

# GREATER MANCHESTER AUTISM CONSORTIUM

## STEERING GROUP MEETING

To be held on Monday 3rd September 2007

2-4pm

The Link Centre

140 Union Street

Oldham

OL1 1DZ

## FAMILY SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT

(Period Covering 28th February - 22<sup>nd</sup> August 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	160	124	64	2	36	15	0
Bury	136	117	75	2	19	13	0
Manchester	425	381	244	5	44	31	0
Oldham	87	71	39	0	16	7	0
Rochdale	111	91	48	5	20	11	1
Salford	173	144	88	0	29	15	0
Stockport	277	228	145	7	49	33	1
Tameside	114	98	69	1	16	7	0
Trafford	192	160	105	3	32	15	1
Wigan	91	78	42	2	13	6	0
Left GMA	22	18	10	0	4	3	0
Closed Cases	12	9	3	0	3	2	0
	<u>1800</u>	<u>1519</u>	<u>932</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>3</u>

During the last 2 quarters (26th February – 31st August) 2007)  
there have been 51 new referrals

**TABLE OF FAMILY SUPPORT CALLS:  
(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		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>41HRS</b>	<b>52MINS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>		

**(Period covered between 31st May – 31st August 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	3	1	2	21	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		
BURY	3	1	1	20	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
MANCHESTER	35	6	15	41	9	8	15	4	3	4	4	1	16	2	0		
OLDHAM	2	1	0	25	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
ROCHDALE	10	2	3	32	2	1	4	4	0	0	0	1	4	0	2		
SALFORD	5	4	2	10	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	1	2	0		
STOCKPORT	10	4	5	22	3	1	5	4	2	0	0	0	5	0	1		
TAMESIDE	6	1	3	05	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	4	0	0		
TRAFFORD	10	3	6	10	3	2	7	2	0	0	2	2	1	7	0		
WIGAN	6	0	2	55	0	2	5	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1		
OTHER	4	1	1	01	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>44hrs</b>	<b>02min</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</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

### **Other issues raised included:-**

Housing x 2  
Higher Education x 2  
Advocacy  
Association conditions x 2 i.e. dyslexia and depression  
Drug education  
Holiday Support  
Sibling Issues  
Training

### **AUTISM SERVICES DEVELOPMENT GROUP UPDATES**

There have been 11 Autism Services Development Groups or sub-group meetings since the 31<sup>st</sup> May (when the last report was compiled). This last quarter is the quietest in the year for meetings because of the summer holidays.

We have had individual meetings with commissioners in Stockport, Trafford and Tameside as well as some individual meetings with other professionals.

### **BOLTON**

The children's group met to discuss the findings of the PCT commissioned audit of ASD services in the area. It was agreed to collate a unified response to this and to use identified gaps as the basis of future planning. A multi-agency group is being established to look at care pathways and will be having its first meeting at the end of August.

An adult group has not met for a year and we are trying to re-establish a forum for autism service development work and planning.

### **BURY**

There has been one meeting since the last report.

Bury are carrying out some Person Centred 14 plus reviews at Elms Bank school (Special School with an ASD resource base). A number of the ASDG visited a special school in Tameside that are successfully using Person centred 14 plus reviews to get some ideas.

There has been a successful meeting with Bury College about improving Transition for young people with ASDs into the college. It is hoped that these links will continue. The college have also requested some training in ASD.

A service is being developed for 3 young people with ASD in Bury to bring them back from out-of-area placements.

## **MANCHESTER**

The children's group has met once since the last report. The Transition sub-group has made representations to the Learning Skills Council about gaps in FE provision in the city. This has led to a meeting with the North West LDD director for LSC as well as with the Director for Equality and Diversity. One of the issues identified was that the LSC are conducting a needs analysis for students with learning disabilities and difficulties within the North West. They have been collecting quantitative data and will then carry out a more qualitative data collection later this year. We have asked to be kept in mind for this as we feel that all the ASDG's could have a role to contribute to this.

The Social Communication Assessment and Intervention teams have now decided to run regular post-diagnostic workshops for parents. Mari, Dr Latha Hackett and Beryl Malcolm (BME Development Worker for Central CAMHS) are working on a project to modify and deliver these programmes for the diverse ethnic groups of parents within central Manchester. Recently there have been great deal more French speaking African families as well as people from the Middle East. We intend to start by training the Link Workers, giving them some basic awareness in CAMHS and mental Health issues, as well as ASD specific training. From there we will put together workshops to be delivered in small language-specific groups.

The adult group has met once since the last report. The meeting had wide representation including Joint Commissioners from Learning Disabilities and Mental Health as well as from a person with ASD. Mari presented a paper written with Dr Dougal Hare from Manchester University about a proposal for a Greater Manchester Diagnostic Service for adults with Asperger Syndrome. The group agreed to take this proposal to various forums to try and gain some support. More details of the proposal are attached. The group also decided it would be useful to visit the Liverpool Asperger Team to get an idea of the service they provide.

## **OLDHAM**

Oldham has had one meeting since the last report. All of the Learning Disability Day Services have now been given NAS accreditation as well as the supported tenancies.

The youth group is expanding and ever popular although there have been some difficulties identifying a suitable long-term venue.

The communication resource room at Rock street will now be made available to parents to use. This is very welcome and it is hoped that an education Drop-In may also be run from this room.

The Research post commissioned by Oldham from the NAS started in July. Julia Butcher is on secondment from the NAS Helpline and will be working very closely with professionals within Oldham as well as with the FSDP project. The post is line managed by Francine Brower but steered by a group from Oldham. The research is to identify the needs of the children attending the two resource bases in Oldham, most of whom have ASDs.

## **ROCHDALE**

There has been one meeting since the last report. This meeting was to identify what the greatest need was with regard to development of services for children with ASDs.

Sam Freeman, a mum who has been fundraising for the NAS, came to talk about what she wants to do with this money, which will be ring-fenced for Rochdale children. Sam would like some extra NAS *Help!* seminars and workshops but would also like to do something for siblings. This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

## **SALFORD**

The Children's group has not met since the last report but the Adult group has met.

There is an event planned in October for parents of children and adults with ASDs around Person Centred Planning and ASD. Janet Muscutt, the chair of the children's group, will be presenting on this day.

The adult group is continuing to work towards accreditation and feel that they are making good progress. Quite a bit of ASD training is underway within the authority too.

The group is currently working to identify the pathways to support those with Asperger's syndrome.

## **STOCKPORT**

The children's ASD care pathway group has met twice since the end of May and are particularly focusing upon school age diagnosis where there have been long waiting times in recent years. It is hoped that with some joint, one-off investment of resources the backlog can be cleared and a more responsive and multi-agency service offered in future.

The Children and Young People's Directorate, in conjunction with a local parent-led charity, have successfully completed their first series of post-diagnostic workshops. The charity were able to provide funding for suitable childcare for children and siblings to attend play/therapy groups alongside the parent information sessions and this model was very well received by all involved.

Adult services are undertaking a SWOT analysis of support for adults with ASDs in the area and it is anticipated that findings will provide the foundation and evidence for future service development work.

## **TAMESIDE**

There has recently been a meeting with commissioners about Autism Services Development work within the area. Mari has agreed to join the group looking at the Department of Health document "Better Services for people with ASD" and to make a presentation to the Adult Unit Business Managers within the authority about the type of development work we support and what is going on within this region for people with ASDs.

## **TRAFFORD**

There have recently been two more meetings about restarting the Adult ASDG. The group will be looking at what improvements can be made for those who are currently in receipt of services or eligible for services and also to identify the extent of the gaps and unmet need.

Mari has been attending the group looking at the diagnostic care pathway for children with ASDs.

## **WIGAN**

The ASD Development Worker was appointed at the beginning of July. This post is due to begin end of August and will identify what the service gaps are for children and adults with an ASD within Wigan.

## **OTHER MEETINGS SUPPORTED OR ATTENDED BY THE PROJECT**

- ❖ The regional ASDG Networking meeting in Chorley. This was an event for all chairs of ASDGs within the North West. This meeting was to discuss policy updates relating to people with ASDs. Mari was chairing this meeting for Clare Hughes, Regional Officer for the NAS who is currently on Mat leave.
- ❖ Attendance at the final session of the Manchester 20 hour Help! programme.
- ❖ DLA consultation event, Manchester. This event was to consult on proposed changes to DLA
- ❖ The Greater Manchester Parent Resource Network meeting for the parent volunteers on the network. This network is jointly provided by ASGMA and NAS.
- ❖ Attending the Autism Research conference on Mental Health, London.
- ❖ Attending both the Help2 seminars in Eccles on Sensory issues and on Anti-Bullying.
- ❖ NAS Accreditation team members training.
- ❖ Springwood (Salford) ASD Parent support group meeting.
- ❖ Fund raising event for Joshua Short Foundation a charity providing support to parents of children with ASDs in Stockport

## **NORTH WEST UPDATE**

The NAS and NW Training and Development are hosting an event on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November for key individuals across the North West. *Closing the Gap* will heighten awareness of good practice across the region and challenge commissioners to address issues of concern related to individuals on the autism spectrum.

In October we are drawing together representatives from across Merseyside to look at strengths and challenges and to promote collaborative work across the area. Part of this discussion will be focused on the creation on Autism Service Development Groups based on the Greater Manchester model. It is worth noting that local authorities from other parts of the North region have asked for information on the framework of ASDGs with a view to developing this model of work.

The NAS is in the process of regionalizing the National Services provided by the charity. This includes Help!, Help2, Social Programmes and Befriending. Members of staff who deliver these programmes will be line managed regionally and opportunities for closer liaison with regional staff to analyse needs will be possible.

## **HELP PROGRAMMES**

There were 3 very successful Help! programmes in the region in the last quarter

- ❖ The 20 hour programme in Manchester in June
- ❖ The one day help in Bolton in July
- ❖ The one day help in Wilmslow in July

A set of Help2 seminars were also held in Eccles in July

In the coming months there will be Help! Programmes in Wigan and Trafford.

- ❖ A 20 hour in Wigan in September
- ❖ A 2 day in Trafford in December

Mari Saeki and Debbie Waters  
Project Officers, Family Services Development Project  
National Autistic Society  
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