3	0
Closed Cases	16	12	4	0	4	2	0
	<u>1969</u>	<u>1668</u>	<u>920</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>301</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>1</u>

There have been 25 new referrals since our last report.

**ANALYSIS OF STATISTICS**  
(Period covered 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009 – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009)

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	
<b>BOLTON</b>	2	1	1hr	13m	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>BURY</b>	8	0	4hr	0m	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	
<b>MANCHESTER</b>	45	14	17hrs	3m	6	0	34	8	8	3	2	2	15	0	5	
<b>OLDHAM</b>	7	0	2hrs	29m	0	0	4	5	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	
<b>ROCHDALE</b>	3	2	0hrs	59m	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
<b>SALFORD</b>	7	6	3hrs	20m	2	0	6	6	0	1	4	0	1	0	3	
<b>STOCKPORT</b>	13	7	6hrs	35m	2	0	8	8	3	1	2	4	2	0	2	
<b>TAMESIDE</b>	5	1	1hr	53m	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>TRAFFORD</b>	5	2	1hr	53m	1	1	4	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	
<b>WIGAN</b>	2	0	0hrs	33m	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>OTHER</b>	2	1	0hrs	37m	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37hrs</b>	<b>35m</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	

**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

Additional Issues Raised during this quarter

Employment x 4  
Counselling x 2  
Information x 2  
Criminal Justice x 2  
Support groups x 2  
Siblings  
Funding  
Higher Education  
Sex Education  
Person-centred planning

Transport  
Housing  
Training Event  
Social Skills

Call numbers are average but there were a large number of additional adult issues raised by callers and adult calls were twice the number of calls on education which is quite unusual.

**AUTISM SERVICES DEVELOPMENT GROUPS**

**BOLTON**

**Childrens' group** - The ASD Forum is currently looking at agreeing and formalising Care Pathways. There is a separate sub-group looking at the needs of families and individuals with ASD's in regard to Aiming High funding and provision.

**Adults' group**- No meetings in last quarter although several people from adult services attended the consortium convention in May.

**BURY**

The NAS Autism Brokerage Service is due to begin soon.

The Social Communication Difficulties team invited the NAS help! team to run a one-day programme in Bury for parents who have received a recent diagnosis. Bury are also running their own parent workshops this term.

**MANCHESTER**

**Childrens' group** - A decision has been made by the Children's LDD Board that the Autism Strategy group will be subsumed into the LDD Board, thus giving the agenda a higher profile. The three main area of work in relation to Autism will be on the implementation of the Autism Education Strategy including the consultation on the closure of Ewing School, the training programme for the new Manchester Central Children's Hospital and the implementation for Aiming High. Due to the decision of the Board Mari will not be attending the LDD Board as no provider organizations are invited to the Board. However, Mari will be involved in any task groups set up by the Board and will contribute to the relevant workstreams.

There has been a 10-week course offered to families in Manchester to write a person-centred plan, with the support of Jacquie Wilkinson, a parent of a son with ASD. The course has 4 people on it and although the number is small is being very well received.

Mari has also attended 2 post-diagnostic groups in the last quarter held within Manchester.

**Adults' group** - The group has submitted the Regional AS Diagnostic proposal to the Strategic Health Authority and are currently awaiting a decision on this. The group has also decided to hold a consultation event on the Department of Health Adult Autism Strategy and have set a provisional date for September. The day will be for adults with Autism, parents/carers and professionals.

## **OLDHAM**

Oldham is also setting up a consultation event about the strategy as both Wendy Atkinson (Autism Development Manager) and Paul Davies (Chair of the Consortium) are on the External Reference group for the Autism Strategy.

There will be an information event for parents in Oldham Library during the summer as this is now where all the Autism Books and resources are being kept. Mari has been invited to attend this event to speak to parents.

Oldham is conducting an SEN Review at present and is also rolling out the IDP training across Oldham.

## **ROCHDALE**

The Sibling group has now finalised details of content and the group is due to be rolled out in the autumn. The group is due to revisit the action plan set last July to set new targets for the year.

## **SALFORD**

**Children's group** – This group is also looking at its Care Pathways, using CSIPs Audit Tool and the National Autism Plan for Children as benchmarks. The group is also currently contributing to designs for a purpose-built secondary school resource provision. It has also supported the development of a new parent support group who hope to run events and activities for families.

**Adults' group-** There are still discussion regarding the best way forward as to services for adults with Aspergers and training is still the main issue on the agenda.

## **STOCKPORT**

**Children's group** -The group is continuing to lobby for a multi-agency ASD team to deliver, train, and support appropriate post-diagnostic interventions.

The ASD Partnership Project has been awarded continuing funding by the Health Innovations Fund for their work person-centred work with families and, predominantly, mainstream schools.

**Adults' group** - There is no group as such but the main agenda for adults in Stockport is around the tendering of the Asperger Service. Providers have been asked to submit

service specifications and these are currently being collated. There are a number of parents involved in the procurement process.

## **TAMESIDE**

Mari has attended the first post-diagnostic group held in Tameside. It is planned that these will be run as part of a rolling programme by the Multi Agency Autism Assessment Team.

The Adult Strategy group has agreed to pilot the Social Care training in September.

## **TRAFFORD**

The Care Pathway group has re-convened and the group has agreed to put proposals into a business plan for the commissioners.

Early Bird is now being run in Trafford. There is also a plan to launch a group to look at the implementation of Aiming High for children with Autism by the Interim Commissioner for Complex Needs.

## **WIGAN**

The Care Pathway work for children is almost complete. The Autism Services Development Group is due to be re-launched on 10<sup>th</sup> June to set an action plan for the next year. The outcome of the meeting was to run a One-Stop-Shop in September combined with some awareness-raising training and also to develop a parent consultation/support group.

## **TRAINING**

There are two more pilots due to be run for the Greater Manchester Police Authority Volunteers (Appropriate Adults and Independent Custody Visitors) in June and September. It has been agreed that the training will also be shared wider than Greater Manchester to contribute to the North West Criminal Justice Forum.

Work on the relationships and ASD training is still underway. The group has realised that this is a big task so are gradually making their way through the material on this subject.

## **POLICY AND STATUTORY DEVELOPMENTS**

The Adult Autism Strategy has been launched and is in the consultation stage until September. A number of local authority areas within the consortium plan to run their own consultation events.

Mari is also working with an organisation called 'Opinion Leader' to recruit people to wider research commissioned by the Department of Health on the needs of adults with

Autism. We would be grateful for any help which can be given to disseminate the information widely.

The National Audit Office Report on Adults with Autism has been published this week. Mari and Debbie will try and disseminate the report widely for discussion. It is expected that aspects of the NAO report and the Autism Strategy will be incorporated within the Autism Bill currently going through parliament.

### **RESOURCE CENTRE AND OTHER NAS NEWS**

The Resource Centre was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (World Autism Day). Mari together with Julia and Mark (Resource Centre staff) ran a pilot of an Adult One-Stop-Shop event in April which went very well. It is hoped that these can be run regularly and if free venues can be provided could be run in different area of Greater Manchester too.

In the coming weeks there are also several new groups/event being run, including training on Lego Therapy for professionals, music groups for children and adult with Autism, sibling sessions and a parent support group.

The help! team have run a programme in Bury in the last quarter and a two-day programme in Wigan. They will be running a 20-hour programme in Old Trafford in June/July.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE FORUM**

The second meeting of the Criminal Justice Forum has taken place. The group was well attended and has decided to focus on the following targets:-

1. To identify a training strategy around ASD and CJ professionals by mapping gaps and suggesting how some of these gaps maybe met.
2. To try and gain support for an Autism Alert Card or an Emergency Alert Card that would cover Autism within the region.

The last point was moved on the presence of two people from within the Lancashire Police Force and the Greater Manchester Police Force. Lancashire police already have an Emergency Alert card in place to cover a number of medical conditions or disabilities and Manchester are interested in developing something similar.

### **CONVENTION**

On 7<sup>th</sup> May we had our annual Consortium Convention at the Together Trust Conference Centre, Cheadle. The event was well attended and well received. As usual the best comments on the evaluations were about the contribution of Rona, the individual with Autism, and the two parents Lorna Downer and Geraldine Green. All the 10 authorities reported on achievements in the past year and set some targets for the coming year. The targets are attached to this report).

### **STAFF CHANGES AT THE PROJECT**

Mari is due to go on Maternity Leave at the end of September 2009 for approximately 9 months. The job will be advertised as a job-share for 4 days with Debbie continuing to cover the 5<sup>th</sup> day. Adverts will be going out soon and people within the consortium who may be interested are invited to apply. Secondment opportunities may be available.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 1pm -3pm at the Links Centre.**

Mari Saeki and Debbie Waters  
Project Officers- Family Services Development Project