

# MORAY AUTISM PARTNERSHIP BOARD

## MINUTES

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 1.30pm

The Supper Room, Elgin Town Hall

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Jane Mackie, Head of Community Care</b>
<b>Co-Chair:</b>	<b>David Silvester</b>

<b>AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTION POINT</b>
<b>1. Welcome from the Chair</b>	Jane Mackie and David Silvester introduced themselves and welcomed everyone to the third Autism Partnership Board meeting.
<b>2. Autism Awareness Training</b>	<p>Ann introduced the Autism Trainers; Dale, David, James and Gordon who fed back on the Autism Training. Firstly Dale spoke:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They started working on the Autism Training material last July with Leisa Zakeri. The trainers helped to develop the material and practised presenting it as a training session.</li><li>• Autism Awareness Training Sessions have been held for 6½ months, usually on Wednesday afternoons.</li><li>• At the beginning of the session the trainers gather an evaluation of the people's knowledge about Autism prior to the training and then an evaluation is taken at the end of the session to ensure that the impact of the training is evidenced. Generally people's understanding always improves but the information from the evaluation has yet to be analysed.</li><li>• To date 75 individuals have been trained via these sessions.</li></ul> <p>David and James then spoke of their experience of becoming trainers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• David likes job satisfaction from raising awareness of Autism in Moray and being part of a working team gives him a sense of purpose.</li><li>• David also advised he is looking forward to meeting the new Autism Trainer who will take over from Leisa, and expanding the training.</li><li>• James advised his confidence issues have lessened and his confidence as a trainer has grown. He also now has a credible employment history to put onto his CV.</li><li>• James feels that advertising now needs to take place to promote the training.</li></ul> <p>The trainers went on to read direct quotes from the evaluations to give everyone a flavour of how the participants feel about the training they have received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• David selected the following comments:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ I'm about to undertake Open University understanding the Autistic Spectrum Disorder and it would be great if I can contact the team for advice.</li></ul></li></ul>

- This training could be delivered around schools, colleges and universities to spread the knowledge to who will be our future employers.
- It's very good and clear message of barriers and excellent that trainers (people with autism) have been included to this level of raising awareness.
- James selected the following comments:
  - We met very interesting and entertaining people today.
  - This training was excellent and the trainers were outstanding; very easy to listen to.
  - Best training ever – its real and totally informative – make it longer.
- Gordon selected the following comments:
  - I got real advice and guidance from the people who know.
  - The training was brilliant and very enjoyable
  - I would like to know about work place strategies.
- Dale selected the following comments:
  - The sensory part of the presentation could be shorter with more practical examples.
  - The training was valuable and increased my knowledge and confidence. Could there be an opportunity for more interactive parts for the audience to be involved?
  - I thought the training was excellent and powerful as it was delivered by those who know. Their personal experience input was very good.

Board Members were given the opportunity to ask questions –

- Do the Autism Trainers have business cards?
  - No, business cards are not currently in place but if there is a demand then this can be explored.

### **3. Moray One Stop Shop**

Ann Griffin advised that consultations were held regarding a One Stop Shop in Moray. Her findings were presented in a Power Point Presentation - [see Appendix 1].

Board Members then split into three groups to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the following models of a One Stop Shop:

- Social/ Micro Enterprises,
- Registered Charity or
- Integrated with Moray Council Day/ Independent Living Centres.

[Please see Appendix 2 for more information on these models].

Group A – There was a consensus that the One Stop Shop should be a Social Enterprise either as part of an integrated model or linked with the Moray Council with a long term view of becoming independent.

Group B – This group partly agreed with the above though chose a standalone model. It was suggested a mixed model would be best, i.e. a Social Enterprise/ Charity. To start with something that already exists and have the ability to grow.

Locations were discussed and the main choice appeared to be Elgin.

	Group C – this group rejected the third model all together.
<b>4. Training Facilitator</b>	Emma Sharpe was introduced as the new Autism Training Facilitator. She will be in post from 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2013.
<b>5. Update on the Strategy</b>	<p>Anne Pendery advised she has been seconded to work on the Moray Autism Strategy (2014 – 2024). This will be a 10 year strategy and will cover all ages; both Learning Disability and non-Learning Disability.</p> <p>Why do we need a strategy in Moray?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government led: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Bill not supported but national strategy in place</li> <li>➢ Economic costs of nearly £28 billion per year</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All Local Authorities are required to have ASD Strategy.</li> <li>• There is a lack of Autism awareness in both professionals and the general population.</li> <li>• There is a lack of specialist support for people with Autism.</li> <li>• There is an 18 month waiting list for diagnosis for children.</li> <li>• There is no formal pathway for adults to be diagnosed.</li> </ul> <p>Key themes are emerging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People need to know who to talk to if they are concerned that they, or a member of their family, may have Autism.</li> <li>• The pathway for diagnosis is clear, smooth &amp; timely.</li> <li>• Support is available and easily accessible following diagnosis.</li> <li>• People with Autism receive appropriate education and support no matter where they live in Moray.</li> <li>• People with Autism enjoy life.</li> </ul> <p>Dates have been set for the strategy to go out for wider consultation in Autumn 2013: 27<sup>th</sup> August and 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The aim is to have the strategy approved and in place by the end of 2013 with implementation happening in 2014.</p>
<b>6. Election of Co-Chair and Deputising Co-Chair</b>	Jane Mackie has chaired the first three board meetings; it is now time to look for a new Chair. Nominations were requested and received and Board members agreed <b>Xacquelina Bello</b> , of Cornerstone, would be the new Chair.
<b>7. Any Other Business</b>	<p>John Campbell was introduced as the new Specialist Services Manager, taking over from Gill Pritchard.</p> <p>Topic for Next Meeting: Diagnosis. It was discussed that in order for this to be successful a pre-meeting should take place. To include NHS and co-chairs. Maria Dawson to speak with her colleagues and request more NHS representation at the next Board meeting.</p>
<b>8. Date of Next Meeting</b>	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 1.30pm At the Supper Room, Elgin Town Hall