

**Final project newsletter  
May 2007**

**Services for Adults on the  
Autistic Spectrum**

Chief Officers in Community Care have as yet made no commitment to establish ASD Adult Services in Highland. They have requested further information on proposals for the future of the Scottish Society for Autism's service in Highland. At our presentation to Chief Officers on the Outline Recommendations in December 2006, Chief Officers requested further information on several topics. We received clarification on what information was required at a meeting in mid-April 2007, and all required information has now been provided to Chief Officers.

Simon Webster's post as Autism Development Officer has now ended. The post of Project Manager (Learning Disability), currently held by Donellen Mackenzie, is subject to review. Discussions are under way about who will have responsibility for Learning Disability and ASD in Highland in the future. Donellen will remain the key point of contact until decisions are made.

**NAS Scotland  
Adult Campaign  
– see other side**

**Final Recommendations**

The Final Recommendations from this project are based entirely on the views of service users and carers. These recommendations are now available on the Highland Adults with ASD Project website (see web address below). We intend that the Final Recommendations will eventually be considered by Chief Officers and will inform the development of new services. The Final Recommendations describe *how* services should be provided to adults with ASD and their carers, but as no decision has been made by Chief Officers on *what* services should be established, it is not yet possible for them to consider recommendations on how these services should run. Chief Officers should consider the Final Recommendations once they have made decisions about what services will be established for adults with ASD.

**Project evaluation**

The evaluation of the Highland Adults with ASD Project has now been carried out. Thank you to all those people who took part in the evaluation. A draft evaluation report has been considered by the Adults with ASD Planning Group and the evaluation team presented to the Planning Group on 4<sup>th</sup> May. The final evaluation report will be provided to The Highland Council on 10<sup>th</sup> May. Donellen Mackenzie is the contact for the evaluation report (see below).

**Independent Travel Training**

*Going Places* is the new independent travel training pack for young people with ASD who go to mainstream schools in Highland. The first stage of developing *Going Places* was successful, in the opinion of those teachers who were involved in a small pilot project. The training is very adaptable and can be used by people outside of schools. It should be used according to each individual's needs. The training pack has now been revised and will eventually be made available to secondary schools across Highland. *Going Places* will be distributed by the Autism Outreach Education Service. Teachers will be advised on how to use it.

**Scottish Society for Autism**

The contract (Service Level Agreement) with the Scottish Society for Autism has been extended until September 2007. No decision has yet been taken on the future of advisory and consultancy services in Highland, but proposals for future services are now being considered.

**Carers Group**

Parents who wish to campaign for better adult services can contact Melissa Kay of the NAS: 01463 258802, melissa.kay@nas.org.uk

**Adult services directory  
for young people in transition**

Funding has been secured for the production and distribution of a directory of adult services. This will be provided to young people with a disability in 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> year in all Highland Council secondary schools, to help with their planning for adulthood. The directory should be available to schools by Autumn this year. Copies will also be available from the CHIP+ website.

**Guidance for professionals  
on transition planning**

Based on consultation with young people with ASD and other disabilities, draft guidance has now been produced for professionals who support young people to plan for adulthood. The guidance is based on views expressed by young people and is designed to be used by staff in Education, Social Work, Community Nursing, Careers Scotland and Supported Employment services. Highland Children's Forum are working to finalise the guidance, and Highland Council's Integrated Children's Services will organise the distribution of the guidance. Thank you to those young people who participated in the consultation.

## **The National Autistic Society Scotland's Adult Campaign**

is seeking adults with Autism and Learning Disability in the Highlands

The National Autistic Society Scotland is starting a new campaign for better services for adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Scotland. They will be interviewing a range of adults with ASD aged 18+ throughout Scotland.

The main aim of these interviews is to demonstrate the impact of autism on people's lives. The results of interviews will be presented in the form of case studies.

The interviews will be adapted to suit the level of ability of each person. Participants can be sent out a diary or a disposable camera in advance so that they can record a typical day. This would be used to generate information during the interview itself. Picture boards can also be made up in advance if needed.

The NAS will use the information from these interviews to get a sense of how people feel about their lives and to enable decision makers and the wider public to develop an understanding of ASD.

Interviews will be carried out **in the Highlands** in May 2007 at the latest. The NAS will work with the person's parents or key workers to find the best methods for interview.

For adults with ASD who do not have Learning Disability, there is a questionnaire on the NAS website: [www.autism.org.uk/questionnaire](http://www.autism.org.uk/questionnaire)

The more people who take part, the stronger will be the case to local and national government.

If you know someone with autism and Learning Disability who would like to be involved in this campaign, then please contact:

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Policy and Campaigns  
National Autistic Society  
109 Hope Street  
Glasgow  
G2 6LL  
Tel 0141 221 8090  
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