

GREATER MANCHESTER CONSORTIUM TO DEVELOP LOCAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM

FAMILY SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT

STEERING GROUP MEETING

To be held on Monday 28th November 2005

Between 2pm – 4pm

The Boardroom, Crompton House

100 Chorley Road

Swinton

M27 6BP

FAMILY SERVICES 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	150	116	74	2	34	15	0
Bury	114	100	72	0	14	9	0
Manchester	359	324	215	7	35	26	1
Oldham	85	68	41	0	17	8	0
Rochdale	94	77	43	3	17	11	1
Salford	165	139	98	1	26	16	0
Stockport	242	204	137	3	38	25	0
Tameside	97	83	58	3	14	6	0
Trafford	167	138	92	4	29	16	0
Wigan	86	73	41	1	13	6	0
Left GMA	21	17	9	0	4	3	0
Closed Cases	9	6	1	0	3	2	0
	1589	1345	881	24	244	143	2

Of the 1,589 referrals known to our service 783 have a diagnosis of autism, 455 have a diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome and 351 have yet to receive a diagnosis.

EXPLANATION AND ANALYSIS OF TABLES

AUTHORITY	NO OF FAMILY/ INDIVIDUAL CALLS	NO OF PROF CALLS	TOTAL TIME PER AUTHORITY	ISSUES RAISED									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
BOLTON	3	1	1hr 15 mins	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BURY	39	0	4hrs 45 mins	1	1	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
MANCHESTER	14	7	5hrs 5 mins	3	2	8	4	0	0	4	0	0	6
OLDHAM	2	2	1hr 30 mins	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1
ROCHDALE	6	2	2hrs 5 mins	0	2	6	2	1	0	1	1	1	1
SALFORD	10	0	3hrs 10 mins	1	1	5	0	0	1	2	2	2	1
STOCKPORT	8	2	3hrs 15 mins	2	2	3	2	0	1	3	1	1	1
TAMESIDE	10	3	4hrs 45 mins	1	1	6	6	0	0	1	0	0	0
TRAFFORD	14	4	3hrs 5 mins	6	0	6	2	2	0	1	1	1	5
WIGAN	4	1	1hr 50 mins	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
OTHER	4	2	1hr	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	114	24	31hrs 50 mins	18	10	58	22	3	2	13	5	26	

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

AUTISM SERVICES DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

We have been to 13 meetings since August. In addition we have attended the following meetings:-

- Training Strategy Group meeting
- bid writing meeting in Stockport
- national Family Services Worker's meeting
- meeting about delivery of physical intervention in Rochdale
- 2 Befriending Steering Group meetings in Oldham
- Accreditation Networking meeting between Oldham, Salford and Bolton
- NSPCC meeting
- 2 Transition Events, in Wigan and in Manchester.

BOLTON

Bolton ASD Forum (predominantly children focused) has just started 5 new 'Task and Finish' groups. These will look at play and leisure; person-centred planning in schools; training issues; diagnosis and post-diagnostic support, and physical interventions.

Bolton Adults Group reported on their new ASD specific unit for up to 6 adults. This seems to have got off to a very positive start and Bolton are pursuing NAS accreditation for this service. The group is looking into creating an advanced practitioner post in relation to Mental Health Services for adults with ASD.

BURY

Bury SALT's are soon starting a Hanen "more than Words" Course for parents and hope to start running the courses once a year or more.

The Social Group now run fortnightly and is very successful.

MANCHESTER

Manchester Children's group now have 4 active subgroups on Assessment and Diagnosis, Interventions, Transition and Training and are working towards targets agreed last year at an event to set goals. They recently agreed to produce an annual report to commissioners to ensure that the link is maintained between the group and commissioning strategy.

The adult group still has not restarted.

OLDHAM

Oldham is currently working towards accreditation of the Day Services after their success in gaining accreditation of Supported Living. They recently decided to appoint a specialist Autism Communication Therapist and to devote some sessions of a dietitian to people with autism. The CAMHS worker for children with autism is picking up huge numbers of referrals and working closely with a multi-agency group of professionals.

The Vulnerable Adult Team has expanded and is working closely with both Learning Disability Services and the Mental Health Services to improve services.

ROCHDALE

Rochdale is going to run workshops for parents with children who have extremely challenging behaviours. The workshop will deal in part with physical intervention strategies because this is what parents have been asking for. A group has modified a parent workshop and a Team Teach approach and will be piloting this in the New Year.

A post-diagnostic group based on Hanen "More Than Words" has also been piloted and it is hoped these will be run at least once a year.

SALFORD

Salford Adult Learning Disabilities Services are going ahead with NAS Accreditation. The adult group is also currently focusing their energy on training. The group also hopes to engage colleagues within Mental Health Services to become involved in the group.

The Education Task Group is still meeting and plans to focus on work in mainstream schools.

STOCKPORT

Stockport's ASDG is now being chaired by Steve Watt. The group is due to meet again on November 24th 2005.

Several members of the group have been working on a bid for an innovative project to fund a Person-Centred Co-ordinator, a Family Support Worker and an Administrator to work with families and other agencies around improving behaviour and promoting inclusion for children with ASD. This bid has been successful and funding starts in April 2006.

TAMESIDE

The main group in Tameside hasn't met for some time now. We are now in touch with Children's Services to try and get the main group restarted. However, a sub group on Assessment and Diagnosis has met and as a result a Care Pathway for Diagnosis and Assessment is currently being worked on.

Two member of a multi-disciplinary team have been on DISCO training at Elliot House, the NAS Diagnostic Centre. It is hoped that in the next few months a formal group will be brought together to ensure a clear pathway to diagnosis.

TRAFFORD

The current chair, Chris Ferns, is leaving Trafford and a new chair is yet to be identified.

A group has been brought together to look at a care pathway for adults with Asperger's Syndrome and this work is still ongoing.

The focus on training is also on-going. Mari and John Birkett, a Clinical Psychologist in Learning Disabilities Services, were asked to do some training recently for a Community Mental Health Team in Trafford and a group of Psychiatrists on Continued Professional Development training.

WIGAN

The group has still not met for some time. However, Brendan Bates has called a group together to try and restart the group.

Work is on-going on a Care Pathway for Diagnosis and Assessment.

Funding was recently agreed for 3 years by CAMHS to fund Help! programmes within the area.

OTHER WORK

(a) Conferences

Debbie and I both attended the DfES Consultation Day on 'low incidence needs'. This is a consultation exercise being carried out by the DfES and the SEN Regional Partnerships. ASDs are part of the so called "low incidence needs" alongside people with emotional and behavioural problems, and people with multiple sensory impairments, although most people present agreed that

this is not an accurate description for the rising numbers of people with an ASD who are presenting a challenge to schools in all sectors of education including mainstream, special and specialist. It is hoped that this work may lead to and increase in resources from the DfES.

Debbie and Wendy (Information Officer from the project) attended the 'In Control' conference run by Paradigm.

Debbie and Wendy also attended the North West SEN Partnership Conference on Transition.

Mari attended the International conference in London.

Reports on the "In Control" conference and the International conference will be including in the Autumn/Winter AutismGM newsletter 2005.

Mari also attended and spoke at the BME conference, Building Bridges. Around 65 people attended and many people have asked for regular follow-up about this.

(b) Philip Whitaker workshop

The project held a very successful behavior workshop with Philip Whitaker and 50 parents attended. This event was made possible by fundraising by Caroline Bond, Educational Psychologist from Manchester, who ran the London Marathon and raised money specifically for the project. The event was hosted by Piper Hill School in Manchester.

(c) Help post

We are still awaiting confirmation from Vodaphone about the funding for a North West Help! Project Officer Post based in Manchester. The plan will be to offer the Consortium the opportunities to pay towards this post to ensure that the first few programmes are held within the Greater Manchester area thus allowing a large number of parents to attend this programme. The longer-term plan is still to work towards a post exclusively for the Greater Manchester area.

(d) Regional Training Strategy Group

This group has now decided that the next piece of work they will focus on will be to modify the awareness-raising package for peers and siblings of children with autism and also to work on a video project.

The group will also continue to add slides to the existing pack to be used as "bank" slides in different situations and also to modify the awareness-raising pack if needed, in the light of evaluations.

Following the last meeting, a bid has been made on behalf of the Training Strategy Group, by Central Manchester CAMHS and Lime (a charity focused on arts in health settings) to make a video of young people with ASD speaking about their feelings about having ASD. The outcome of this bid will be known in early January.

Mari Saeki Debbie Waters

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