

GREATER MANCHESTER AUTISM CONSORTIUM

STEERING GROUP MEETING

To be held on Wednesday 19th March 2008

2pm – 4pm

The Link Centre

140 Union Street

Oldham

OL1 1DZ

FAMILY SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT

(Period covered- 19th November 2007 – 5th March 2008)

DISTRIBUTION OF REFERRALS

Local Authority	Total referrals	Male referrals			Female referrals		
		All ages	Under-19	Under-5	All ages	Under-19	Under-5
Bolton	163	127	61	1	36	14	0
Bury	135	116	71	2	19	13	0
Manchester	441	396	250	9	45	32	0
Oldham	89	74	42	2	15	7	0
Rochdale	120	100	53	3	20	10	1
Salford	178	148	88	0	30	15	0
Stockport	286	236	148	7	50	34	1
Tameside	116	100	69	3	16	7	0
Trafford	194	162	105	1	32	14	1
Wigan	95	82	42	2	13	6	0
Left GMA	22	18	9	0	4	3	0
Closed Cases	12	9	3	0	3	2	0
	1851	1568	941	30	283	157	3

During the period covered (19th November 2007 – 5th March 2008) the project has received 28 new referrals.

ANALYSIS OF STATS
(Period covered- 19th November 2007 – 5th March 2008)

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	6	3	3	20	2	2	3	3	0	0	2	0	2	0	2
BURY	2	3	0	48	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
MANCHESTER	46	9	18	21	3	8	26	4	4	2	5	4	32	0	2
OLDHAM	4	3	2	13	1	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0
ROCHDALE	16	2	5	10	3	7	10	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	2
SALFORD	9	5	3	39	3	1	5	5	0	1	0	0	4	0	1
STOCKPORT	38	6	17	49	0	4	14	14	1	0	1	1	15	1	5
TAMESIDE	6	2	2	35	3	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	4	0	0
TRAFFORD	14	3	7	8	6	0	9	5	0	0	0	0	8	0	1
WIGAN	5	1	2	19	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
OTHER	8	3	2	7	1	1	4	2	0	1	0	1	2	0	1
TOTAL	154	40	65HRS	29MINS	24	28	82	41	6	5	10	8	76	1	15

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

Other Issues Raised

Employment x 2
Criminal Justice Issues x 3
Parent Support Groups x 4
Eating & Dietary Matters x 3
Training x 3
General Information Requests x 2
Bullying
Fundraising
Heating Bills
Housing

There were a high number of calls, it's a 35.6% increase on the last quarter.
There were lots adult issues raised in the calls, in particular issues about diagnosis.

AUTISM SERVICES DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Debbie and Mari have attended 24 Autism Development group meetings since the last report.

BOLTON

Children: Work is still ongoing for the integrated care pathway. Bolton has been selected as a Pathfinder Authority for the “Aiming High” initiative from central government. One of the priority areas is to identify breaks for children with ASD and a task group has been formed to look at ideas for new and innovative short breaks for children with ASD. There is also some research underway at Bolton University to look at the benefit of virtual environments for people with ASD to increase social opportunities. The ASD group will contribute to this.

Adults: A group is meeting to talk about a care pathway for adults with Asperger’s syndrome. An agreement has been made with MH to have a care pathway day to discuss this issue in more detail.

BURY

There has been a pilot for the sibling sessions underway in Bury since January. So far the group has been very well received. The ASDG hope that there may be a way for the siblings to continue to meet after the sessions are over.

The secondary ASD resource provision is set to open in September 2008. The resource teacher has been appointed and will have a long period of induction before the students arrive on the unit. Both the special schools with discrete ASD provision have formed parent support groups to give extra support to parents of children in the school and Mari has recently attended one of the groups to meet parents.

The Education ASD drop in, parent workshops, befriending scheme and youth groups are still flourishing. There was a very successful transition event held in Bury recently where all the agencies involved in the ASDG in Bury were represented.

The NAS has been running the “Keeping Safe” project in Elmsbank School (details below) Elmsbank had expressed an interest in the programme when there was a pilot last year and although they had missed out on the first wave they were offered the course when more funding was identified.

Mari has been invited to the LDPB’s Away Day to look at commissioning issues for adults with LD.

MANCHESTER

Children: Central Manchester's Social Communication Assessment and Intervention team have been running post-diagnostic workshops for parents. These are being piloted and the plan is that they will eventually be rolled out across the city.

Members of the SCAIT (Dr Latha Hackett and Dr Jo Bromley) teams have also been involved in rolling out courses on ASD for CAMHS practitioners (tier 3) on behalf of CSIP. The Manchester SCAIT's have had a great deal of national and international interest as an example of good practice.

Communication workshops have been running across the city. This came about as a result of work carried out in the intervention sub-group.

The transition sub-group has decided to have an event to look at person centred planning, in particular in relation to the transition reviews. This day will be funded via some money donated to the project from Dr Hackett and Caroline Bond who carried out training for a local school and received payment for it.

Adults: The adult group is continuing to work on the care pathway for adults who do not fit eligibility criteria for MH or LD. Recently a group went to meet the Liverpool AS team to get an idea of services there.

OLDHAM

The youth group continues to flourish and has recently been extended to people over 16yrs. The adult group meets separately and will use community resources with support to promote independence.

The project to look at the needs of children using the resource provisions in Oldham (mainly serving children with ASD or other communication problems) is in its final stages and funding has already been agreed to implement some of the recommendations. The NAS *Keeping Safe* programme mentioned above has also been running in Oldham at Failsworth School.

The Way Forward Group (Oldham's ASDG) is soon to meet to make plans for the coming year and to revisit a PATH developed in 2004. In a recent meeting it was identified that most of the goals set in the last Path have either been developed or are on the way to being developed.

ROCHDALE

The youth group will be handed over from *Aspirations* to Rochdale Youth Service as from April 2008. This has come after partnership working for the past 2 years between Rochdale Youth Services and Aspirations.

Post diagnostic workshops are continuing to run for parents of pre-children getting a diagnosis in the borough.

Fundraising for extra NAS Help! programmes and a sibling group has now been completed by Sam Freeman a parent of 2 girls with Autism. The Help! programmes are underway and the development group hopes to be able to support the sibling group.

SALFORD

Children: Work towards the care pathway for children is still underway. The ASD primary resource is fully operational and training for the delivery of the NAS Early Bird plus programme is underway.

Adults: -The adult group are planning to focus on training and looking at services for those with Asperger's syndrome in the coming months.

STOCKPORT

Children: The work on the integrated care pathway is still underway. The group are also in the process of producing a leaflet about what to expect from the diagnostic process. Another task group is looking at standardizing ASD training for frontline staff working with children with ASD. Currently there is another series of parent workshops running, funded by the Joshua Short Foundation and run by Stockport CYPD.

Adults: The adult group has not met for some time.

TAMESIDE

There has not been an operational development group in Tameside for some time, although there is a meeting planned in April to discuss adults with Asperger's syndrome.

Tameside Connexions has commissioned a piece of work from the NAS to support 6 young people with ASD through transition from high school to college. The programme will be run as a pilot and written up at the end of the project.

TRAFFORD

Children: The care pathway group continues to meet.

Adults: The group hasn't met recently

WIGAN

Recently the Wigan development group met for a day to look at care pathways for children. From this day they have set up a working group to look at how they can organize themselves better as a multi-disciplinary service.

The Autism Development Worker has had some difficulty getting ethics approval for the project but hopes to be underway soon and this will form the plans for the group's future work.

CONSORTIUM TRAINING STRATEGY GROUP

This group has now devised a 6 session sibling programme and this is being piloted in Bury. The group plan to devise a Peer Awareness raising programme next, followed by some training on growing up and puberty. As this is all quite children focused Mari has decided to draw together another group looking at training for people carrying out assessments with adults with ASD and training for Appropriate Adults or supporters of vulnerable victims and witnesses with an ASD.

The NAS Help! programmes

Since the last report the following Help! programmes have run within the region.

- 2 day help programme in Trafford
- 1 day help programme in Rochdale
- 1 day help programme in Oldham
- 2 help 2 seminars in Bolton
- 1 adult seminar in Wilmslow (mainly attended by families from Greater Manchester).

THE NAS KEEPING SAFE PROGRAMME

As mentioned above, there have been two "*Keeping safe*" programmes running within Greater Manchester in the past 2 months. The programmes are designed to give children and young people with ASD skills to keep safe both in terms of personal safety and in terms of criminal justice issues. The programmes are funded by the Co-op and run by the NAS in schools.

Last year, eight UK schools took part in the pilot programme, which is the first of its kind to specifically address the needs of young people with Asperger's syndrome and the issues they face with crime and the criminal justice system. The success of the pilot has meant that a further eight schools will benefit from the scheme.

REGIONAL EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Debbie, Mari and Francine have also been involved in a number of regional events and meetings including:-

- ❖ Running and supporting the North West ASDG Network group to cover maternity leave of Clare Hughes (Regional Officer for the North West). This group is for all the chairs of the ASDGs across the region.
- ❖ Attending and supporting the North West ASD Clinical Psychology Network.
- ❖ Attending the CSIP Identification, Assessment and Diagnosis of ASD events and meetings.
- ❖ Carrying out work for the above group as an additional piece of commissioned work.
- ❖ Attending the North West Regional and CSIP meetings on writing a mental health module for CAMHS tier 1 staff.
- ❖ Running a convention for parent support groups, partners in autism and NAS Councillors in the North in Leeds.
- ❖ Attending meetings about a research bid to is a multi -stranded research bid to the National Institute of Health Research around key workers and assertive case management; a social and communication intervention programme, and the identification and treatment of co morbid mental health conditions in children with ASD in middle childhood.
- ❖ Running a regular professional forum for teachers in partnership with North West SEN Regional Partnership.
- ❖ Attending the CPS Disability Hate Crime Policy Launch Event in Liverpool and meeting with reps from CPS since then to discuss disseminating the policy.

Awareness- raising with Greater Manchester Police

Mari has delivered some awareness-raising to the Equality and Diversity group at Greater Manchester Police headquarters. They expressed some interest in the Autism Alert Card and have agreed to look into this further.

Debbie Waters and Mari Saeki
Project officers, Family Services Development Project,
National Autistic Society
8th March 2008