

# GREATER MANCHESTER AUTISM CONSORTIUM

## STEERING GROUP MEETING

To be held on Wednesday 17th September 2008

2pm – 4pm

The Link Centre

140 Union Street

Oldham

OL1 1DZ

## FAMILY SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT

(Period covered 1<sup>st</sup> June-4<sup>th</sup> September 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	165	129	61	1	36	13	0
Bury	140	119	70	1	21	13	0
Manchester	453	406	257	6	47	33	0
Oldham	89	74	39	1	15	7	0
Rochdale	124	104	53	2	20	10	0
Salford	181	151	85	0	30	15	0
Stockport	293	243	144	6	50	33	1
Tameside	118	102	67	3	16	7	0
Trafford	200	167	105	0	33	15	2
Wigan	99	86	40	3	13	6	0
Left GMA	22	18	9	0	4	3	0
Closed Cases	12	9	3	0	3	2	0
	1896	1608	933	23	288	157	3

During the period covered the project has received 25 new referrals.

**ANALYSIS OF STATS**  
(Period covered 1<sup>st</sup> June-4<sup>th</sup> September 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	1	2	45	1	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BURY	17	2	7	18	5	1	4	13	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
MANCHESTER	29	5	9	58	6	8	19	2	2	1	1	1	9	0	2
OLDHAM	4	2	1	51	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROCHDALE	8	1	3	10	0	3	4	4	0	0	2	1	4	0	0
SALFORD	4	4	1	27	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	4	0	0
STOCKPORT	20	5	7	41	1	5	7	9	0	0	4	0	6	1	3
TAMESIDE	7	2	2	54	1	5	5	2	1	2	0	2	0	0	0
TRAFFORD	7	5	2	46	0	1	5	8	0	0	1	1	2	0	1
WIGAN	2	0		35	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
OTHER	8	1	3	49	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</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

**AUTISM SERVICES DEVELOPMENT GROUPS**

There have been 15 meetings since the last report.

**BOLTON**

**Children** - Aiming High money is being used to pilot a variety of additional leisure activities for children on the autistic spectrum this summer, and a feedback event with families has been planned for October to see how these have been received. Meetings have been arranged with various service providers across the region to get ideas of best practice.

The Children's ASD forum continues to work on the subgroup areas identified earlier in the year.

**Adults-** The adult group has not met recently.

## **BURY**

There has been one meeting since the last steering group meeting. Karin Sherrington has now retired as chair of the group and as Team Leader of the Communication Difficulties Team. The group will now be chaired by Karen Ross.

The group have set a new action plan and are working on better communication between adults and children's services including better representation from adults now that Nick Morey has left; a clearer care pathway following diagnosis and more person centred planning. The bid for the ASD Development Worker made to the Learning Disability Partnership Board has been not been decided on yet.

Mari has attended a parent drop-in and parent workshop within Bury since the last meeting.

The siblings who met through the workshops are continuing to meet monthly as the Young Carers Group and a school nurse from Elms Bank Special School have agreed to carry on with the group.

## **MANCHESTER**

**Children** - There has been one meeting since the last steering group meeting. Two of the three sub-groups are currently on hold. The transition group is still in the process of planning the PCP event for parents. The ASD project plan within education is still ongoing.

Mari is working with Central Manchester CAMHS on a pilot to develop a Help! programme to meet the needs of some families from BME communities.

**Adults-** There has been one meeting since the last steering group meeting. Mari and Dougal Hare (Clinical Psychologist from the University of Manchester) have met with a Mental Health Commissioner from Manchester who is a member of the Adult Development Group and also with a member of the North West Specialist Services Commissioning Team from the Strategic Health Authority. The meeting was to discuss the development of an adult diagnostic service within the region. The outcome of the meeting was that Mari and Dougal would work to strengthen the proposal and then send to the SHA. The group are also currently carrying out an audit of training provided within Manchester and will identify gaps

## **OLDHAM**

There has been one meeting since the last steering group. The group has set up 4 priority areas with sub-groups and membership of these groups and chairs were agreed at the last meeting. The subgroups are as follows:-

- Transition for children with ASD
- Short Break provision for children and adults with ASD
- Assessment of need for people with ASD
- Diagnostic pathway for adults

The CAMHS ASD Worker post and the ASD Specialist Clinical Psychology post have both been vacant for sometime but there are new post-holders in place now for the former and imminently for the latter. This means that the post-diagnostic workshops will be restarted and held on a regular basis.

## **ROCHDALE**

**Children** -There has been one meeting since the last steering group meeting. Following the last meeting which was to set an action-plan for the group there have been a number of sub-groups identified to take forward the work. The groups include one on training strategy, one on updating the information packs for parents and professionals and one on organizing the sibling sessions and running them. In addition the steering group for the youth group will continue to meet.

Mari has met with Sam Freeman, who is a parent who raised funds for a sibling group within Rochdale, to plan the group.

**Adults**-\_There is currently no development group meeting about Adults with ASD within Rochdale

## **SALFORD**

**Children**-\_The children's group met on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Priorities regarding early years SEN provision and post-diagnostic support were highlighted as areas to focus upon, as was the high number of children currently receiving ASD specific provision at primary level who will require similar support at secondary school.

**Adults**-There has been one meeting since the last steering group meeting. The group are focusing on the following areas:-

- Training
- Autism Accreditation (review for day services due September 2008)
- Monton House to start working towards accreditation from Dec 08)
- Befriending for adults with Asperger Syndrome.

## **STOCKPORT**

**Children-** The group reviewed its diagnostic care pathways and agreed that next steps should include (i) putting time scales onto the pathway, and (ii) ensuring comprehensive information is given to parents as a matter of course. The pathway could also benefit from greater clarity around systems for accessing family support.

**Adults-** The consultation event for parents and carers regarding services for adults with Asperger Syndrome took place in late June. The event was set up to present recommendations made by the project at the request of Stockport MBC and PCT to identify best practice in relation to adults with Asperger Syndrome. The proposal for a team for people with Asperger Syndrome was positively received and will be taken forward by Stockport. The forming of a development group was part of the recommendations for the day. When this service starts it will be the only Asperger Specific service within the Greater Manchester area and one of the few in the whole country.

### **TAMESIDE**

**Children-** Mari has been invited to a multi-agency day on care pathway for children with ASD in October.

**Adults-** The new specialist ASD Nurse has been appointed and the plan is for him to take the lead on development work.

In August Mari and Julia Butcher delivered an ASD awareness-raising session for Connexions staff. Julia, who is an NAS staff member, is working on a small Transitions Project commissioned by Connexions.

### **TRAFFORD**

**Children-** The care pathway group continue to meet and to work on the diagnostic pathways.

**Adults-** Mari has met with two members of the LD team to discuss issues regarding adults with Asperger Syndrome and it is hoped that the development group may restart at some point soon.

### **WIGAN**

The group has not reconvened since the last steering group meeting but there has been a sub-group meeting on the care pathway and work is still underway on this.

The ASD Development Worker left her post in May of this year but there are plans proposed to continue this work.

### **TRAINING STRATEGY GROUPS**

Both the adult group and the Children's groups have met in the past two weeks. The work of the adult group on training for those carrying out assessment is progressing well. It was agreed that there are two main audiences for this training, one for those who do FACS assessment and one for those carrying out more detailed or "specialist" assessments. The children's group has decided to start work on training around growing up, puberty, sexuality and relationships. This is instead of the work on peer awareness-raising as the group felt that the former topic is of greater urgency.

### **Post Diagnostic Groups**

Mari and Debbie have attended groups within Central and North Manchester since the last meeting. Mari is also due to attend groups in Oldham, Rochdale and South Manchester in the coming few months.

### **HELP! SESSIONS**

There has been one help! programme within Greater Manchester in past quarter.

- 20 hour programme in Rochdale in June

In the coming weeks there are two within Greater Manchester

- Tameside 1 day help! in September
- 2x help!2 seminars in Rochdale in November

Rochdale has been having extra help! programmes due to some fund-raising by a parent but places were available to all.

### **REGIONAL UPDATES**

The CSIP commissioned report about parents' experiences of diagnoses in the North West is being checked over by participants and will be launched at an event promoting best practice on November 18<sup>th</sup> at North End Football Club, Preston. Speakers will include Ann le Couteur and Barry Carpenter. This event is free to those regularly involved in diagnosis in the Northwest and places are limited.