

# Report

Report to:	<b>Social Work Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>20 June 2018</b>
Report by:	<b>Director, Health and Social Care Executive Director, Education Resources</b>

Subject:	<b>Autism Resources Coordination Hub (ARCH) Update and Approval of the South Lanarkshire Local Autism Action Plan</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise Committee of the background and current progress of the development of the Autism Resource Coordination Hub (ARCH)
- ◆ advise of the development of the South Lanarkshire Local Autism Action Plan to sit within the Scottish Strategy for Autism
- ◆ request approval of the Local Autism Action Plan (Appendix 1) and continued funding of the ARCH

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the updated South Lanarkshire Local Autism Action Plan 2018 – 2023 and the continued funding of the ARCH over the next 5 years of the Action Plan be approved; and
- (2) that the development of a Resource Plan to implement the revised and updated Action Plan be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. Following the closure of the Pan Lanarkshire One Stop Shop based in Motherwell, which was managed by Scottish Autism, in May 2016, interim arrangements were put in place to deliver an alternative South Lanarkshire Autism Service within identified premises in Fairhill Lifestyles, Hamilton. On 4 July 2016, the service provision moved to Hamilton Academicals Football Club, primarily in recognition of the needs of children with autism and their siblings who required a more suitable venue.
- 3.2. Following the school summer holidays in 2016, the ARCH Service moved to its own premises in Burnbank, Hamilton where it remains.
- 3.3. The model of service delivery adopted in ARCH is the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach which seeks to engage and mobilise the capacities of all autism partners in the private, statutory, voluntary and parent led sectors within South Lanarkshire.

- 3.4. Staffing of ARCH incorporates a Coordinator, a part-time Autism Advisor holding relevant experience and a part time Administration Officer. Additional funding has been sourced from Social Work Recourses to recruit an additional member of staff due to the growth of the service.
- 3.5. The ARCH is the flagship of South Lanarkshire's commitment to promoting and implementing the four strategic outcomes outlined in the revised Scottish Strategy for Autism – Outcomes Approach (2015) and Revised Outcomes and Priorities 2018-2021.
- 3.6. ARCH remains active in facilitating the development of services within the community many of which are delivered by the community itself alongside partners in the statutory, private and third sectors. Parent carer support groups are arranged and delivered collaboratively between parent carer volunteers and ARCH staff who deliver guidance, signposting and support to fellow parent carers and people affected by autism themselves. The Lanarkshire Carers Centre has also been commissioned to provide a staff member to co work/facilitate one of the constituted parent carer support groups held in the centre.
- 3.7. A range of Autism stakeholders remain actively involved in collaborating on designing and delivering supports based within the ARCH.
- 4. Further Development of the ARCH Service – February to May 2018**
- 4.1. Engagement and consultation culminated in an Autism survey and subsequent focus groups in the last four months with all stakeholders of 2017. This resulted in identification of five main themes used to agree on three main objectives identified by locality based focus groups comprising representatives of; South Lanarkshire's autistic people, their parent carers and families and a range of Autism partners in the private, statutory and third led sectors.
- 4.2. ARCH was instrumental in distilling the data/feedback from both the survey and focus groups and translating this into The South Lanarkshire Local Autism Action Plan 2018-2023.
- 4.3. The proposals contained in The Local Action Plan were presented to participants at a 'Thank you and Feedback' event on 21 March 2018 and all stakeholders who attended provided positive written evaluations of the event. The event was also attended by Elected Members, Autism Network Scotland and the Scottish Government's Autism Strategy Implementation Service based at Strathclyde University. Autism Network Scotland have also been actively involved as consultants in the design of the South Lanarkshire Local Autism Action Plan.
- 4.4. ARCH has been actively involved in raising the profile of autism within the community, Health and Social Care Partnership, third sector and voluntary organisations.
- 4.5. A common theme consistently identified throughout Scotland's Autism community has been the lack of accessible and clear information regarding Autism and Autism Services. To address this, ARCH developed a public information leaflet which has been widely praised as being clear and concise. This leaflet has been distributed by Autism Network Scotland to the other 31 Scottish Local Authorities as an exemplar of good public information.

- 4.6. A further development was in the production of an ARCH 'teen' leaflet which was produced for teens newly diagnosed with Autism, or who have had little or no accessible information since being diagnosed. The leaflet was coproduced with the full involvement and participation of all stakeholders in the Autism community. Copies can be made available on request.
- 4.7. ARCH is currently producing an under 12's version of the information leaflet and this has, once again, been coproduced with the full participation of all stakeholders in the Autism community including Autistic under 12's themselves.
- 4.8. An important development in public information was the translation of the sibling support pack; 'Your Story, My Story, Our Story' into an electronic version and uploaded on to the South Lanarkshire website.

## **5. Further Developments**

- 5.1. ARCH staff have collaborated with lead staff in Autism Network Scotland, the Autism Resource Centre in Glasgow City Council and a private Autism consultant to develop a basic Autism awareness programme which will be targeted at all stakeholders in the wider community as well as parent carers. This will be to fulfil the objectives of the National Autistic Society Autism training framework and seek to achieve an Autism 'informed' level of awareness within the wider South Lanarkshire community and generic workforce. The basic awareness programme will be in addition to existing provision offered by The Lanarkshire Carers Centre but which is exclusively for parent carers, and the 'Learn on Line' programme for Social Work Resources staff and The Autism Consultation within Education Resources.
- 5.2. The ARCH has been collaborating with the various parent carer/charitable groups who use the centre in undertaking Autism friendly adaptations including a sensory garden, a sensory shed, a pop up sensory tent, and subdued lighting. There have also been successful funding applications submitted by these groups to the local Archdiocese, Scotwest Credit Union and The Bank of Scotland. The Big Lottery has also met with user group representatives in May 2018 and is considering further funding applications to support the commissioning of additional supports and services within the ARCH.
- 5.3. The ARCH has been instrumental in identifying a fully funded SVQ Level 2 in understanding Autism, and supported over 50 practitioners and other stakeholders to undertake the qualification. The intention of this is to seek to establish a network of Autism informed staff available to act as points of contact throughout the Partnership for other staff when dealing with autistic children and young people.
- 5.4. ARCH has also collaborated with Education Inclusion Services in looking to provide the 'Early Bird' programme throughout South Lanarkshire, and have this staffed by National Autistic Society accredited practitioners. This will be in delivering the four programmes: Early Bird, Early Bird Plus, Early Bird Healthy Minds and Early Bird Teen Life.

## **6. The South Lanarkshire Local Autism Action Plan (Appendix 1)**

- 6.1. The Local Autism Action Plan has now been drafted, and incorporates; Outcome Measures, all stakeholders involved in the construction of the Local Action Plan, a glossary of terms and acronyms used in the document and the proposed governance structure of the Local Autism Action Plan.

- 6.2. If approved by Committee, the Plan will be sent to graphics to be presented as the South Lanarkshire Partnership Plan for distribution and inclusion in relevant stakeholders websites. A summary version will also be produced for easy access.

## **7. Employee Implications**

- 7.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1. Staff running costs were agreed and remain as £51,694- £56,865. These costs will continue to be met by a 50/50 split between Social work Resources and Education Resources. Social Work Resources will fund £4,200 for the two years to meet the costs of a school holiday activities provision for children on the Autism spectrum and their siblings. Social Work Resources will continue to meet the running costs of £8,000 per annum.
- 8.2. Social Work Resources and Education Resources have agreed to commit to the current funding arrangements over the five years of the Action Plan to be reviewed on an annual basis.

## **9. Other Implications**

- 9.1. There are no additional risk implications associated with this report.
- 9.2. There are no sustainable development issues associated with this report.
- 9.3. There are no other issues associated with this report

## **10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 10.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.
- 10.2. Full consultation has taken place with a number of stakeholders in the development of the Local Autism Action Plan and these have been referenced in the final plan in Appendix 1.

**Val de Souza**  
**Director, Health and Social Care**

**Tony McDaid**  
**Executive Director, Education Resources**

23 May 2018

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Improve health, care and wellbeing
- ◆ Get it right for children and young people
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities

**Previous References**

- ◆ Executive Committee Report - 8 March 2017
- ◆ Social Work Resources Committee Report – 15 November 2017

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ None

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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