

Regional Autistic Spectrum Disorder Network (RASDN)

Trust Performance Report

1st October to 31st December 2010

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1.0 Executive Summary

Background

The Regional Autistic Spectrum Disorder Network (RASDN) has been established to take forward the DHSSPS ASD Strategic Action Plan 2008/09 –2010/11 (June 2009). The Action Plan was developed in response to the recommendations outlined in the Independent Review of Autism Services across Northern Ireland set up by the Minister for Health (NI) in 2007.

The Independent Review identified, in summary, that while some progress had been made regionally towards the development of ASD-specific diagnostic/assessment, early intervention and family support services for children, there was relative dearth of longer term treatment and continuing care / support service inputs. The Review found that services for older adolescents and adults were particularly underdeveloped in Northern Ireland across all the potential stages of the care pathway/patient journey.

DHSSPS has tasked the new Regional Health and Social Care Board with implementing the Regional ASD Strategic Action Plan (June 2009), under the steer of a Regional Autistic Spectrum Disorder Network Project Board, chaired by Dr Stephen Bergin.

Substantial progress has been made by Trusts over the last quarter in taking forward the key priorities contained in the Regional Action Plan, as follows:

Trust Performance Summary

SHSCT

Area	Update
Overall Headline	The Southern Health & Social Care Trust and its statutory and voluntary agency partners, service users and families, continue to make progress in all areas identified within the ASD Strategic Action Plan.
PfA Waiting List Update for Assessment and Commencement of Interventions	<p>The Trust continues to meet the PfA target in respect of intervention. This has been achieved through redesigning our model of intervention, including the training programme now being offered to all parents post-diagnosis. This new programme has been run twice during this quarter.</p> <p>The programme has been enhanced by the inclusion of inputs from a broader range of professionals, each bringing their own specialist expertise, and covering a wider range of issues pertinent to children with ASD and their families. Feedback regarding this</p>

Area	Update
	<p>revised programme has been extremely positive.</p> <p>The programme of 1:1 intervention has also been remodelled and is now tailored around a child's and family's specific needs, rather than delivering a specific programme. This, along with the new training programme, has resulted in creating some capacity in terms of professional time, allowing professionals to focus on the work and tasks only they can do.</p> <p>Capacity to provide intervention has also been enhanced by having a skills mix now within Autism Services, with Support Workers being able to deliver some of the 1:1 autism-specific work and group work, alongside or under the supervision of professional staff.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Trust was not able to meet the PfA target for assessment/diagnosis in the first 2 months of this quarter, largely as a result of staffing levels. Long-term sickness, maternity leaves, difficulties getting paediatrician input, and a vacant post in the diagnostic team meant the service was under increasing pressure, resulting in children breaching in October and November.</p> <p>However as a result of the extensive efforts by staff to retract this position, including scheduling additional clinics, the Trust was able to report no breaches by December.</p>
<p>Service Improvement: Local diagnostic/assessment care pathway</p>	<p>Whilst the Trust awaits the launch of the regional assessment / diagnostic pathway for children, work has continued internally to consolidate and embed our streamlined care pathway.</p> <p>All children under 11 years are now referred through a single point of access and screened by a Paediatrician with experience in autism. Assessment / diagnosis is provided by a multi-disciplinary team with a defined quorum of staff (Paediatrician at Associate Specialist or Consultant level, SLT and member of Autism Diagnostic & Intervention Service) – ensuring equity of access, quality and service delivery for all children requiring assessment across the SHSCT area. New training has been provided to all the Community Paediatricians re screening tools</p>

Area	Update
	<p>in October / November– GADS and SCQ – to help ensure only those most likely to meet the diagnostic criteria are referred for autism assessment.</p> <p>A mechanism is now in place for clinical staff to meet monthly to discuss and address clinical and practice issues, chaired by the Consultant Paediatrician / Clinical Lead for Autism. Internal workshops are also organised regularly for all staff involved in Autism Services to provide updates re the regional work and to progress local service developments. The most recent workshop was on 5 October, and the next is scheduled for 8 February.</p> <p>Attention now within the Trust is shifting to developing a robust pathway for older adolescents and adults. Internal workshops have been arranged to progress this work, and will incorporate the regional work being taken forward in this area.</p>
Service Development Work - Children	<p>2010/11 funding will be used to provide another band 6 post for the Autism Diagnostic & Intervention Team. This should consolidate our position in meeting waiting time targets re both assessment and intervention, and will provide some capacity for further service development in supporting children with ASD and their families.</p>
Service Development Work – Adolescents	<p>Much of the service development work re adolescents has been undertaken by the new Trans-generational Autism Intervention Team. Current capacity within this part of the Service has been severely affected by staffing issues – 2 of the key staff appointed to the team are now on maternity leave and 1 has gone to another post. Nevertheless, various initiatives have been delivered.</p> <p>Previous Quarterly Reports referenced the EASI Group (Emotions Autism and Sensory Integration) and the pilot has just been completed. The aim of this innovative project was to teach young people how to self-regulate sensory processing, emotions and behaviour, incorporating physical activity as a means of helping achieve this. The project was developed through partnership working between Autism Services, CAMHS and Craigavon Council's Sports Development Dept. An evaluation is now underway.</p> <p>A programme of autism awareness /behaviour</p>

Area	Update
	<p>management training was delivered in Oct / Nov to a group of parents of adolescents from across the Trust. Psychology, OT and Social Work staff delivered this training, which was positively evaluated by the participants. One of the most powerful outcomes seemed to have been simply the opportunity for parents struggling with similar issues to come together, meet each other and share their experiences.</p> <p>A programme of social skills training was provided to 2 different groups of young people in Nov / Dec, delivered by Psychology and the Autism Support Workers. Again, parents reported how much they valued the opportunity to chat informally with each other whilst they waited for their child. Peer support for parents is something we hope to look at in the not too distant future.</p> <p>Planning has been progressed during this quarter to deliver an autism-specific programme re sexual health and relationships to parents of adolescents with ASD across the SHSCT area. The 2 day programme will be delivered in each of the 3 localities in March, with 15 places available in each. The programme has been developed and will be delivered by Autism NI, and is being implemented through a partnership between Autism NI, The Trust's Promoting Well-Being Team and Autism Services.</p> <p>Planning is also well underway re setting up a youth project for young people with AS and high support needs. This is a partnership between the Trust, Enable NI, and Drop-Inn Ministries. The young people are being phased into the project from January so that staff get to know them and ensure there is sufficient support in the initial stages. It is hoped that a positive experience in the project will give the young people the skills and confidence to transfer into the mainstream youth club at some point in the future; and that the provision of buddies from the youth club will help them and staff build their knowledge and skills re autism, so that other young people with ASD can successfully access the club.</p> <p>The cross-border CAWT Turning the Curve project is bringing additional resources to the agencies</p>

Area	Update
	involved, including SHSCT, which are to be used specifically for young people 14 to 18 years with ASD in transition. Plans are being progressed re how to best use these resources within the CAWT requirements, and in a way which will complement current provision and maximise outcomes for young people and their families.
Service Development Work – Adults	<p>The 2010/11 funding will be used to recruit another band 6 professional and a 0.5wte band 4 worker to address the needs of the 18 to 25 year old population, post-diagnosis.</p> <p>This will complement and build on the work undertaken by the new Intervention Team to date, and the work of the Autism Development Worker within adult Mental Health Services. There is currently no capacity to support or provide services to anyone over 18 who does not have a learning disability or diagnosed mental health condition, so this post will begin to address this gap.</p>
Summary List of all ASD-specific funded posts	<p>1.0 wte Co-ordinator for Autism Services 2.0 wte Social Workers 0.5 Clinical Psychologist 5.0 Autism Support Workers (2 new posts and 3 Family Support Workers upgraded to band 4) 1.5 OTs (core funding) 1.5 SLT 1.0 Autism Development Worker (Adult Mental health funding) 1.0 ADIS Manager 5.2 Autism Diagnosticians /Therapists 1.6 Admin / technical support</p>
Training Initiatives	<p>General awareness including strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 half-day sessions provided to Early Years providers – 75 places – Oct /Nov <p>Parent training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 programmes of 3 sessions delivered to parents of pre-school and primary school age children Oct / Nov - programme re behaviour management delivered to parents of adolescents Oct / Nov <p>Social skills training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - programme of training provided to 2 groups of adolescents Nov / Dec <p>Specialist Clinical Training:</p>

Area	Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GADS / SCQ delivered to Community Paediatricians Oct /Nov B Positive – building emotional well-being – 6 staff trained to deliver programme - Nov
Reference Group Engagement	<p>Members of the Ref Group attend all local ASD Forum meetings when all service developments are discussed. Meetings held this quarter:</p> <p>A meeting outside of this was convened by the Head of Service in October, specifically to discuss the 2010/11 funding proposal with the Reference Group.</p>
Working with Other Agencies	As described above in sections re Service Developments
Other	Two service users have been identified to join the Southern area Reference Group, and will attend the next ASD Forum meeting on 29 Jan

BHSCT

Area	Update
Overall Headline	<p>Staff and Regional Reference group team unite to develop a sustainable, effective and timely service for people with ASD and their families through efficient use of resources and innovative service redesign.</p>

Area	Update
PfA Waiting List Update for Assessment and Commencement of Interventions	<p>Children's Services</p> <p>The Trust continues to breach the target for access to diagnosis & commencement of interventions, though it is anticipated that no child in Belfast will have to wait longer than 13 weeks for diagnostic assessment or commencement of interventions by April 2011.</p> <p>In November 2010, a waiting list initiative commenced and staff commitment to this process has been outstanding. The figure of 222 children, in breach of the 13 week target for diagnostic assessment at the end of the last quarter, more than halved by the end of December 2010 despite a steady flow of new referrals.</p>
Service Improvement: Local diagnostic/assessment care pathway	<p>The trust is awaiting the launch of the new regional care pathway for children. BHSCT has implemented all the recommendations from the most recent draft of this pathway e.g.</p> <p>Single point of referral</p> <p>Centralised waiting list</p> <p>Multidisciplinary Assessment</p> <p>Multi agency working</p>
Service Development Work – Children	<p>The 10/11 CSR monies will be used</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. to increase capacity and efficiency on our diagnostic & intervention service (0-18) by involving Occupational therapists and CAMHs practitioners. II. to contribute to the contract with an external agency which will have focus on adolescents/young adults and family support.
Service Development Work – Adolescents	<p>(As above)</p>

Area	Update
Service Development Work – Adults	<p>The 10/11 CSR monies will be used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. to increase capacity and efficiency on our diagnostic & intervention service (18+) by involving Occupational therapists and associate psychologists. II. to contribute to the contract with an external agency which will have focus on adolescents/young adults and family support. <p>Work has commenced in adult services with leads from PH&D, LD and MH meeting with ASD coordinator and reference group to work on capacity to deliver on the adult care pathway due to be produced by RASDN.</p>
Summary List of all ASD-specific funded posts	<p>Children - ASD specific posts</p> <p>5 Band 7 Speech & Language Therapists</p> <p>0.5 Band 7 Occupational Therapist</p> <p>1.1 Consultant Paediatrician</p> <p>1 Band 8C Consultant Clinical psychologist</p> <p>4 Autism Intervention Therapists (2 Band 6 in post , 2 Band 5 appointed)</p> <p>1.5 Band 3Assistant/Admin (10/11 planned)</p> <p>Band 8a ASD Coordinator</p> <p>0.25 Band 7 CAMHs practitioner</p> <p>Adult</p> <p>0.4 Band 7 Clinical Psychologist</p> <p>1 Band 5Associate psychologist (10/11 – planned)</p> <p>0.5 Band 7 Occupational Therapist (10/11 – planned)</p>

Area	Update
	<p>The above staff are funded from ASD specific monies since 2005. All staff (except paediatricians) are involved in diagnostic and intervention work. It should be acknowledged that more time is given to providing services for people with ASD by staff from other services which adds to the capacity of this virtual team. Historically, some ASD specific funds were used to fund contracts with EAGLE and Forward Steps – this is now recurrent.</p>
Training Initiatives	<p>General awareness training in Autism is offered by the Beeches and in house awareness training is offered to health visitors.</p> <p>There are plans to increase the number of specialised practitioners in diagnostics through training and there are ongoing discussions in adult services about the need for various levels of training for clinical staff are increasingly being asked to offer service to adults with ASD.</p>
Reference Group Engagement	<p>The Belfast reference group members have contributed significantly in last quarter. At least one representative (often more) attended a total of 16 trust meetings and 7 regional meetings.</p> <p>The shared thinking has allowed the trust to make more informed decisions about how we best offer services in the future using a multi agency approach. The reference group are invited to attend all meetings that involve service planning and design.</p>
Working with Other Agencies	<p>A new model for intervention (0-18 years) is emerging in Belfast and we have already centralised our intervention waiting list and have a single point of referral. A multi agency group have agreed to meet monthly and are committed to providing quality services which are responsive to the needs of children with autism and their families.</p> <p>The trust staff (SLT/OT/CP/AIT/CAMHs/SW) are joined by staff from the EAGLE project, Forward Steps (who we have contracts with) as well as Education (Oakwood Advisory Service and Educational Psychologists). This new sharing of responsibility and increased communication is a</p>

Area	Update
	challenge for staff and yet families are already reaping the benefits of a system that is negotiated for them.
Other	

WHSCCT

Area	Update
Overall Headline	<p>The Autism Service within the Western Trust secured funding from the Western Board in April 2008 for the development and expansion of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Team for Children's Services.</p> <p>The Trust appointed a lead Consultant Clinical Psychologist to lead the service and a multi-professional team was established providing assessment/diagnosis and intervention for children with autism. At this point in time there was an extensive waiting list for children awaiting an assessment /diagnosis of autism. The Trust implemented a recovery plan and became compliant with the PfA target for assessment in early November 2010.</p> <p>The Autism service continues to be developed and enhanced with the focus now being placed upon intervention and treatment to support those who have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.</p>
PfA Waiting List Update for Assessment and Commencement of Intervention	The WHSCCT met the PfA target for assessment in early November 2010 and it is anticipated that the target for intervention will be met in January 2011.

Area	Update
<p>Service Improvement: Local diagnostic/assessment care pathway</p>	<p>Children's The Trust is represented on the sub-group for the Care Pathway for Children and Young People with Transitions to Adult Services.</p> <p>The Trust is currently awaiting the 'Children's' Diagnosis & Assessment Care Pathway which is due to be issued in early 2011 for implementation. Preparatory work is ongoing locally on the implementation of the referral pathway as outlined by Regional ASD Group.</p> <p>Plans are in place to develop a paper on integrated services for Autism within the WHSCT.</p> <p>Adults Planned assessment and diagnostic workshop took place on 16/06/10 as part of the adult & transitions subgroup to develop a standardised assessment tool. The Trust is represented on this sub-group.</p> <p>Work is then required when adult service provision is developed to incorporate the standardised care pathway being developed by the Regional Adult & transitions Sub-Group.</p>
<p>Service Development Work - Children</p>	<p>On the basis of the Trust receiving the proposed monies for 2010/11, the funding will be utilized to enhance assessment by funding the shortfall that currently exists within the additional paediatric session and fund another paediatric session which had been originally earmarked in the original HWIP plan for 2010/11.</p> <p>Part of the funding will also be invested to increase a 0.8wte early intervention therapist post to a 1wte to support treatment and intervention in accordance with the target.</p> <p>Part of this funding alongside existing resources will be utilized to appoint an ASD co-ordinator Band 8a for adults and children, to take forward the transitions from children's services to adult services and establish interface links with adult services.</p> <p>£17K The WHSCT is committed to helping meet the needs of families identified through carers</p>

Area	Update
	assessment and plan to do this by issue of cash grants/direct payments approved through the Family Support Panel that is currently established within the Children's Mental Health & Disability Sub-Directorate.
Service Development Work – Adolescents	<p><u>CAWT: Cooperation and working together 'Turning the Curve' Autism Support Project</u></p> <p>'Turning the Curve' is one of 12 EU projects funded under the umbrella of 'Putting patients, clients and families first', worth £24 million facilitated via the CAWT partnership (WHSCT, SHSCT, HSE (West) and HSE (DNE))</p> <p>Project budget of £1,100,000 across the 4 areas of the Border region (10 counties)</p> <p>Focus of the project is to support those ASD Children and young people aged between 15 and 19 and their families and carers through the transitioning process. It will be an interagency and inter sector approach, providing specific training relating to the transitioning experience of this client group and it will provide directly employed personnel to provide the social support tailored to the transition process</p> <p>The Trust will support the transition of approximately 15 ASD children and young people and support approximately 50 families and 25 other carers (total beneficiaries 190 minimum assuming each family has a minimum of 3 members)</p> <p>Each of the 4 areas will have an ASD Transition Officer. 10 WTE ASD Transition Support Workers will be employed by the project, with each area having 2.5 WTE or approximately 94 hours per week. The makeup of these posts are as follows and are based on the needs of each area</p> <p>WHSCT 1 x 1.00 wte (37.5 hours per week) 3 x 0.41 wte (15.5 hours each per week) 1 x 0.27 wte (10 hours per week)</p> <p>SHSCT 3 x 0.75 wte (28 hours per week each)</p>

Area	Update
	Both of the HSE areas are employing 9 people with contracts that will read 'minimum of 10 hours maximum of 37.5 per week).
Service Development Work – Adults	<p><u>Floating Support : An Adult ASD Service</u></p> <p>In 2010 The Trust in conjunction with Supporting People (D.S.D) has re-designed an existing peripatetic floating support service for people with disabilities to develop a specific service for adults with ASD. This service is operational from November 2010.</p> <p>This is the first service of its kind, developed in partnership between the Housing Executive, the Supporting People Programme, the Western Trust and Autism Initiatives to address the housing support needs of people with ASD.</p> <p>Autism Initiatives, a voluntary sector provider will deliver the new floating housing support service for 20-30 new clients with ASD. The service which is costing £99,000 a year is being funded through the Supporting People Fund which is managed by the Housing Executive.</p> <p>The service is an excellent example of what can be achieved through a partnership approach when bodies such as the Housing Executive and Western Health and Social Care Trust work together with other service providers such as Autism Initiatives</p>
Summary List of all ASD-specific funded posts	<p>Funded posts within Children’s Services;</p> <p>Lead Consultant Clinical Psychologist – Band 8c, 1wte. Focus - Leads Children’s ASD Service within the Trust.</p> <p>Community Paediatrician – Associate Specialist – 0.58wte. Focus medical assessment and diagnosis.</p> <p>Community Paediatrician – Staff Grade – 0.4wte. Focus - medical assessment and diagnosis.</p> <p>Clinical Psychologist – Band 7 – 2wte. Focus – clinical assessment/diagnosis and intervention.</p> <p>Speech & Language Therapist – Band 8a – 1wte.</p>

Area	Update
	<p>Focus – assessment/diagnosis, intervention and training.</p> <p>Speech & Language Therapist – Band 7 – 1wte. Focus – assessment/diagnosis, intervention and training.</p> <p>Occupational Therapist – Band 7 – 1wte. Focus – assessment/diagnosis, intervention and training.</p> <p>Health Visitor – Band 7- 1wte. Focus – assessment/diagnosis, early intervention and training for parents.</p> <p>Health Visitor – Band 6 – 0.7wte. Focus – early intervention and training for parents.</p> <p>Social Worker – Band 7 – 1wte. Focus – family support and intervention.</p> <p>Social Worker – Band 6 – 2wte. Focus – family support and intervention.</p> <p>Autism Practitioners – Band 6 – 1.8wte. Focus – intervention and family support.</p> <p>Team Administrator – Band 4 – 1wte. Focus – Manages waiting lists, appointments, leads admin support.</p> <p>Team Secretaries – Band 3 – 1.6wte. Focus – admin support to clinical staff, organises and facilitates meetings.</p>
<p>Training Initiatives</p>	<p>The Trust has and continues to facilitate a range of training initiatives aimed at children, parents/carers and professionals. Detailed below is a brief overview of the types of training currently being provided;</p> <p><u>Parent Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health visitor parent training programme - Toilet training programme - Sleep training programme - Behaviour workshops - Occupational Therapy workshop <p><u>Initiatives for Children</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incredible Years Dina Dinosaur Programme

Area	Update
	<p>This was a pilot programme offered to 6 children who met the criteria for this specific intervention in August 2010. The aim will be to offer this programme Trust wide in 2011.</p> <p>This is a programme offered to children who are 8 years old or under who have a diagnosis of ASD. The aim is to promote positive peer social interactions between the children, to increase co-operation with teachers, and to reduce verbal and physical aggression in the classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Skills Group The development of a social skills groups for both boys and girls within the ASD Service was piloted and evaluated. A research project (detailed under 'other' section of report) focusing specifically on evaluating a social skills group was completed. The ASD Service now hopes to roll out these groups across the trust as part of ongoing service development and can progress this service in line with research outcomes. - Anxiety Management Group An Anxiety Management Group Intervention was piloted in Enniskillen during May and June 2010. The overall aim of the intervention was to provide anxiety management strategies to children with a diagnosis of ASD. A mainly cognitive behavioural approach was adopted and activities were adapted to focus on the strengths of individuals on the Autism Spectrum. Questionnaires were completed pre and post intervention with a reduction in measures related to anxiety and stress recorded. Plans are in place to extend this type of group work Trustwide. <p><u>Training for Professionals</u></p> <p>Health Visitor Training In line with The Independent Review of Autism Services and the Healthy Child Programme a three hour training programme was offered by the ASD Health Visitors along with the NDEC to all health Visitors Trust wide. The aim of the training was to give information about ASD with special emphasis on child development and early indicators or "Red Flags" to be aware of when completing the two year</p>

Area	Update
	<p>old assessment which will be offered to all children by their own Health Visitor. Over 100 Health Visitors received this training which highlighted the priorities within the Action Plan which were relevant to Health Visiting and ASD and the structure of the regional ASD network group.</p> <p>DISCO Training</p> <p>The Trust has commissioned three members of staff to undertake DISCO training which is due to be completed in January 2011.</p> <p>In-House Training for Autism Team</p> <p>Members of the ASD team continue their professional development by attending a range of in-house courses facilitated by the Management & Development Unit within the Trust.</p> <p>Senior Speech and Language Therapists within the team have provided Elklan training to other staff members.</p> <p>Community paediatricians have facilitated in-house training on medical assessments to other staff members within the Autism team.</p>
Reference Group Engagement	<p>The WHSCT Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Forum has now been established. The Forum meets on a quarterly basis. The Regional Action Plan and the Trust's performance against the actions will be monitored through this forum.</p> <p>To assist and ensure that there is meaningful engagement and consideration for current operations by the ASD forum, 2 sub-groups have been established one for children's services and one for adults. Both sub-groups have met in November and December and will continue to meet. The three key themes being taken forward within the sub-groups are; Transitions / Pathways, Service Development, Preparation for Independent Living and Communication. A fourth theme in relation to service improvement has also been identified and this is being taken forward by the Assistant Directors within Children's and Adult Services.</p> <p>The ASD co-ordinator job description has been</p>

Area	Update
	<p>drafted. The Trust has shared this with the reference group for comment . The post will be recruited into following confirmation of recurring funding for this position.</p> <p>A draft booklet has been developed outlining the range of autism activities the Trust has facilitated and are currently ongoing.</p>
<p>Working with Other Agencies</p>	<p><u>Parent Information Days</u> This is a collaborative venture between the WHSCT ASD Service, WELB Autism Spectrum Advisory Service and ASD specific Voluntary Organisations; Autism NI, NAS, Autism Initiatives. The main objective of the training is to provide an overview of local Autism Services to parents and to increase knowledge of the roles of each Autism Service and the supports and services provided across health, education and the voluntary sector.</p> <p><u>Transition Workshop – Preparing your child for their first educational setting</u> This one day workshop for parents of children who have a diagnosis of ASD/awaiting assessment of ASD who are preparing their child for transition to their first educational placement was delivered jointly by WELB Autism Spectrum Advisory Service and WHSCT ASD Service.</p> <p><u>Joint Training with the WHSCT Health Visitors and the WELB Autistic Spectrum Advisory Service (ASAS).</u> This training is offered Trustwide to all parents who are on the waiting list for assessment or who have had a Diagnosis of ASD. This training runs twice annually.</p> <p>The aim of the training is to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a knowledge base towards understanding Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) - To develop a knowledge of child development in relation to ASD. - To provide strategies to promote communication, social interaction and organisational skills to create a meaning play environment that enhances learning potential. - To promote an understanding of the ABC of

Area	Update
	Behaviour
Other	<p><u>Service Evaluation Research Project</u> In collaboration with Queen's University Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, the ASD Service undertook a research project evaluating a social skills group for children with a diagnosis of ASD. This research examined the impact of this intervention on social competence and stress or difficulties experienced by the young people. The young people who participated in the group and their parents were interviewed pre – and post intervention for their views and opinions and standardized questionnaires were also employed. Results highlighted increased in social competence and a decrease in stress. Parents and the young people enthusiastically endorsed the group and the research will have service implications in the delivery of social skills groups within the ASD Service.</p>

NHSCT

Area	Update
Overall Headline	<p>The Trust has now been successful in recruiting a new ASD Co-ordinator and is hopeful that she can start by 1 March 2011. The Trust was pleased to have been able to include a member of the Reference Group on the interview panel for the ASD Co-ordinator. The ASD adult link worker will also return from maternity leave on 1st February 2011 and the link service will shortly be back to full complement.</p> <p>The Trusts Paediatric Project has made considerable progress and there has been a significant reduction in waiting times for assessment and no child is waiting longer than 13 weeks for intervention following diagnosis. The Trust expects to have no breaches of the PFA 13 week waiting for assessment target by the end of March 2011. The Children's Service has also now centralised all of its administrative processes on a single access site from 1 January 2011. The Children's Service is also in the process of internally recruiting an Autism Intervention Therapist whom we hope will be in post in April. The service also appointed a service lead and added a part-time clinical psychologist from</p>

Area	Update
	internal re-configuration and all of these changes should streamline and augment the service.
PfA Waiting List Update for Assessment and Commencement of Interventions	December 2010 Position (Children's) Waiting for assessment - 138 waiting assessment 7 waiting longer than 13 weeks Significant reduction in the length of the longest wait to 105 days (end of Sept position 174 days) Waiting for intervention No child is waiting longer than 13 weeks for the commencement of intervention following diagnosis
Service Improvement: Local diagnostic/assessment care pathway	The Trust is awaiting the launch of the new regional diagnostic care pathway for children.
Service Development Work - Children	Children's Project is ongoing: Centralisation of all administrative processes commenced in September 2010 and was completed on the 1/1/11 Autism Intervention Therapist (09/10 funding) has been offered internally and it is hoped this post will be in place after Easter .The wte for this post has been increased through reconfiguring existing funding for ASD assistant currently vacant. Appointment of Service lead for the Children's service from within existing resources 1/12/10 Securing of 0.4wte Clinical Psychology for the children's service (assessment and intervention) 1/1/11 through reconfiguration within clinical psychology however some back fill will be required from 10/11 bid when appointed Await the outcome of the 10/11 Bid for additional Clinical Psychology input Development of pilot intervention family support model within multi agency support teams for schools
Service Development Work – Adolescents	
Service Development Work – Adults	Day Opportunites service development for adults with autism
Summary List of all ASD-specific funded posts	Children's 0.4 wte Community Medicine 1.0 wte Occupational Therapist (0.6 diagnostics, 0.4 wte intervention) 1.0 wte 8a Service lead/Speech and Language Therapist

Area	Update
	<p>1.0 wte 7 Speech and Language Therapist 0.4 wte 7 Speech and Language Therapist 1.0 wte Generic assistant (Vacant) 0.65 wte Intervention Therapist (currently in recruitment process) 0.64 Clinical Psychologist awaiting confirmation of funding (10/11) before commencing recruitment process (some back fill from this post to core services) 1.0 WTE 8a ASD Co-ordinator 2.0WTE 6 ASD Link Workers</p>
Training Initiatives	<p>Training is provided to teachers and classroom assistants as part of the NEELB ASD Support service</p> <p>Training is normally provided to all parents attending group assessment however the focus on the target has meant that this is not currently happening</p> <p>The Trust continues to provide Autism Awareness training to adult services through it's service agreement with Autism NI.</p>
Reference Group Engagement	<p>Meeting Oscar Donnelly Mildred Bell with reference group 8.15pm 3rd November</p> <p>Local ASD Forum meeting 3rd December 2010.</p>
Working with Other Agencies	<p>Draft Guideline developed for the interface between Education Psychology and the Diagnostic Service across NHSCT further meeting arranged in February</p> <p>The Trust is currently funding a range of services with Autism NI, NAS and Aspergers Network to provide training and support to service users and carers.</p>
Other	

SEHSCT

Area	Update
Overall Headline	<p>South Eastern Trust has identified a Lead Director for ASD Services who chairs the local ASD Forum. Membership of the Forum has been extended to include child and adolescent mental health services, Juvenile Justice Agency, voluntary sector reference group members, education and representation from children's and adult disability and adult mental health programmes of care.</p> <p>South Eastern Trust has provided nominations to all the RASDN Working Groups and workshops. The Trust is developing its children's ASD Pathway in line with the draft Regional Children's ASD Pathway.</p> <p>Dates for quarterly meetings of the Trust ASD Forum were agreed for 2010/2011 and supplemented by a workshop. The Trust will seek to enhance communication with reference group members and a workshop is to be planned to include key stakeholders from the Trust and the local Forum to review processes. Given the significant workload arising from RASDN Workstreams, workshops and ASD Service delivery and service development, the Trust is seeking to establish the post of ASD Coordinator in line with other Trusts. This post is critical and will facilitate communication and more active involvement of the local reference group.</p> <p>Meeting the PFA target for access to assessment and intervention services has been a key priority. The Trust has agreed an action plan to target all those waiting over 13 weeks. The Trust is anticipating that the 13 week access target will be met by the end of March 2011.</p>
PfA Waiting List Update for Assessment and Commencement of Interventions	<p>Due to sickness absence of three staff from the specialist ASD Team capacity for assessment was reduced during this reporting quarter resulting in breaches in the access to assessment target. The Trust however has prioritised this issue increasing the sessions provided by experienced clinicians. All those waiting in excess of 13 weeks have been scheduled for appointment. Assessment by the end of February 2011. Due to the action plan agreed the Trust is anticipating that the PFA targets for access</p>

Area	Update	
	<p>to assessment and interventions will be met by year end.</p> <p>Waits at the 31 December 2010: 133 children were on the waiting list specifically for diagnostic assessment for ASD; 37 of those children were waiting > 13 weeks.</p> <p>Waits for commencement of specialist treatment following assessment: a total of 18 children were waiting at 31 December 2010; 1 of which was waiting > 13 weeks.</p>	
Service Improvement: Local diagnostic/assessment care pathway	<p>The Trust nominated an experienced clinician to the Regional children's diagnostic/assessment care pathway workstream. Whilst the Trust awaits the launch of the new regional diagnostic care pathway for children, work has been progressed to roll out the model operational in one legacy Trust area across all sectors. This model is in keeping with the Regional pathway work.</p>	
Service Development Work - Children	<p>South Eastern Trust committed all investment funding in 2009/2010 to the development of first line practitioners posts. The priority for the investment funding in 2010/2011 across adult and children's services is the appointment of an ASD Service coordinator. The Trust has re-profiled a family support service provided by a voluntary sector organisation and integrated this staff member into the Trust ASD Team and care pathway.</p>	
Service Development Work – Adolescents	<p>The development of services for adolescents and adults is a priority for 2010/2011. The involvement of child and adolescent mental health services in the local Trust Forum was identified as important by reference group members.</p>	
Service Development Work – Adults	<p>South Eastern Trust has already established a small specialist adult ASD service in one Legacy Trust area and plans to roll out the service across the wider Trust area. Investment for 2010/2011 will enhance adult ASD Services through the appointment of an intervention worker.</p>	
Summary List of all ASD-specific	0.8	Band 8b, Clinical Co-Ordinator of

Area	Update	
funded posts		Speech & Language Therapy ASD Team
	1.0	Band 8a, Clinical Specialist Speech & Language Therapist
	0.8	Band 7, Lead Speech and Language Therapist ASD
	0.6	Band 6, Specialising Speech and Language Therapist
	0.2	Band 6, Specialising Speech and Language Therapist
	0.6	Band 5, Speech and Language Therapist
	0.2	Band 4, Speech and Language Therapy Assistant
	8 staff	Band 4, Developmental Intervention Therapists i.e. 3 F/T and 5 P/T
	0.2	Associate Specialist Community Paediatrics
	0.1 per month	Community Paediatrician
	0.2 per week	Consultant Paediatrician
	0.9	Consultant Clinical Psychologists
	1.6	Band 7 Clinical Psychologists
	2 sessions per mth	Band 8b Principal Clinical Psychologist (AAC)
	2 sessions per mth	Band 8a Senior Clinical Psychologist (AAC)
*the posts listed include legacy Trust commitments as well as posts funded from 2009/2010 / 2010/2011 ASD investment funding		

Area	Update
Training Initiatives	<p>South Eastern Trust has developed a menu of training ranging from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 day training module. What is ASD and methods of management – This is offered to all parents/carers as the first steps in intervention services. • High functioning ASD/Aspergers – strategies for coping – 2 day module • 5 day intervention – training – TEEACH methodology. • Training on ASD specific assessment tools and processes delivered by clinicians who are licensed to train. • Training – detailed history taking. • Rigorous induction training for all staff involved in ASD specialist team / clinics to include observational practice/shadowing and supervised practice. • All training for parents/carers is delivered through a mix of lectures/workshops and experiential training. This provides the opportunity to meet other parents and share experiences and support. • Training for parents/carers is an integral part of the intervention pathway. • Awareness training for health visitors in SET has been progressed.
Reference Group Engagement	<p>South Eastern Trust Forum is scheduled quarterly and dates agreed in advance. In addition a workshop was held in June 2010 and the reference group made a presentation on their priorities for 2010/2011 investment in October 2010. The Trust through its reform programme for children's services is re-profiling internal Trust meetings and will advise reference group members of revised structures and seek representation from reference group members at children's and adults meetings.</p>

Area	Update
<p>Working with Other Agencies</p>	<p>Children's Services have a well established outcomes board involving community, voluntary sector and statutory sectors working in a community development approach to maximise inter-agency working.</p> <p>Adult Services have well developed processes with local Housing Executive services and supporting people schemes to support vulnerable young people in tenancies.</p>
<p>Other</p>	

2.0 Finance

Trust FYE (£k) recurrent ASD Specific Investments

Trust	Pre CSR	08/09 & 09/10	10/11	Total
WHST	460	200	77	277
NHST	264.5	275	119	394
SHST	145	170	139	309
BHST	100	203	157	360
SEHST	100	155	126	281
NI	1,069.5	1,003	637*	1,640*

*Available funds for 2010/11 includes £19k set aside for Training and maintenance of the Regional Reference Group

Deployment of ASD Funding

SEHST

South Eastern Trust deployed £103k in 2009/10 which has been fully applied in developing children's ASD services

- Team Administrator Band 3 – 1.0wte
- Clinical Psychologist – 0.7wte
- Speech & Language Therapist – 1.0wte
- ASD Co-coordinator – 0.3wte

Non recurrent funding was identified by SEHST in addition to these ASD investments to pilot a family support service providing a parent to parent family support advisor to each of the three localities in the Trust. Continuation of this scheme will be dependent on further investment 2010/11 for ASD services.

2010/11

1.0 wte ASD Co-ordinator

1.0 wte Family Support worker (formerly SLA)

1.0 wte Interventions Worker for Adults

BHST

Belfast Trusts is currently deploying £203k from 2008/09 across the Trust, investments include:-

- Speech & Language Therapist – 1.0wte
- Speech & Language Therapist Assistant – 0.5wte
- Admin & clerical Band 3 – 0.5wte
- Paediatric Consultant – 0.1wte

- Autism Intervention Therapist – 2.0wte
- ASD Coordinator – 1.0wte

2010/11

3 x Uplifts from Band 6 to Band 7 OTs for Children
 0.25 wte CAMHS
 1.0 wte Band 3 Support Worker for Children
 Contracted Family Support (SLA)
 1.0 wte Band 5 Associate Psychologist for Adults
 0.5 wte Band 7 OT for Adults

SHSCT

Southern Trust has deployed all available resources from 2008/09.

1.0 wte Co-ordinator for Autism Services
 2.0 wte Social Workers
 0.5 Clinical Psychologist
 5.0 Autism Support Workers (2 new posts and 3 Family Support Workers upgraded to band 4)
 1.5 OTs (core funding)
 1.5 SLT
 1.0 Autism Development Worker (Adult Mental health funding)
 1.0 ADIS Manager
 5.2 Autism Diagnosticians /Therapists
 1.6 Admin / technical support

2010/11

1.0wte Band 6 Autism Diagnostic & Interventions Worker for Children
 1.0wte Band 6 Post Diagnosis for Adults
 0.5 wte Band 4 Post Diagnosis for Adults

CAWT Posts – to 31/3/13

3 x 0.75 wte (28 hours per week each)

NHSCT

Northern Trust have proposals currently being evaluated to deploy the outstanding £50k from 2009/10, this includes;

0.2 wte Associate Specialist
 0.65wte Autism Intervention Therapist

2010/11

- 0.64 WTE 7 Clinical Psychologist £35,251
- £24,000 for family support for Children's services through direct payment's.
- £35,000 Day Opportunities Adults

WHSCCT

Western Trust have deployed investments, this includes:-

2008/09

- Early Intervention Therapist

- Health Visitor

2009/10

- Psychologist
- Health Visitor
- X1 Paediatric session
- Family support contract (children & adults)
- Voluntary sector support (adults)

2010/11

- 1.2 Paediatric sessions – Associate Specialist
- Band 6 – Autism Practitioner – 0.2wte
- Part of this funding alongside existing resources will be utilized to appoint an ASD co-ordinator Band 8a for adults and children, to take forward the transitions from children's services to adult services and establish interface links with adult services.
- £17k - The WHSCT is committed to helping meet the needs of families identified through carers assessment and plan to do this by issue of cash grants/direct payments approved through the Family Support Panel that is currently established within the Children's Mental Health & Disability Sub-Directorate.
- Band 6 Key Worker 0.5wte to take forward provision of an adult ASD service.

CAWT Posts – to 31/3/13

1 x 1.00 wte (37.5 hours per week)

3 x 0.41 wte (15.5 hours each per week)

1 x 0.27 wte (10 hours per week)

3.0 Priorities for Action Targets

Target 7 – Autism: “Trusts should, by March 2010, ensure that all children wait no longer than;

(1) 13 weeks for assessment following referral and

(2) A further 13 weeks for commencement of specialised treatment

The following table notes the most recent Trust waiting positions @ **December 2010**:-

13 weeks for assessment following referral

Trusts	March 10	Dec 10	Comments
NHSCT	33	7	Trust are working with HSCB Performance Management Service Improvement Department to ensure target will be met by March 2011
BHSCT	142	94	Recovery Plan ongoing. Trust will comply with target by April 2011
SEHSCT	45	37	Trust are working with HSCB Performance Management Service Improvement Department to ensure target will be met by March 2011 – Trust noted a temporary loss of capacity
SHSCT	0	0	Target met
WHSCT	112	0	Target met
NI	332	138	

A further 13 weeks for commencement of specialised treatment

Trusts	March 10	Dec 10	Comments
NHSCT	0	0	Target met
BHSCT	0	5	Trust are on target
SEHSCT	0	1	Trust are on target
SHSCT	0	0	Target met
WHSCT	13	5	Trust to comply with target by January 2011

NI	13	11	
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29th January 2010