

Network News

The Newsletter of the Scottish Autism Service Network

Part of the The National Centre for Autism Studies
Issue 1

June 2006



SCOTTISH AUTISM SERVICE NETWORK

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of '**Network News**' – the newsletter of the Scottish Autism Service Network!

Amongst other goals, the Scottish Autism Service Network (SASN) has the aim to provide regular updates and information regarding ASD and related topics to people across Scotland with an interest in ASD. The newsletter will endeavour to contain Scottish focused information about local groups and services, relevant training courses and conferences, events, research, news and examples of good practice.

Network News will be disseminated regularly with the purpose of involving those receiving the newsletter in directing its content. This means that we hope to gain reviews, submissions, articles, details of research, information about forthcoming events and activities, and examples of good practice from those who are involved with the SASN and who read the newsletter.

We are delighted that this first issue contains articles and information from many different sources and would like to thank those people concerned for their input. If you have ideas for future articles or topics, please do not hesitate to let us know by contacting us via the details on the back page.

You can also access the newsletter on our website at www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk or phone us for more paper copies to be sent to you on 0141 950 3072. If you know someone who would like to subscribe to **Network News** or become a member of SASN, please see contact details for the Network on the back page.

I hope you enjoy the first issue of **Network News**!
Dawn Larman, SASN Manager

Call for ASD Specific Co-ordinators

Are you an ASD specific co-ordinator that has been employed via a specific local authority, education department and/or health board? Do you know someone who is? The Network are keen to make contact with all ASD co-ordinators across Scotland to find out more about their work and local developments, and to assist them with networking with other ASD co-ordinators across Scotland.

ASD Multi-Professional / Multi-Agency Groups

Are you involved in an ASD multi-agency group, steering group or working party in your area? Do you know of any such groups in your area? The Network is keen to develop contacts with any existing groups to find out more about the work they are doing and with the long term plan of supporting them to link in and share good practice with other such groups across Scotland.

If you are interested or involved in one of these areas or know of a person/group who fits these categories, please contact the Network at: scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk or on telephone 0141 950 3072

Scottish Autism Network Audit

Many thanks to those of you who recently completed our audit questionnaires. We are currently compiling the information which should be available by our next edition of **Network News** in August 2006 when we will provide an overview and details of where to access the full results.

We are still keen to gain more views from people with ASD and their family members and therefore if you have not filled in a copy of the questionnaire we would be grateful if you would do so by visiting www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk and filling in an online version or phoning us on 0141 050 3072 for a copy to be sent to you.

People with ASD, family and friends needed to take part in Forums

Do you want to be able to help shape multi-professional working, good practice and access to information about local resources for ASD across Scotland? If so, please join us at our Forum event!

The Scottish Autism Service Network are holding two 'forums' on Thursday 22nd June at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.

We invite you to give your views on how the Network should be developed and what you would like included in the Network. You will also have an opportunity to pass on information about services and resources in your area.

One forum will be for people with ASD and the other for family/friends of people with ASD. The forums will be held on the same day, but the two groups will meet separately. To allow for as many people as possible to attend the forums we are holding each one twice - once during the day, at 11am until 1pm, and once in the evening at 6pm until 8pm. Public Transport costs will be paid.

For further information and to register a place visit our website at www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk and fill in the registration form. Alternatively, you can e-mail scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk or phone 0141 950 3072 for more details.

What is the Scottish Autism Service Network?

The Scottish Autism Service Network (SASN) began in October 2005 with 2 year funding from the Scottish Executive with a remit to develop a hub for direction to provision for people affected by ASD and their families and for sharing good practice, information and resources with local professionals, groups and services across Scotland. The SASN is not a direct service provider and will not be replicating services that others provide, but will incorporate a combination of the following:

- Passing on information on existing good practice and resources
- Establishing and supporting a range of ASD collaborations
- Providing a structure for sharing advice and receiving support
- Sourcing existing materials, training, information and publications
- Dissemination of impartial ASD related information
- Communicating news about research, publications, and grants
- Holding conferences and disseminating regular newsletters
- Routing queries to local professionals, organisations, and services
- Facilitating local autism networks and supporting those that exist

The SASN's overall aims are to provide ASD related Scottish focused information and to develop a locally linked national autism network of interlinked professionals providing mutual support, examples of good practice and useful relevant information.

If you require any further information or wish to discuss the work of SASN further, please email scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk, telephone **0141 950 3071** or visit <http://www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk>

Please see inside for Information about local groups and services, research, events and conferences and other interesting articles.

Local Groups and Services

The Princess Royal Trust Parents Group, Falkirk

The PRT Parents Group, which takes place on the first Tuesday evening of each month (term time), is a group of parents whose children are predominately on the autism spectrum, or have related difficulties. Around 12 parents meet to support each other and share information about autism, education, benefits and anything else which might be useful and sometimes there is a social or fun element attached.. A PRT Carers Centre member of staff is also on hand to speak to parents privately or to answer queries you may have. Meetings usually take place in the PRT Carers Centre in Falkirk and new members are always welcome. For details phone 01324 611510, visit www.carersfalkirk.org.uk or email jenni.f@falkirk.carers.net.



BORDERS ASPERGER & AUTISM GROUP SUPPORT

B.A.A.G.S aims to raise knowledge, understanding and acceptance of Asperger Syndrome and Autism. The aims for the

groups are to offer the opportunity; for persons with Asperger's to share their views, experiences and coping methods and for the families, partners, work colleagues, professionals, neighbours etc. to all have a point to gather support, information, advice and encouragement. The group meets on the last Monday of each month at the Kings Arms Hotel, Melrose at 7.30pm and the 2nd Wednesday of each month for adults with Asperger's at New Horizons, Galashiels at 7.30pm. For further details visit www.baaqs.co.uk, contact admin@baaqs.co.uk or phone 01896 668961.

2nd VENUE

2nd Venue is a **social get-together for all adults living in the Scottish Borders who have Asperger Syndrome**, or think they may have Asperger Syndrome. The evenings are relaxed and give everyone the opportunity to meet other people who have had similar experiences at school, work, or with family/friends etc., and the chance to complain, laugh and share their points of view. The group is facilitated by the Borders Asperger and Autism Group Support and *Funded by SBC Community Grant Scheme*. Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at New Horizons, Galashiels. To find out about joining the group visit www.baaqs.co.uk, contact baagsmail@aol.com or phone 01896 668961.

FAIR

An **advice and information service for people with learning disabilities** and their families in **Edinburgh**. Although FAIR are not an autism specific service, a lot of the information they hold is relevant to children and adults with autism. They publish a monthly newsletter and various other publications about the services and supports available in Edinburgh and offer a confidential, independent and free service to people in Edinburgh. For further details telephone 0131 662 1962 or visit www.fairadvice.org.uk.

The Triad Project – Inverclyde

NAS Earlybird Presenters, from early year's backgrounds in education services, recently undertook a pilot project which explored the development of the early year's ASD services. The pilot ran from November 2005 to March 2006, by which time all the children who were referred, and who met the criteria for the team involvement, were being supported in their pre-5 establishment. The aims of the project were to work with individual children in integrated establishments and to provide staff training and support. Criteria for team involvement spanned from concerns re communication, to the possibility of ASD having been discussed with parents, to positive diagnosis.

The team offered a service that involved working with and alongside staff explaining autistic spectrum disorder, it's impact on the child, social development, learning, play and behaviour. Regular visits and flexible sessions, either one-to-one or in groups, took place. Staff were available for discussions, attending and contributing to reviews, for suggesting / implementing alternative strategies and in supporting the development, implementation and review of IEP's. Appropriate materials were supplied as required and a lending library of books and materials were available.

As Earlybird programmes in Inverclyde are delivered by teams involving professionals from education services, social work services and department of health, the commitment to inter-agency working has readily and willingly extended to the early years support services. Inverclyde Council plans to extend the project until June 2007. For more details contact the Triad Project on telephone number 01475 714726.

Research

Face processing in Autism and Williams syndrome - Debbie Riby, Stirling University

Over the past three years Debbie has been researching how individuals with Autism and Williams syndrome (WS) understand faces and how this links to aspects of social functioning. As well as studying identification skills, communicative aspects of understanding faces (expression, eye gaze, facial speech) have been explored. Using a comprehensive battery of tasks has allowed a cohesive insight into abilities and deficits. This is currently being followed up with investigations of the arousal of faces and how individuals view their social environment using innovative and naturalistic eye tracking methods. Contact Debbie at deborah.riby@stir.ac.uk for more details.

Strengthening the Social Network of Children with ASD's During Their Transition from Primary to Secondary School - Eleni Konstantinidou, University of Strathclyde

The main aim of this project is to establish whether being part of a Social Art Group supports children with autism during their transition from primary to secondary school through an arts activity programme with mainstream peers. The hypothesis is that familiarity developed among all participants through the programme will be judged as helpful. The activities of the Social Art Group started in January 2006 and are taking place in a Scottish primary school with continuation in to the child's secondary school for a few months. For further details contact Eleni at eleni.konstantinidou@strath.ac.uk.

Merger of Autism Speaks and National Alliance for Autism Research

Autism Speaks and the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) have recently completed a merger and the combined organisation will be known as *Autism Speaks*. The consolidation of the two charities is based on their joint commitment to raise funds in the UK to accelerate biomedical research to determine and understand the causes and biological basis of autism spectrum disorders. Through that understanding they aim to discover and promote new ways of improving the quality of life for all those affected. It is the first organisation with this specific causal focus in the UK. For information about Autism Speaks visit <http://www.naar-uk.org/> or telephone 01491 412311.

Imitation Deficits in Individuals with High Functioning Autism and Asperger's Syndrome: An Analysis of Disordered Gesture and Apraxia - Heidi Ham, University of Edinburgh

The current research is a collaboration among several universities including The University of Edinburgh, The University of Modena and Reggio-Emilia in Italy, and The Medical College of Wisconsin. An Apraxia Battery designed for adult neurological patients has been redesigned and adapted to children on the autism spectrum. The battery is based on a language model and therefore evaluates gestural comprehension and production in all modalities including visual, verbal, tactile, and direct imitation routes for processing. The information will then be applied to theories of social communication and social cognition. For further details please contact Heidi at heidi.ham@ed.ac.uk.

Musical Interaction and Communication with children with Autism – Baishali Mukherjee, University of Strathclyde

This study aims to provide children with autism with music of defined forms in musical interaction sessions to motivate them for communication, to express emotion, for active participation in musical interaction, and to develop overall interaction and communication skills. Children's vocal and bodily responses to the music, and expressive narratives of communications, have been observed and analyzed from videos of the sessions. How melodic and rhythmic patterns in music attract children and motivate interpersonal communication has also been explored. This study will also look at autistic children's ability to respond differently to different moods in music and whether it is possible to describe how music affects autistic children as well as the form of children's responses to music beyond disability and culture. To discuss this work please contact Baishali.Mukherjee@strath.ac.uk.

Are you involved in research regarding ASD?

If so, we'd be interested to have details for possible inclusion in future newsletters and on our website. We are interested in ASD related research; whether large or small scale, medically/government funded, PhD study, or social research. However, we are especially interested in research that is taking place across Scotland. Please contact the Network at scottishautismnetwork.org.uk or telephone 0141 950 3072.

Events and Conferences

The **Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability (SCLD)** are running a series of workshops in 2006 for those working in the field of learning disabilities: 'Whose plan is it anyway?', 'Relationships and Sexuality', 'Having our say about good support' and 'It's a risky business'. There are some supported places available. Contact vswu.admin@ccpscotland.org for further details.

Challenging Behaviour in Autism - 14th June 2006, Edinburgh

Costs: Professional £116.33 and parents/carers/individuals with an ASD £70.50. For details contact The National Autistic Society Conference and Events Department via e-mail at conference@nas.org.uk or phone 0115 911 3367.

National Autistic Society Workshop on Legislation and Education: How it affects people with ASD - 1st July 2006, Aberdeen.

Costs: £5.00 for parents, £7.50 for parent couples, £25.00 for professionals, free for people with ASD. Contact Margaret Clark at margaret.clark@nas.org.uk or phone 01224 576821 for details.

The Gathering - 19th to 21st June 2006, SECC, Glasgow.

The Gathering is a charity and voluntary sector fair for Scotland, organised by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations. Exhibitors, conferences, seminars and workshops from members of voluntary organisations will take place and entry for visitors is free. Visit <http://www.gatherscotland.org.uk> or call 0131 474 6152 for details.

National Autistic Society *help!* programmes 2006

Help! provides support for parents and carers of school age children, young people and adults with a recent diagnosis of an ASD. The aim is to provide post diagnostic information and advice and to develop knowledge and understanding of autistic spectrum disorders, positive management strategies and local support services. Contact the *help!* administrator, Lauren Jarvis on 0141 285 7114, for details. Programmes take place across Scotland and planned dates for 2006 are detailed below.

One Day Programme for parents/carers of children aged 3 to 12:

Wed 11th October – Glasgow

Two Day Programmes for parent/carers of children aged 3 to 12:

Wed 21st & Thurs 22nd June – Newton Stewart, Dumfries and Galloway

Tues 14th November and Wednesday 15th November – Elgin, Moray

Full programmes (6 sessions) – for parents/carers of children aged 5 to 12:

Fort William (Highland) - starting Wed 14th June

East Kilbride (South Lanarkshire) – starting Wed 23rd August

Arbroath (Angus) – starting Wed 13th September

Stirling – starting Thurs 19th October



Autistic Pride Day – June 18th 2006

June 18th has been adopted as Autistic Pride Day around the world and this year's theme is **Celebrate Neurodiversity**. The day is for positive events relating to autism spectrum conditions, for people on the

spectrum and their families and friends. Events such as walks, parades, picnics and parties are expected, for people to have fun and relax and to know that people with autism are valid members of the community. In 2005, at the first Autistic Pride Day, there were many celebrations and it is expected that there will be even more in 2006.

The day is a celebration of the neurodiversity of autistic spectrum individuals and an opportunity to express the view of many on the spectrum that there should be greater consideration shown for members of the autistic community as unique individuals.

Aspies For Freedom developed the Autistic Pride Day initiative last year in order to start a process of education and activism, with the goals of promoting the basic human rights of autistics and finding a valued home for their individual voice and talents in modern society. Aspies For Freedom are an autism rights group whose aims are to educate the general public with such initiatives and their website can be accessed at <http://www.aspiesforfreedom.co.uk/> or they can be contacted at admin@aspiesforfreedom.com.

For information about Autistic Pride Day visit <http://www.aspiesforfreedom.org/autisticprideday/>.

Fife Education Service Autism Strategy Group

Fife Education Service set up an Autism Strategy Group in 2005. The group is well established and has developed an Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategy Document and a Development Plan. The Strategy identifies six strands: *Quality Assurance, Identification and Intervention, Continuing Professional Development, Support and Advice, Partnership Working, Involving Families*

These strands are described in greater detail in the Development Plan, and form the basis for monitoring the progress of the strategy. The Strategy Group's membership involves representation from parents, educational staff and other partner agencies. The Group meets regularly and is responsible for overseeing the implementation of a variety of ASD initiatives in Fife related to education. For more information about the group or the documents and plans they have produced please contact Yvonne Carling on 01592 417760

Epilepsy and autism

Some behaviours associated with autism can be similar to those displayed during certain seizures. This means that getting a correct diagnosis can be difficult for people with autism. It is therefore important that an epilepsy specialist is involved in the diagnosis process. People with autism have a higher incidence of epilepsy than those without. Figures vary but estimates suggest that around 25-35% of people with autism also have epilepsy.

People looking for support and information on epilepsy can contact Epilepsy Scotland's confidential freephone helpline on **0808 800 2 200**, log on to their website at www.epilepsyscotland.org.uk and email any enquiries to enquiries@epilepsyscotland.org.uk. They provide a range of information leaflets, a network of support groups, training courses and a Community Support Service in Glasgow for people with epilepsy and an additional disability, such as autism. For more information on epilepsy and Epilepsy Scotland services please get in touch.

Delivering a Healthy Future Consultation

Mr Lewis MacDonald, Deputy Minister for health and Community Care launched '*Delivering a Healthy Future: An Action Framework for Children and Young People's Health in Scotland – A Draft for Consultation*' on Monday 10th April for a 3 month consultation. Individuals with an interest in ASD may wish to read the document and pass on their views as such documentation may impact upon children with ASD, their families and those working in this area. To view visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/04/07102245>.

The deadline for responses is 7th July 2006 and they can be submitted via a response sheet at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/health/dhf.asp>



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Sigourney Weaver Stars as a Woman with Autism in New Film

Snow Cake is an intriguing tale about a middle-aged Englishman (Alan Rickman) and the relationship he develops with Linda, a woman with autism (Sigourney Weaver).

Rickman is fantastic as the troubled Alex, who reluctantly shares his journey across Canada with a young woman named Vivienne (Emily Hampshire). Following a terrible accident, Vivienne dies and Alex, full of remorse, makes his way to see her mother Linda. From the moment he meets Linda, Alex is drawn into her world which is encompassed by routines, fears and anxieties alongside her passion for all things sensory. Alex decides to help arrange Vivienne's funeral and the film tracks his journey as he struggles with his own past and his gradual understanding of Linda and the world as she experiences it.

Weaver spent months preparing for her role which included considerable time spent with Ros Blackburn, a British woman with autism. Those who know of Ros will see the special characteristics and qualities of Ros and others with autism portrayed vividly by Weaver.

The film, directed by Marc Evans, from a script by Angela Pell (a British writer with a son with autism), is compassionate, funny, and gives an interesting insight in to the world of someone with autism. It should appeal to those involved in the world of autism, but also to anyone who enjoys an intelligent, unique and enjoyable cinematic experience. Planned released in the UK is September 2006.

Review by Dawn Larman (with kind thanks to Autism Cymru for the opportunity to watch the film at their recent International conference).

New Books and Resources

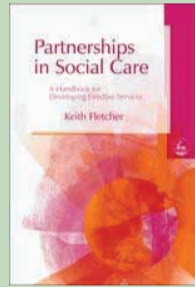
Please note, we do not specifically endorse any of these books or publishers and the information provided is not our opinion, but information taken from publishers. We have provided this information so that Network members are kept up to date about new books regarding ASD that are being published and can explore them further for themselves. In the future we also hope to have more reviews of books and resources by network members.

Autistic Spectrum Disorders in the Secondary School by Lynn Plimley and Maggie Bowen (ISBN: 1-4129-2311-5). £14.99; Paul Chapman Publishing.

This book looks at making good transitions from primary school. It includes; using a special interest as a tool for learning, record-keeping, IEPs, sharing information across the school, subject disapplication, formal examinations, social strategies to employ in a large high school, useful tips for staff, work experience, careers, self-advocacy, challenging behaviour, and the importance of working closely with parents. For details tel 020 7324 8703 or visit <http://www.paulchapmanpublishing.co.uk>.

Patients with autistic spectrum disorders: information for health professionals by Christine Deudney. £1.00 excl. vat

Published by The National Autistic Society, 2006. This booklet is aimed at all health professionals who come into contact with an adult or child with an ASD for reasons other than autism. Doctors, nurses, dentists and opticians will all find this useful. Visit www.nas.org.uk/pubs or phone 0845 458 9911 to order.



Partnerships in Social Care: A Handbook for Developing Effective Services by Keith Fletcher (ISBN 1 84310 380 X). £17.99; Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

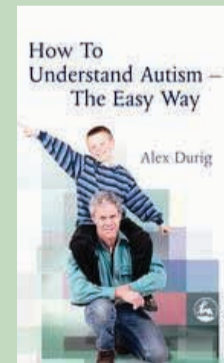
This is a practical handbook for professionals engaged in planning strategic partnerships in health, social care and education services. The author proposes considerations for setting up new partnerships, discusses the common problems of building successful partnerships, and offers guidance and practical tips on dealing with them. For details phone 020 7833 2307 or visit <http://www.jkp.com/>.

Going to the dentist: a guide for people with autism and Asperger syndrome by Kate Wilkes. £0.50 excl. vat; The National Autistic Society, 2006.

Helpful strategies on making this experience as painless as possible. Visit www.nas.org.uk/pubs or phone 0845 458 9911 to order.

The Asperger Social Guide: How to Relate to Anyone in any Social Situation as an Adult with Asperger's Syndrome by Genevieve Edmonds and Dean Worton. £15.99; Paul Chapman Publishing.

This is a self-help manual written by two AS adults who offer others the benefits of their experiences and aim to empower those with ASD, carers and professionals in the understanding of Asperger's Syndrome as a difference rather than an impairment and to encourage adults to live positively and successfully with the gifts that Asperger's Syndrome provides. For details tel 020 7324 8703 or visit <http://www.paulchapmanpublishing.co.uk>.



How to understand autism - the easy way by Alex Durig (ISBN-10: 1- 84310-791-0). £12.95; Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

This is a completely absorbing book, easy to read and can be read in a couple of hours, although more time will be needed to assimilate the information given.

The central theme relates to ASD as a different mental process of meaningfully perceiving the world and, to this extent, calls on us to understand that process and work with it rather than trying to bring the person with ASD into the perceptual world of the non-autistic. It challenges professionals to make environments "autism-friendly", and added to this some very good ideas on how to teach and interact with people with ASD. These are only a few of the themes in this book but it is a book I would highly recommend professionals to read.

Review by Ann James, Chair of Fife Action on Autism

For details of this book phone 020 7833 2307 or visit <http://www.jkp.com/>.

How to contact the Scottish Autism Service Network:

Telephone 0141 950 3071

E-mail: scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk

Visit: www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk

The Disability Rights Commission Disability Debate

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) is urging disabled people to take part in a major debate to help shape their future. While there has been progress in improving the rights of disabled people in employment, education, access to health and public services, there are still many problems faced by disabled people in their everyday lives. The DRC aims to use the Disability Debate to develop a long-term public policy agenda in Scotland to secure disabled people's equal citizenship. It will also help produce a clear agenda to take forward into the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR), which will take over the DRC's work, to ensure it pushes forward the frontiers of disabled people's rights and opportunities.

As part of the debate, the DRC has published ten critical issues that must be addressed if equality is to be made a reality rather than an aspiration for Scotland's one million disabled people. The DRC are now calling on disabled people to give their thoughts. To get a copy of the DRC publication detailing the ten critical issues - **Putting disability at the heart of public policy in Scotland** visit www.disabilitydebate.org or phone the DRC Helpline on 08457 622 633 and 'have your say'.

Clannalba Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

Clannalba is the Scottish Society for Autism's respite and assessment centre for children and adults with autism. At Clannalba, residential respite care and family support are brought together as a unique integrated service, offering flexible, individual support to children and adults with autism and their families. This year is Clannalba's 10 year anniversary and the staff are organising various activities to celebrate this occasion including a sponsored lock-in at Lanark Police Station, service user's sponsored walk, staff and service user outing and picnic, dinner dance at Shawlands Hotel on the 30th September, and a Garden Fate in Lamington to raise the profile of the society within the local community and further promote the interaction of the local primary school and children with Service Users and facilities at Clannalba. For more information telephone on 01259 728 372 or visit <http://www.autism-in-scotland.org.uk/news/ClannalbaRaffle.shtml>

Tac-Pac at Daldorch House School

Tac-Pac is an activity pack based on the idea of tactile play. The skin is the largest sensory organ in the body, covered in receptors of varying densities. For children with autism, learning difficulties and sensory impairment, touch may be the primary means of contact. The aims of Tac-Pac are to heighten levels of awareness and arousal, to promote responses to stimuli, and to promote tactile play; alongside eliciting pre-intentional communication through reflexive responses, responding to them, defining them more clearly and if possible developing them into intentional communication.

There are 3 sets of materials. The current work using set 1 consists of a fan, 2 wooden spatulas, a little mop, a pot scourer and massage oil. A CD player, CD, blanket and water or juice at the end of the session are also used. Pupils enjoy a selection of classical music as they are fanned, patted over their arms, back and legs, flicked with the mop, squashed gently with the scourer, massaged with oil into their hands (and sometimes feet) and then relax in their blanket. The idea is simple yet so effective with staff feeling empowered and the pupils enjoying the sensations. For more information, contact Liliias Nicholls (Daldorch Speech and Language Therapist) at Liliias.Nicholls@nas.org.uk.

Terminology: We have used the terminology 'Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)' throughout **Network News** to refer to people with autism, Asperger's syndrome and those with related neurological differences. However, some items in the newsletter are written by individuals from other agencies and therefore we have not necessarily changed their use of terminology. We are aware of different views about classifying people on the autism spectrum when referring to them as a group of people, and are also aware that some people do not like to be classified at all. We are currently considering this, are gaining views from those concerned, and will make a statement in due course about standardised terminology that the SASN will use in future. In the meantime we will continue to use ASD as it is a standard generally used term.

The views, opinions and information contained in Network news are not automatically those of the Scottish Autism Service Network or the University of Strathclyde, and reference to approaches or views does not necessarily imply that these are endorsed by SASN or the University of Strathclyde. SASN and the University of Strathclyde cannot be held responsible for any incorrect information.

Due to demand for inclusion of submissions in this newsletter, some items will be carried over until the next edition.