

## **SUBMISSION FROM SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Q1. Would people with autism in Scotland benefit from a national strategic approach?**

1. Yes. A national strategic approach would be helpful in reflecting and addressing both the developmental and lifelong implications of autism as well as the wide range of presentations of the condition. A national strategic approach with clear quality indicators for identification and diagnosis, intervention and monitoring, as well as transition management and multiagency working from early years through to adulthood would help meet the needs of people with autism more effectively.

### **Q2. Is a Scottish Autism Strategy Act needed to make a national ASD strategy effective?**

2. No. The Education (Additional Support for Learning) Act (Scotland) 2004 and Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) already provide an adequate framework for all children and young people with Additional Support Needs of whatever nature. Current legislation allows for local authority response to identify and meet needs through best value local configuration of services; while current legislation could be extended to further address unmet needs.

### **Q3. Are the duties proposed appropriate to enabling a national ASD strategy for Scotland?**

3. Yes. Provided they include the full range of autism spectrum condition needs.

### **Q4. Are the duties proposed appropriate to guide local agencies to take a strategic approach to autism services in their area?**

4. Yes. Provided they require clear evidence of inter-agency planning and coordination to develop services that address the full range of autism spectrum condition needs associated with a range of variables including age, cognitive ability, language ability, sensory issues and emotional well being.

### **Q5. Are there any other comments you wish to make about this proposal?**

5. Currently gaps and limitations in generic services and across agencies can result in unmet needs. This generally relates to the highly variable presentation of autism and lack of awareness or underestimation of the pervasive nature of the condition regardless of ability, skills and diagnosis.
6. If assessment of need and provision of services continues to be provided largely by generic services (a model of which there are many examples of good practice), a national strategy, with ongoing evaluation of local authority planning and

provision, would be helpful in ensuring minimum standards and greater consistency of approach across Scotland.

Catherine Reynolds  
Manager, GIRFEC & Additional Support  
6 September 2010