
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	13 March 2018
Report By:	Grant McGovern Head of Inclusive Education, Culture and Corporate Policy	Report No:	EDUCOM/43/18/GM
Contact Officer:	Grant McGovern	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	INVERCLYDE'S AUTISM STRATEGY – PROGRESS TO IMPLEMENTATION		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is inform the Committee about the progress made in the implementation of Inverclyde's Autism Strategy 2014.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In 2011 the Scottish Government's ASD Reference Group published The Scottish Strategy for Autism which acknowledged the improvement in the diagnosis, assessment and support for those living with autism through the development of a national 10 year autism strategy. The report provided 26 recommendations that looked to ensure improving services and access to services for those living with autism.
- 2.2 In April 2014 a multi-agency Autism Strategy Implementation Group (AIG) was convened to lead, develop and implement Inverclyde's Autism Strategy. Local Authorities were allocated funding from the Scottish Government to support the development of that strategy.
- 2.3 The Inverclyde AIG was set up in 2014 to oversee the implementation of the Inverclyde autism strategy. This strategy was published in 2014 to cover the ten-year period up until 2024. The strategy was based on a number of themes which would inform how it would be delivered.
- 2.4 In March 2017 the Policy and Resources Committee approved the allocation of £150K from ear-marked reserves to support the aspiration that Inverclyde achieve recognition as an "Autism Friendly Authority". The ASIG subsequently developed three key objectives to achieve that recognition, including:
- Pre- and Post-Diagnosis Support;
 - Support in Transitions; and
 - Support in the Community

The AIG was chaired by the Partnership Integration Facilitator (PIF) working with the third sector interface (TSI) from 2014 to July 2017 at which point Grant McGovern, Head of IEC&CP, took over responsibility for the group.

- 2.5 Following a review of the documentation developed to support Grant applications from external partner organisation for the above funding, advice was sought from Legal Services, Procurement Services and Inverclyde's Chief Audit Officer. It was subsequently recommended that the documentation should be revised and redistributed across the 3rd Sector partnership network.

- 2.6 A restructure of ASIG with a Steering/Management Group and two User and Provider/Practitioner sub-groups structure will provide a clear delineation in the governance and financial oversight in the ongoing implementation of Inverclyde's Autism Strategy.
- 2.7 In the interim, several projects have been undertaken to support Inverclyde's progress toward being an autism friendly authority, including:
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| September 2017 | Inaugural one-day conference to support schools in being autism friendly; |
| October 2017 | Funding from the Public Library Improvement Fund administered by the Scottish Library and Information Council to support development of Autism Friendly Libraries; |
| November 2017 | Links developed with Autism Network Scotland, Strathclyde University to provide autism support and training; |
| December 2017 | Inverclyde invited to participate in Sharing Good Practice Pilot by Scottish Government via Autism Network Scotland; |
| January 2018 | Invited to participate in national seminar by Transitions Forum (ARC); and |
| March 2018 | Positive Partnership Conference for parents/carers and practitioners at the Beacon Theatre. |

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee acknowledges the progress made to date in the implementation of Inverclyde's Autism Strategy.
- 3.2 That the Committee agrees that the funding identified to support the implementation of the Autism Strategy is carried over into financial year 2018 – 19.
- 3.3 That the Committee approves the delegation of the governance systems for Autism Strategy grant allocation and payments to the Council's Grants Sub-Committee

Grant McGovern
Head of Inclusive Education, Culture and Corporate Policy

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2011 the Scottish Government's ASD Reference Group published The Scottish Strategy for Autism which acknowledged the improvement in the diagnosis, assessment and support for those living with autism through the development of a national 10 year autism strategy. The report provided 26 recommendations that looked to ensure improving services and access to services for those living with autism.

The vision stated in the strategy is that individuals on the autism spectrum are respected, accepted and valued by their communities and have confidence in services to treat them fairly so that they are able to have meaningful and satisfying lives.

The goals of the Strategy are to be realised in stages - Foundations (by 2 years), Whole-life journey (by 5 years) and Holistic-personalised approaches (by 10 years).

- 4.2 The Inverclyde Autism Strategy was developed in 2014 by the HSCP as part of a Scottish Government national initiative and was developed in partnership with people with ASD and their families. The Strategy lays out actions required over a 10 year period to improve the lives of people in Inverclyde with Autism.

In April 2014 a multi-agency Autism Implementation Group (AIG) was convened to lead, develop and implement Inverclyde's autism strategy. Funding was obtained to support the development of that strategy.

The Inverclyde AIG was set up in 2014 to oversee the implementation of the Inverclyde autism strategy. This strategy was published in 2014 to cover the ten-year period up until 2024. The strategy was based on a number of themes which would inform how it would be delivered. The main themes identified are:

- Developing positive, enabling and supportive networks
- Developing a co-ordinated Autism Training Plan for Inverclyde
- Equal and timely access to an evidence-based pathway for assessment and diagnosis and the support that should follow
- A co-ordinated system for advice and information about autism
- Co-ordinated services based on accurate data
- Services that can be robustly evaluated

- 4.3 The AIG includes practitioners from all sectors within Inverclyde including:

- Inverclyde HSCP – Adult and Children's services
- Inverclyde Council
- Education
- Third sector organisations
- Independent housing sector
- Service users and carers

- 4.4 The AIG's prime role was to examine how these themes are being rolled out in Inverclyde and the impact they are having on people on the autistic spectrum. Specific terms of reference for the group include:

- Agree the Strategic Commissioning Plan and its delivery priorities;
- Contribute to the ongoing development and implementation of the plan as a live working document;
- Ensure a strong partnership approach to implementation;
- Function as a consultative body;
- Ensure the needs of people with Learning Disability are reflected and considered in all relevant plans and strategies across the HSCP;
- Champion good practice and innovation;
- Ensure the best interests of service users and carers are represented and develop

- and implement a clear communication strategy;
- Ensure service user and carer representation and provide mechanisms are in place to allow the views of these groups of people to be fully represented;
- Practitioners representation will also ensure that the views of providers to be fully represented and feedback is provided

Implementation of the strategy was funded through existing service budget.

4.4 In March 2017 the approval was given (see report no: SW/23/2017/BC) for the allocation of £150K from Earmarked Reserves to support the aspiration that Inverclyde achieve recognition as an “Autism Friendly Authority”. The AIG subsequently developed three key objectives to achieve that recognition, including:

- Developing community services and supports for people with autism that will assist in achieving an autism friendly Inverclyde;
- Developing services that will help to bridge the gaps that develop for young people impacted by autism at the transition period including signposting, resources and support;
- Early years including pre and post diagnostic support and services.

The funding sub-group developed funding proposals based on a collaborative partnership model whereby a lead agency will be identified to deliver the proposal but governed by a steering group of agencies who will both contribute to the effective delivery of the service and provide an outcome, monitoring and governance role.

4.5 The AIG was chaired by the Partnership Integration Facilitator (PIF) working with the third sector interface (TSI) from 2014 to July 2017 at which point Grant McGovern, Head of IEC&CP, took over responsibility for the group.

4.6 Following a review of the documentation developed to support Grant applications from external partner organisation for the above funding, advice was sought from Legal Services, Procurement Services and Inverclyde’s Chief Audit Officer. It was subsequently recommended that the documentation should be revised and redistributed across the 3rd Sector partnership network.

The revised procedure will ensure a consistent grant award process and also make it possible to create a pool of providers

It was agreed that the restructured group would be called the Autism Strategy Implementation Group (ASIG)

4.7 A restructured ASIG will include a Steering/Management Group supported by two User and Provider/Practitioner sub-groups providing a clear delineation in the governance and financial oversight of the group and the role of 3rd sector partners in advising and supporting the implementation of the Strategy.

The ASIG will continue to oversee the implementation of the themes outline in the Strategy and will also:

- Revise the structure and membership of the ASIG to include a steering/management group with representation from multi-agency service and partner agencies and the formation of User and Provider/Practitioner sub-groups;
- Redesign the processes, procedures and advice issued to applicants for funding in accordance with Inverclyde’s procurement procedures and Grants to Voluntary Organisations. Decisions on the allocation of grant funding will be through the GtVO Committee;
- To implement the recommendations in Inverclyde’s Autism Strategy.

As funding allocated from earmarked reserves attached to Education and Communities will support the implementation of the strategy and Inverclyde’s aspiration of Autism Friendly

status, future reports on progress will be made through this Committee.

- 4.8 Over 2017/18, several projects have been undertaken to support Inverclyde's progress toward autism friendly status, including:

Autism Planning Conference

In September 2017 all Inverclyde schools and early learning and childcare establishments participated in a one-day conference in the Beacon Theatre to support schools in planning toward being autism friendly. While the conference was aimed primarily at education staff in terms of their future planning, it was attended by Health and Social Care Partnership practitioners, 3rd Sector partner organisations and, importantly, parents and carers and young people who were consulted in the format of the event.

Autism Friendly Libraries

In October 2017 Library and Museum Services were successful in their application to the Public Library Improvement Fund for £9K to develop autism friendly libraries in Inverclyde. The aim of the project is to work towards ensuring that all libraries are Autism Friendly by consulting with adults and young people on the autistic spectrum and their carers (where appropriate), and training library staff to become competent and confident in supporting those on the autistic spectrum. The consultation is likely to result in a programme of physical changes to libraries (such as improved signage), purchase of suitable stock, purchase of suitable software and a programme of dedicated events for people with autism and their families.

Autism Network Scotland

Links were established with Autism Network Scotland (ANS) based in Strathclyde University with the aim of providing support and training to Inverclyde schools and partner agencies. Corrie McLean, ANS Autism Development Officer, is currently liaising with G McGovern on an appropriate framework for that support and will also look to provide a direct link to developments in the National Autism Strategy as a co-opted member of the ASIG during the implementation of the strategy.

Autism Network Scotland Inverclyde: Pilot Project

In December 2017 Inverclyde Council were invited by Autism Network Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government to participate in a national pilot programme along with four other local authorities – Shetland Council, Highland Council, Argyll & Bute Council and North Ayrshire Council. Each local Authority has identified specific areas of practice to develop and shared. These are:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| ➤ Inverclyde | Transitions in Early Years |
| ➤ Argyll & Bute | Community Youth Interventions |
| ➤ Shetland | Employability |
| ➤ Highland | Youth Justice |
| ➤ South Ayrshire | Anxiety |

Details of the Inverclyde's pilot proposal are attached as Appendix 1.

The outcome of the above projects will inform the remaining four years of the Scottish Strategy for Autism.

Future Projects

Other projects planned for early 2018 include:

Scottish Transition Forum (ARC) – February 2018

Collaborative working with the Scottish Transition Forum in the development of a national seminar on the findings from the recently published Scotland-wide survey on transitions to adult services for young people with additional support needs including autism, Facing the Future Together. The seminar will take place early May 2018.

Positive Partnership – Parent/Carers and Practitioners Event, Beacon Theatre - March 2018

This event will bring together an audience of predominately parents/carers and people on the spectrum with a small number of practitioner, support agencies and Inverclyde service providers. This seminar will be led by Thom Kirkwood, Wider Engagement Consultant with ASN with the aim of improving understanding of partnership working between parents/carers, support services and partner organisations to improve outcomes for those living with autism. In terms of age, the organisers are looking to representation across the lifespan and across the spectrum.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that the implementation of Inverclyde's Autism Strategy is continued for one additional year with the associated support funding continuing over into the forthcoming financial year 2018 – 19.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance:

- 6.1 There are financial implications at this time.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
EMR	Autism Strategy	2018 - 19	£150		Funding allocated 2017 – 18. Requested rollover to 2018 – 19.

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal:

- 6.2 There are no legal implications in respect of this report.

Human Resources:

- 6.3 There are no staff implications in respect of this report.

Equalities:

6.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
✓	NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or Strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

6.5 There are no repopulation implications in respect of this report.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Inverclyde Autism Strategy Public Event 2014.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 **Scottish Autism Strategy**

<http://www.autismstrategyscotland.org.uk/strategy/key-documents.html>

8.2 Inverclyde HSCP Autism Strategy 2014-24.



Inverclyde's
Strategy-for-Autism.p

Inverclyde Council – Education Services

Autism Network Scotland – Strathclyde University

Project: Early Years/Primary School Transition Support for Parents

Introduction

Inverclyde's Autism Strategy Implementation Group (ASIG) look to target funding to support improvement in pre- and post-Autism diagnosis support for families. Given the limited timescales for this pilot the focus will be on two pre-school aged children now attending mainstream early years provision at Rainbow Family Centre, Port Glasgow, who have recently received a diagnosis of Autism, it is agreed that this would be an appropriate time to take an overview of existing support processes and procedures, including existing documentation, as experienced by those families and children. The timescales for this project would also provide an opportunity to review existing pre-school/primary transition processes.

Current Procedures

Inverclyde current procedures for under 5s with developmental concerns is to refer/ Request for assistance to Specialist Children's Paediatric Team (SCPT) the Disability Pathway based at the Skylark Child Development Centre at Inverclyde Royal Hospital. The SCPT team is a multi-Professional health team who assess, diagnose and provide interventions to support Children with Development concerns and disabilities. They include Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Nurses and Community Paediatricians. The child has initial assessment and then discussed at Case coordination meeting before progressing into Autism Diagnosis pathway.

Following ASD diagnosis -The Parenting programmes of support includes; Early Bird Plus and Cygnet (see Note). Stepping Stones Triple P and Post Diagnosis clinic (health) as well as Uni professional interventions as indicated by Individual child and family and GIRFEC team working.

Project Outline:

1. Review of processes and procedures currently in place to support and inform families and children from initial referral to SCPT Skylark Team from Health Visitor and/or GP through to post-diagnosis support and interventions available to parents/carers and children;
2. Review existing information and support available to families and children to support transition from Early Years Education to Primary School.

Existing Communication and Documentation:

Existing documentation available to support families includes:

- Diagnosis Guidelines: Diagnosis and Assessment
- Post-diagnosis support opt-in Health professional clinic
- Information leaflets/brochures – various NHS and Education Services.

Focus Group Discussions and Questionnaires:

Information will be collated through questionnaire and focus group discussion - essentially a Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting. Support agencies involved will include:

- Health Visitor (Port Glasgow);
- Skylark Team: Speech & Language Therapy (SLT);
Paediatrician.
- Social Work Disability Team;

- Inverclyde's Educational Psychology Service (IEPS);
- Inverclyde's Communications Outreach Service (ICOS);
- Rainbow Family Centre - Head of Establishment;
- Primary Head Teachers
- Parents/Carers: Early Years
Primary 1
- 3rd Sector involved in support of family/children, e.g. Barnardo's

Support form Autism Network Scotland

The support of ASN Research Assistant would be to assist in:

- Design of questionnaires;
- Collation of data and responses.

Outcome:

Use these case studies and information gathered to provide the rationale for a wider review of existing processes and procedures in place across Integrated Children's Services to better inform and support families and children from initial referral through post-diagnosis and transition to Primary education.

GJ McGovern
Head of Inclusive Education, Culture and Corporate Policy
Inverclyde Council

Note:

The Specialist Community Paediatric Team (SCPT) provides a multidisciplinary health service for children from birth to 19 years of age. The team works in collaboration with parents and other agencies to provide assessment, treatment and support for children with Additional support needs and developmental concerns. One pathway is the Autism Service that provides formal assessment for Autism and post diagnosis support and information.

Early Bird Plus (4-8years) is a support accredited programme for parents and carers that offer advice and guidance on strategies and approaches for supporting children with autism. The programmes focus on understanding autism, building confidence and managing behaviour. Both programmes are delivered locally by staff from health and education.

The Cygnet programme (7-18 years) is delivered locally by Barnardos and Social Work services. The programme is designed for parents and carers of children and young people with an autistic spectrum condition. The programme is designed to:

- increase parents understanding of autistic spectrum conditions;
- help parents develop their knowledge on how a child on the autistic spectrum; experiences the world and what drives their behaviour;
- guide parents through practical strategies they can use with children;
- direct parents to relevant ASC resources;
- give parents the opportunity to meet with other parents who have had similar experiences and to gain support and learn from each other.