
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	7 May 2019
Report By:	Grant McGovern Head of Inclusive Education, Culture and Communities	Report No:	EDUCOM/55/19/GM
Contact Officer:	Grant McGovern	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	Inverclyde's Autism Strategy – Progress To Implementation Update		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise of the progress made in the implementation of Inverclyde's Autism Strategy 2014 following the Committee's agreement in January 2019 to implement a process of direct contract award in order to deliver the strategy outcomes.
- 1.1 The report also informs the Committee about the change of Chair of the Autism Strategy Implementation Group from Education to HSCP as of May 2019.

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. Local Authorities were allocated funding from the Scottish Government to support the development of that strategy.
- 2.2 Subsequently, the Inverclyde Autism Strategy Implementation Group (AIG) was set up in April 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.

As detailed in a previous report to the Committee (see EDUCOM/43/18/GM), the AIG has now evolved to a strategic implementation group restructured to include sub-groups representing the both Autism Community and 3rd Sector partners.

- 2.3 In March 2017, the Policy and Resources Committee approved the allocation of £150K from earmarked reserves to support the aspiration that Inverclyde achieve recognition as an "Autism Friendly Authority". An additional £100K was allocated to the implementation of the strategy as part of Inverclyde Council's budget process in April 2018.
- 2.4 In March 2018, the Committee approved the delegation of the governance of grant allocation to the Council's Grants Sub-Committee, however, following the unsuccessful completion of the required tendering and procurement process, the Committee (January 2019) agreed to a recommendation by officers that the allocation of funding should move from the previously agreed GtVO process to one of direct contract award.
- 2.5 In June 2018, the Corporate Management Team (CMT) agreed to the funding of Autism Strategy Development Office post to be funded from the allocated EMR. It was also agreed

that the post would be facilitated by CVS with day-to-day operational matters managed by Hugh Scott, Service Manager CLD. Following the completion of the recruitment process, a Development Officer was appointed to the post in October 2018.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Notes the progress made to date in the implementation of the outcomes contained in Inverclyde's Autism Strategy through the direct grant award process previously agreed by Committee in January 2019;
2. Notes the anticipated project costs for each outcome prior to completion of procurement and legal procedures required in the allocation of grant funding; and
3. Agrees to delegate to officers the authority to make a direct award to the company specified in the private appendix to the report for the delivery of the Transition to Adult Services project in anticipation of the successful completion of appropriate financial scrutiny procedures required by procurement and legal services;
4. Notes that the Chair of the Autism Strategy Implementation Group will transfer from Education to a senior HSCP officer from May 2019.

Grant McGovern
Head of Inclusive Education, Culture and Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Development of Inverclyde's Autism Strategy

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.

- 4.2 Development of Inverclyde's Autism Strategy 2014/24 was supported by national funding and produced by the HSCP in partnership with people with ASD, their families and 3rd Sector partner agencies. Inverclyde's AIG was set up to oversee the implementation of the strategy which lays out actions required over that 10 year period to improve the lives of people in Inverclyde with Autism.

A copy of the strategy can be viewed at:

<http://www.autismnetworkscotland.org.uk/files/2015/01/Alan-Best.pdf>

- 4.3 The Terms of Reference for the original AIG and rationale for development to the current strategic implementation group are detailed in the report submitted to the Committee in January 2018 (EDCOM/43/18/GM).

4.4 Funding for the Implementation of Inverclyde's Autism Strategy

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". Subsequently, in April 2018, an additional £100K was allocated to the implementation of the strategy as part of Inverclyde Council's budget process and Committee approved the delegation of the governance of grant allocation to the Council's Grants Sub-Committee.

- 4.5 In June 2018, the CMT agreed to the funding of an Autism Strategy Development Officer post to be funded from the allocated EMR. Following the completion of the recruitment process a development officer was appointed in October 2018.
- 4.6 In January 2019, Committee agreed to a recommendation by officers that the allocation of funding to 3rd Sector organisations for projects or initiatives to deliver the strategy outcomes should move from the previously agreed GtVO process to one of direct contract award. The rationale for that change is detailed in the report presented to the Committee on 22 January 2019 (see EDUCOM/03/19/GM; para 4.6).

5.0 Update on Allocation of Direct Contract Awards – Legal Position

The paragraphs below outline the progress made in the allocation of direct grant award to various local and national organisation to deliver the Autism Strategy stated outcomes.

While the use of a direct contract awards process has allowed the outcomes and specific projects outline below to progress to the position outlined below, it should be noted by the Committee that at the time of writing this report, the legal and procurement processes required under financial scrutiny procedures have yet to be completed. It should therefore be noted that the details outlined in this report may be subject to change. A further update on progress will be presented to the Committee at the conclusion of the legal process.

- 5.1 As noted in previous reports to the Committee, the agreed themes which would inform the delivery of the strategy were:

- 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

5.2 The ASIG subsequently developed three key objectives to support the aspiration that Inverclyde achieve recognition as an “Autism Friendly Authority”, 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 commissioning criteria for the projects to deliver the above outcomes are attached as Appendix 1.

5.3 This section of the report outlines the progress to date of the projects and initiatives being recommended to implement the Autism Strategy. Members should note that the costing given are indicative at this stage and that negotiations continue in some aspects of delivery. This is particularly the case in the training and awareness raising projects outlined below. The training criteria are specified by Autism Scotland, however the training and achievement of the stated outcomes can be delivered by a local based organisation. It is anticipated that a final agreement on that aspect of the strategy will be completed by early May 2019.

Training and Raising Awareness in the Community

1. Enterprise Childcare

Enterprise Child Care were the one successful project proposal which was deemed to have met the funding criteria as detailed in section 4.6 of this report. Unfortunately, EC are no longer operating but have delivered a limited number of agreed outcomes from their original project proposals.

Allocated funding:	£62K
Total Invoiced:	£10K

2. Belville Community Garden Trust – Live Action/Animated Film

The Belville Community Trust will work in partnership with RIG Arts and the UTV group at West College Scotland to produce a 3-minute animated film giving an insight in to what it is like to live with autism. The film will be a mixture of live footage, talking heads, drama & animation to create a documentary/drama which will be scripted and developed in partnership with the young people of Inverclyde living with autism. The film is inspired by the novel “Why I Jump” by Naoki Higashida and David Mitchell (Random House, 2007).

On completion the film will be available on-line via Inverclyde’s website as well as links available through partner agencies and school websites. Negotiations are underway to have the film will be shown at the Waterfront Cinema.

Project Costs = £15K

3. Autism Friendly Inverclyde: Assessment and Training

A programme of training for front-facing staff across both the public and private/commercial sector is currently being developed by Inverclyde's Autism Development Officer. The training will be tailored to a variety of audiences and run as either half or full day events as required. The programme is designed by Scottish Autism but can be delivered by a range of organisations including those based in Inverclyde provided the outcome criteria are met. The organisations likely to deliver these outcomes will need to demonstrate that they have previously delivered training to a variety of retail and commercial business owners as well as practitioners and professionals who work with or alongside autistic people. The focus of the training is very much on understanding and supporting autistic people to access their local communities positively.

Opportunities to access this training programme will include consultation with:

- Inverclyde Council;
- Inverclyde Leisure;
- CVS Inverclyde;
- Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce;
- Oak Mall Management;
- Gallagher Retail Park Management;
- Local Transport providers (McGill's, Inverclyde Taxis);
- Others as appropriate.

A supporting communication strategy will also be developed to ensure that all public, private/commercial and partner organisations are aware of the programme.

Introduction to Autism

This course is designed for practitioners, professionals, and those that work with or alongside autistic people. It is also suitable for those that work within the retail sector that those that engage with autistic people through their daily work. The training will be presented by an experienced practitioner who will explore how understanding has changed over the years, and allow participants to consider how an evidence-based practice approach can enable us to increase society's understanding of autism. This course is interactive with opportunities for comments, questions and discussion.

The course outcomes include:

- Session 1 Overview of autism and how our thinking has changed (What is autism, autism at developmental level)
- Session 2 Autism at the behavioural level (Key characteristics of autism)
- Session 3 Psychological theories and how these have evolved (Different ways of thinking and how this affects our interpretation of the everyday world)
- Session 4 Sensory processing and exploring how to support someone's sensory needs (Impact on senses and how to support this)

It is anticipated that there will be training events available each month from September 2019 to June 2020. The cost for each training event will include venue and catering costs.

Anticipated project costs: £10K plus venue/catering £5K (TBC) = £15K

Community Engagement - My Five Campaign

Following a public consultation with autistic individuals and their families across Scotland, Scottish Autism has produced a document that highlights the five most common challenges that some autistic individuals can face when visiting retail outlets and businesses. This free document details the top five suggestions, of some simple adjustments that retailers and

businesses can make, to create a more welcoming and accessible environment.

This campaign can be offered to local businesses and other sectors such as sporting venues and workplace environments in order to gain insight into how to make their environments more accessible to shoppers and customers that may have autism or be visiting with an autistic person.

The criteria for this initiative are again detailed by Scottish Autism. The organisation commissioned to deliver these outcomes will also provide tailored support and/or guidance to commercial and retail businesses on how their environment can be more welcoming and accessible to those with autism through the “My Five” campaign. This campaign was initially run with the St Enoch centre in Glasgow and resulted in guidance being produced which is autistic led for businesses and retailers on how to make their environments more accessible to those with autism. Scottish Autism or other identified provider, will run this campaign specifically with businesses within Inverclyde and an action plan will be produced specifically relating to those businesses. Alternatively, retailers can be supported in the consultation process and thereafter run the campaign in-house on making their premises more accessible. The strength of the My Five campaign is that it is autistic led, focusing on the voices of the autistic community in Inverclyde. (See Appendix 3).

Project costs: TBC

Training and Raising Awareness: Total Project costs:

Enterprise Childcare	£10K
Belville Community Garden Trust – Live Action/Animated Film	£15K
Autism Friendly Inverclyde: Assessment and Training	£15K
Community Engagement - My Five Campaign	TBC
Total costs:	£40K + TBC

5.4 Transition to Adult Services

There is a prospective direct award relative to a project to improve transition to adult services for those with autism and details of this are set out in a private appendix to this report.

5.5 Pre- and Post-Diagnosis Support

As noted in the report to the Committee in March 2018, Inverclyde Education and HSCP were invited by Autism Network Scotland to participate in a short-term pilot project on autism support strategies along with four other local authorities. The focus for the Inverclyde pilot project was pre-school aged children now attending mainstream early years provision at Rainbow Family Centre, Port Glasgow, who have recently received a diagnosis of Autism.

A final report on the five local authority pilot projects was submitted to the Scottish Government’s Autism Strategy Group as part of the 2018 review of the national autism strategy. Inverclyde’s contribution to that programme of work was based on the previously identified early-years pre- and post-diagnosis outcome included in our local strategy. The national strategy now includes the development of a post-diagnosis toolkit as one of its revised outcomes. For further details on the toolkit development see: <http://www.autismstrategyscotland.org.uk/strategy/key-documents.html>.

Audit and Consultation:

As noted in Appendix 1, the successful applicant will review existing information and support available to families and children to support transition from Early Years Education to Primary School. A significant aspect of that review will include direct consultation with the HSCP service providers and other professional and 3rd Sector agencies working with families pre-

and post-diagnosis.

The main outcome of the project is to design, in consultation with the wider autism community, a range of leaflets, brochures and information packs across all areas of service provision including Education, NHS and Social Services that is able to inform, support and sign-post users to appropriate next steps that is high quality, consistent and effective. That information will be readily accessible across a range of printed and on-line resources.

The design company involved in this project will review existing resources and participate in wide ranging consultation review of existing resources as detailed below.

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, focus group discussion and consultation events with:

- Health Visitors;
- Skylark Team: Speech & Language Therapy (SLT);
Paediatrician;
etc
- Social Work Disability Team;
- Inverclyde's Educational Psychology Service (IEPS);
- Inverclyde's Communications Outreach Service (ICOS);
- Early Years Centres - Heads of Establishment;
- Primary Head Teachers;
- Parents/Carers of children with autism;
- 3rd Sector involved in support of family/children, e.g. Barnardo's.

Project Costs = £9K

5.6 In parallel with the above, Inverclyde's Autism Development Officer has continued to support the development and implementation of individual Autism peer and self-support groups, particularly in schools. This has included supporting those groups to be recognised as constituted groups to enable them to access council-based and other funding and the further development of a communications framework between support groups, practitioners and those individuals and families impacted by autism.

5.7 Total Costs to Deliver Outcomes

The total anticipated costs for the delivery of the strategy outcomes will be:

Autism Officer post	£70K
Training and Raising Awareness in the Community	£40K + TBC
Transition to Adult Services	£31K
Pre- and Post-Diagnosis Support	£9K

Total: £150K + TBC

5.8 Members should note that due to the management restructure in Education Services as of May 2019, the position of Chair of the Autism Strategy Implementation Group (ASIG) will transfer to a senior HSCP officer. With the projects and initiative outlined in this report

anticipated to be agreed and funded in the near future, the main issue for the ASIG will be to finalise Inverclyde's accreditation as an Autism Friendly Authority.

The sustainability of the strategy in both operational and financial terms will also be a significant issue for consideration.

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	£250		Funding allocated 2017 – 18. Requested rollover to 2019 – 20.

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 National Procurement Laws permit the direct award of the health and social care contract(s) proposed in this case.

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.

<http://www.autismnetworkscotland.org.uk/files/2015/01/Alan-Best.pdf>

Inverclyde Council

Inverclyde Autism Strategy Implementation Group

Commissioning Criteria

Introduction

The Autism Strategy Implementation Group have identified three priorities that, if implemented, will significantly improve outcomes for children, young people and adults with autism and their families and carers. Those priorities are:

- Pre- and Post-Diagnosis Support;
- Transition to Adult Services; and
- Training and raising awareness in the community

The ASIG are now looking to commission the design and development of an implementation strategy, where appropriate, and resources in each area. Successful implementation will require the successful applicant to consult with those with, or impacted by, autism and front-line service providers including Education Services, HSCP and 3rd Sector partner organisations.

1. Pre- and Post-Diagnosis Support

The successful applicant would be required to audit and review the current provision of advice, information and resources available to parents/carers of children with autism-like behaviours and those having received a diagnosis of autism. This will include:

- An audit of current resources across Education and HSCP to inform and support parents and carers. This will include the sign-posting of service providers and other support networks;
- Conduct a review of existing information/communication to parents/carers – advice leaflets, brochures, on-line including website and social media;
- Identify exemplification of existing good practice by creating links with other local authorities and national support organisations;
- Work with Inverclyde's Autism Officer to develop a strategy to address identified gaps in resources and skills;
- Develop and design an effective pre- and post-diagnosis communication strategy that will include resources as stated above.

2. Transition to Adult Services

The successful applicant will further develop existing services to support young people and adults impacted by autism at a time of transition. This will include strengthening links with schools, Further and Higher Education, training and employability and adult support services. As with 1. above, this workstream will include the review and development of a range of literature and on-line resources signposting young people and adults to appropriate services and support. This will include:

- Audit of current provision to support transition post-education and to appropriate adult services, e.g. HSCP; centre-based community groups, 3rd Sector providers, training and employment and post-16 education;

- Review of existing information/communication on transitions including signposting, resources and support available for those impacted by autism;
- Identify gaps in service provision and work with Inverclyde's Autism Officer to develop an appropriate strategic plan;
- Develop and design an effective communication strategy to support effective transition;
- Create links with local organisations providing autism training and awareness raising, see 3. below.

3. Training and raising awareness in the community

The successful applicant will develop a framework to raise awareness of Autism in Inverclyde and provide support, advice and access to training for front facing staff in both the public and commercial sectors. This will include the provision of an organisations awareness of the development of an autism friendly environment, including commercial premises, e.g. shops and office space and, particularly front-facing customer services. This will include liaising with Inverclyde's Autism Officer to:

- Identify opportunities to facilitate the development of new and existing autism support groups across Inverclyde, e.g. peer support;
- Develop a communication strategy for networking existing and developing support groups using on-line and social media applications;
- Develop a communication strategy and implementation plan to raise awareness of Autism across Inverclyde, see 1. above;
- Identify existing good practice in community services and support;
- Work in liaison with Inverclyde Alliance Partners and commercial and public service providers to co-ordinate opportunities for training of front-line staff and to improve awareness of autism in Inverclyde;
- Develop strategic and working partnerships with commercial and public service providers across Inverclyde, e.g. Chamber of Commerce, Inverclyde Leisure, transport companies, etc.

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 unique 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.

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.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT MORE WELCOMING AND ACCESSIBLE



RETAILERS



SHOPPING CENTRES



CAFÉS



RESTAURANTS



SUPERMARKETS

✓ BEING AUTISM AWARE

✓ MUSIC AND NOISE

✓ VISUAL ENVIRONMENT

✓ NAVIGATION

✓ QUIET TIME/SPACE

Implement what you do on the Autism Shopping Hour ALL THE TIME, families cannot fit shopping needs into 1 hour once a month!

Have friendly assistants standing by who have been trained in autism to help, if asked, to find goods and bring them

