

Network News

The Newsletter of the Scottish Autism Service Network

Part of the The National Centre for Autism Studies
Issue2

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SCOTTISH AUTISM SERVICE NETWORK

Welcome!

Welcome to the 2nd edition of 'Network News' - the newsletter of the Scottish Autism Service Network.

The Scottish Autism Service Network (SASN) endeavours to provide regular updates and information about ASD and related topics to people across Scotland with an interest in ASD. We aim to contain information about local groups and services, relevant training courses and conferences, events, research, news and examples of good practice across Scotland.

Network News will be disseminated regularly and aims to involve Network members in directing its content. 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 Network and who read the newsletter. 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.

We would like to thank all those who have submitted information for this issue. Any information that we were not able to include will be carried over to future issues.

Please note that you can also access this, and the previous edition, of Network News on our website at www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk/newsletter 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 the Network, please see our contact details on the back page.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Network News.
Dawn Larman, SASN Manager

Scottish Autism Service Network - 2nd Conference

Thursday 30th November 2006
University of Strathclyde, Jordanhill Campus

"PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS IN SCOTLAND"

Are you involved in working in the world of ASD?
Do you have good practice and/resources to share?
If so...

SASN invites you to showcase your work at the next SASN Conference.

We are offering the opportunity for those within specific services, projects and organisations to display examples of their work.

Stands will be available at the especially extended intervals for practitioners to display information about their work, resources/methods used and to share, with other delegates, the good practice that is being achieved throughout Scotland.

Delegates will have an opportunity for networking with a range of other practitioners and services as well as participating in Workshops which will be to discussing specific issues relevant to their work.

Keynote Speakers include: Dame Stephanie Shirley- Shirley Foundation and UK Chair of Autism Speaks.
Hugh Morgan - Chief Executive Autism Cymru

For further details contact: scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk or phone 0141 950 3072 or visit our website at www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk

Forums

The Scottish Autism Service Network in partnership with the Lothian Learning Disability Review ASD Sub group are holding two forum events for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), family and friends
Thursday 5th October 2006 in Edinburgh
(Venue to be confirmed)

SASN and the Lothian Learning Disability Strategy Review ASD Sub group are keen to ask people with Autism Spectrum Disorders, family members and friends about the services and support they receive.

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 groups will meet separately. To allow for as many people as possible to attend we are holding each one twice- once during the day **10am-12pm** and once in the evening **6.30-8.30pm**.

At the forum delegates will be asked to join small discussion groups which will focus on a number of topics that have been put forward by participants in advance. All the groups will have facilitators to direct the discussion and someone to record their comments. If participants wish they can write down their comments or use their supporter/advocate if they have one. These topics, comments and suggestions will be used to inform the review sub group and in the development of the SASN Network to ensure that the issues that matter to people with ASD are included.

Do you want to be able to help shape multi-professional working, good practice and access to information about local resources for ASD in Lothian?

If so please join us at our Forum event!

Public transport costs will be paid.

For further information please email:

scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk, phone 0141 950 3072 or visit our website at: <http://www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk>

The Scottish Autism Network has a remit to develop a hub for direction to provision for people affected by autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and for sharing good practice, information and resources with local professionals, groups and services across Scotland. This includes providing relevant autism spectrum disorders related information and providing information regarding services and resources that are available locally across Scotland.

The Scottish Autism Network will be connecting and communicating with those interested in autism spectrum disorders; including people on the autism spectrum, family members, friends, carers and practitioners working with them.

The overall aim of the project is to facilitate more effective Scotland wide networking regarding autism spectrum disorders and one of our primary objectives is to help practitioners working with people upon the autism spectrum and their family members to link together to share good practice and information.

The Scottish Autism Network does not provide direct services and will not be replicating services that others provide, but will be directing individuals to appropriate resources and sources of 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 3072**

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 Information

The East of Scotland Professional Interest Group in Autism

The group has met termly, in Edinburgh, since 1999. It has a practitioner focus with a database of 136 members (and a core of 30-50) professionals, paediatrics and adult services, in health, social work, education, higher education and voluntary services (who attend on a regular basis). Members are from East, Mid and West Lothian as well as Edinburgh. There is usually a speaker at meetings, for instance; someone giving examples of good practice, outcomes from local strategy developments and working groups, presenting research, or passing on information about developments. The group is linked to the NAS who assist with administration. For further details please contact Dave Rowe on telephone 0141 221 8090 or e-mail Dave.Rowe@nas.org.uk or Marion Rutherford at marion.rutherford@luht.scot.nhs.uk

EarlyBird Plus - an Award Winning Programme!



At the annual Scottish Education Awards (Achieving, Excellence, Celebrating Success) held at the Hilton, Glasgow, on 2nd June, 2006, Angie Campbell was given the award of Runner-up Education Supporter of the year. Angie, a special needs auxiliary of Highholm Primary School, Port Glasgow, was

nominated by Mary Kangley, for her dedication in supporting her son who has Asperger's Syndrome.

Mary and Angie attended the first NAS EarlyBird Plus Programme to be run in Inverclyde, from September – December 2005. EarlyBird brings together parents and professionals to train together in teams. The EarlyBird approach helps understanding of Autism and communication, and then makes sense of behaviours. The autistic child's different way of viewing the world, thinking and learning is explained, and strategies are put in place to help learning and social skills. Teams share information, and plan together, to provide consistency between home and school. Angie said "It's about changing ourselves, and what we do, not about changing the child."

BORDERS ASPERGERS AND AUTISM GROUP SUPPORT (BAAGS) Fundraiser

October 7th 2006 - £10

Fundraiser for BAAGS, with a free buffet, access to a licensed bar, and music by The Strangers.

For more information visit www.baags.co.uk, phone 01896 668961 or email baagsmail@aol.com

Social Stories by Ellie McLavin, parent – Dunfermline

We have recently started developing social stories to help our 4 year old son, on the recommendation of our Clinical Psychologist. So far, these have been a great help and I would recommend them to other parents to try as a tool to improve your child's understanding and behaviour. The following websites have been recommended to us to help put the stories together:-

<http://www.thegraycenter.org> and <http://www.do2learn.com>. Also, your local Speech and Language Therapist should have a set of 'board maker' symbols (simple black and white line drawing pictures for different daily activities and items) which you can use. We will shortly be attending a workshop to help us put appropriate social stories together - anyone interested in attending such a workshop should ask their Speech and Language Therapist if they know of one running in their area.

The Cinema Exhibitors Association Card

This is a national card that can be used to verify that the holder is entitled to a free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema.

To apply for the card, you will need to meet one or more of the following:

- Be in receipt of the disability living allowance / attendance allowance
- Be a registered blind person
- Be a holder of a disabled person's rail card.

The card is valid for 3 years from the date of issue and application forms are available from cinemas across the UK who support the card or at CEA's website at <http://www.ceacard.co.uk>. You will need to include a picture of the person requiring the card, a copy of proof of their disability, and a cheque for £5.

For further information contact The Card Network on telephone 0151 348 8020, or minicom/textphone 0151 356 7113

Newsletter designed & created by Mark Murphy (mark.murphy@ntlworld.com)

Research

Social Cognition and Central Coherence in Young People with Additional Learning Support Needs - Catherine Best, 3rd Year PhD student, Division of Psychiatry, University of Edinburgh

The Social Communication Questionnaire (based on ADI) has been used to identify young people with additional learning support needs who score in the autism, PDD, and non-autistic ranges on this measure. The performance of these young people on measures of theory of mind and central coherence have been examined. Some of the young people in the 'autism' and 'PDD' groups have a diagnosis of an ASD but many do not. This data may indicate whether there is a continuum of autistic traits or whether there is a qualitative divide between the cognitive profile of those who meet formal criteria for this disorder and those who do not. Catherine would be pleased to discuss any aspect of this work and can be contacted by email at s0344764@sms.ed.ac.uk

Visuo-Spatial Cognition in Autism and Fragile X Syndrome - Carrie Ballantyne, Glasgow Caledonian University

The overall aims of this PhD are to investigate visuo-spatial cognition in individuals with Autism and Fragile X Syndrome (FXS) and also to investigate possible relationships between biases in visuo-spatial cognition and executive functioning. So far, comprehensive investigations have been carried out using a standardised battery of tasks which compare the cognitive profile of children with Autism and FXS. This highlighted particular disparities between the two groups. Following on from this, tasks which demand both perceptual and constructional processing at the visuo-spatial level are being developed. These will specifically tap into any processing biases that these two groups display. If you require any further information about this research please contact Carrie at carrie.ballantyne@gcal.ac.uk

The herbal treatment of anxiety in children with Asperger's syndrome

Funded through a PhD research studentship with Napier University School of Community Health this plans for an analytical phenomenological investigation into the experience of herbal treatment for anxiety in children with Asperger's syndrome. If you would like more information, please contact Catriona Stewart at c.stewart@napier.ac.uk.

Inclusion: does it matter where pupils are taught? An Ofsted report on the provision and outcomes in different settings for pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities

For details visit <http://sen.trb.ac.uk/viewArticle.aspx?contentId=12629>

A systematic literature review on the perceptions of ways in which support staff work to support pupils' social and academic engagement in primary classroom (EPPI Centre)

For further details visit

http://epi.ioe.ac.uk/EPPIWeb/home.aspx?page=/reel/review_groups/tta_adults/evew_one.htm

Reactive Colours

The Reactive Colours© website presents an opportunity to explore together methods of open learning, development, and creativity. Reactive Colours© is intended to be a free resource, on the internet, (and offline in other contexts where there may be a cost for additional support material) in which Intellectual Property will be protected, but open to development.

Reactivities© are reactive multimedia activities that respond to touch and sound, in a manner that is completely responsive to user input. Reactivities© may be standalone classroom activities or free to explore through the Reactive Colours© web portal. Reactivities© are designed to encourage individuals with autistic spectrum differences and learning disabilities to use computers, and through which they can develop mouse, keyboard, programming and screen skills and deliberately emphasise the characteristics of computing that are of potential significance to people on the autism spectrum.

The Reactive Colours© research project is based in the Centre for Research in Art & Design, Cardiff School of Art & Design, University of Wales Institute, Cardiff.

It has been awarded funding through the NESTA Learning Programme and Cardiff School of Art and Design.

Reactive Colours© and Reactivities© design, title, and concept are currently copyright protected © Cardiff School of Art and Design 2005, all rights reserved.

Visit www.reactivecolours.org for more details.

Events

Breakthrough Strategies for Autism Spectrum Disorders - Raun K. Kaufman.

Saturday 16th September 1 - 3.30pm (entry free)

University of Strathclyde McCance Lecture Theatre 1, 16 Richmond Street Glasgow G1 1XQ

Designed for parents and professionals, the lecture will focus on methods of Autism treatment. It includes an introduction to the techniques of *The Son-Rise Program*® as well as Mr. Kaufman's story.

For details & to book visit

<http://www.autismtreatmentcenter.org.uktour/#register> or email

tour@autismtreatmentcentre.org (no telephone numbers for the UK)

Please be aware that this is not a Scottish Autism Network or National Centre for Autism Studies event, but is simply taking place at the University of Strathclyde.

Autism Connections in Edinburgh - Child & Youth Studies Network Playfair Library, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh

Tuesday 19th September - 10.00-3.00pm

A 'knowledge exchange' event by the Edinburgh University's Child and Youth Studies Network, as part of a series of ESRC-funded seminar. This seminar will bring together the experiences from a range of professionals from the Edinburgh locality, to connect them and provide a forum for sharing best practice, learning about different support services and projects. Free to attend with lunch included.

Visit www.hss.ed.ac.uk/kt/child/htm or phone 0131 6514203 to register

Children in Scotland one-day conference - organised by the Opening Doors to Learning project & supported by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

Inchyra Grange Hotel, Falkirk

Tuesday 19 September 2006

This one-day conference will explore ways in which families with children who have additional support needs can best be supported from birth to primary school. Book online at www.childreninscotland.org.uk/ogs, or contact Radha Singh on 0131 222 2438 or email:

rsingh@childreninscotland.org.uk.

Autism Argyll

Sexuality Issues and ASD Workshop

Wednesday 20th September 2006 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Venue: George Hotel, Inveraray

Speaker : Mike McCreadie - Head of Education at Daldorch School

Parents £7 Others £35

This workshop is aimed at exploring how we construct the notion of sexuality, what it is and what it means for learners. For further information and to book a place contact:

Maureen Mackintosh at m.mack@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01546 600004

CETA - The Centre for Education and Training in Autism

RU:teen 6 session 'Teenage Survival Programme' for Parents of Adolescents diagnosed with ASD

Tuesday 2nd October 2006 – Tuesday 13th March 2007 10am-1pm

Venue: New Struan - Alloa Cost £45

CETA - The Distinctive Clinical and Educational Needs of Children with pathological Demand Avoidance Syndrome (PDA)

Guidelines for Good Practice

Friday 6th October 2006, 9.30am-4pm

Speaker: Phil Christie, Director and Consultant Child Psychologist

Venue: New Struan. For further details for both of the above events

Contact Kerry-Ann MacDonald at CETA Phone: 01259 222032 or email:

macdonald@autism-in-scotland.org.uk

CETA's new training events programme is now available for further details visit: www.autism-in-scotland.org.uk

Community Care Live Scotland 2006 – 1st-2nd November Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. Free

Community Care Live Scotland is the third event for those professionals working within the Scottish social care system. This two-day event is completely FREE, at the Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot-Watt University and the wide-ranging programme will address the key issues to those working in social care. It draws together high profile social care professionals, frontline social care professionals and service users to debate the big issues, disclose best practices and to explore NEW innovative ways of working. Visit

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/cclivescotland> or call 0870 787 3815

Please Note: Events listed here are not necessarily endorsed or recommended by the Scottish Autism Network and any of this information which individuals follow up is done so at their own discretion. Please contact those detailed in the information about each event for further details, rather than the Scottish Autism Network.

Invitation to join the Scottish Consortium for learning Disabilities eSAY National Reference Group



The eSAY National Reference Group is starting again and the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disabilities (SCLD) would really like new members.

e-Say aims to make sure everyone records and measures information in the same way by developing a dataset that will be used by all local authorities and health boards when they are collecting information. They will also help set up joined up services between Health and Social Work and aims to provide better access to electronic information by:

- improving access to the internet
- helping local councils, health boards and voluntary organisations to develop websites that are easier for people with learning disabilities to use
- Providing a national portal that will let people share their stories with others, see what is happening in the local area, see what other services there are available.
- Enable providers can share information on the best way to do things and see how well they are performing compared to other providers

The Group gives people with learning disabilities and Autistic Spectrum Disorders and family carers the chance to get involved in the eSAY Project. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining the group or want further information please contact Claire McCue on telephone 0141 418 5420, e-mail esay@sclد.co.uk or visit the SCLD website at www.sclد.org.uk.

Making Connections

Making Connections is a booklet that tells the stories of people with disabilities (including ASD) and their carers who have a Local Area Co-ordinator. These stories show just how much local area co-ordination can support all the different parts of people's lives and can help make changes. To see a copy of Making Connections telephone The Scottish Consortium for Learning Disabilities on 0141 418 5420 or visit <http://www.sclد.org.uk/pdf.pl?file=Making%20Connections.pdf>

Helping you meet the costs of learning: funding for disabled students

This informative booklet, produced jointly by Skill Scotland and the Scottish Executive, has been updated for 2006-07 and is free of charge. The booklet tells you all you need to know about the different sources of funding available to you, whether you are studying at college or university, full or part-time, or at postgraduate level. It also gives the latest information on disability-specific support such as the Disabled Students' Allowance and disability benefits.

Contact: Skill Scotland on freephone 0800 328 5050

<http://www.skill.org.uk/scotland/index.asp> or e-mail:

admin@skillscotland.org.uk

Supporting you at college or university

Two new publications are now available from the Scottish Executive to give information on support available to those entering college or university who have a disability. 'Supporting you at college' provides information about the roles and responsibilities of colleges, social work, health departments and other agencies. The booklet 'Employing support workers in higher education' gives guidance for students who receive the 'non-medical personal help' allowance as part of the Disabled Students' Allowance and gives information about ways to arrange the support and some of the things to think about if choosing to employ an assistant.

Both publications are available free of charge from Skill Scotland by telephoning 0131 475 2348, e-mail admin@skillscotland.org.uk or can be downloaded free as follows:

'Supporting you at college'

www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/69582/0017263.pdf

'Employing Support Workers in Higher Education'

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/09/16121957/19592

Benefits system too complex

A recent National Audit Office (NAO) report found that disabled people often face serious problems coping with complexity of the benefits system. The report, 'Dealing with the complexity of the benefits system', found that disabled people often under-claim for benefits they are entitled to because they find it so difficult to fill in forms and deal with the system. There were also found to be frequent errors in benefit payments due to mistakes by both staff and customers. The report called for new, simpler benefits, easier applications procedures and better use of technology. You can view the executive summary of the report at:

www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/05-06/0506592es.pdf

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.

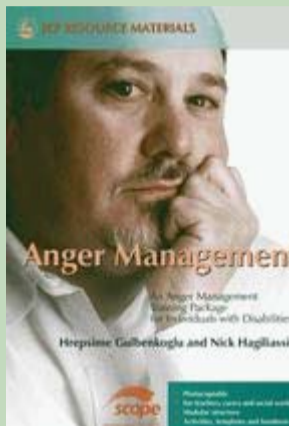


My sister is different by Sarah Tamsin Hunter (ISBN: 1 899280 98 7) £4.99; National Autistic Society.

The ups and downs of life with a sister who has autism, written and illustrated by ten-year-old Sarah who also has an autistic spectrum disorder.

Phone 0845 458 9911 or visit

www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=410&a=410



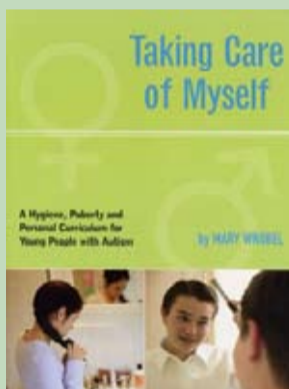
Anger Management by Hrepsime Gulbenkoglou and Nick Hagiliassis (ISBN 1 84310 436 9) £29.99; Jessica Kingsley Publishers, June 2006.

Anger Management is a complete training package for helping people with disabilities deal with anger in constructive, effective ways. The training programme consists of 12 fully-scripted sessions dealing with topics such as recognising feelings of anger, learning to relax and think calmly, and being assertive and handling problems competently. Each session follows a

standard format with photocopiable handouts, facilitator's script and evaluation sheets provided.

<http://www.jkp.com/new/1-84310-436-9>, Tel: 020 7833 2307

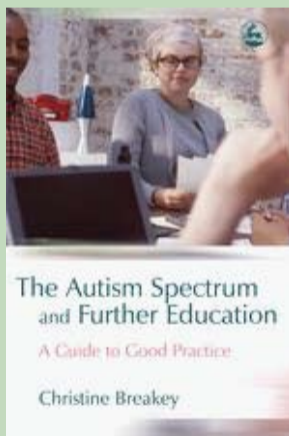
email: post@jkp.com



Taking Care of Myself: A Healthy Hygiene, Puberty and Personal Curriculum for Young People with Autism by Mary Wrobel (ISBN-10: 1-885477-94-5). £15.95; Jessica Kingsley Publishers

Using social scripts and easy-to-understand activities for children and adolescents aged 5+, this resource provides information on health, hygiene and personal safety issues for people with ASD or other developmental disabilities. For details phone 020 7833 2307 or visit

<http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/book.php/isbn/1-885477-94-5>



The Autism Spectrum and Further Education: A Guide to Good Practice by Christine Breakey (ISBN 1 84310 382 6) £18.99; Jessica Kingsley Publishers

This guide for professionals working with students with autism spectrum conditions (ASCs) in further education. It provides useful guidelines and practical advice on teaching young adults successfully and confidently, emphasising the development of resources and practical skills for use specifically in FE colleges. The book covers all the key areas and offers strategies and solutions for communicating effectively, helping students to manage transition, and understanding and minimising the causes of ASC behaviours as well as teaching social skills and ASC self-awareness.

Visit <http://www.jkp.com/new/1-84310-382-6>, phone 020 7833 2307 or email post@jkp.com



Bullying and how to deal with it: a guide for pupils with autistic spectrum disorders by Patricia Thorpe (ISBN: 1 899280 82 0) £1.00; National Autistic Society. Children with autism and Asperger syndrome often find it hard to deal with bullying. This booklet offers helpful advice and strategies to deal with this difficult problem. For details phone 0845 458 9911 or visit

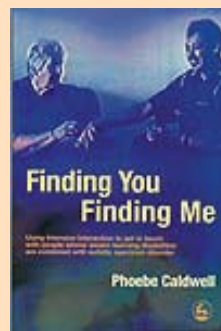
<http://www.autism.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=798&a=8289>

How to contact the Scottish Autism Service Network:

Telephone 0141 950 3071

E-mail: scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk

Visit: www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk



"Finding You, Finding Me", by Phoebe Caldwell (ISBN 1843103990) Jessica Kingsley Publishers £13.99

This fascinating and insightful book focuses on "Intensive Interaction" as a means of reaching people with ASD and severe learning difficulties.

Phoebe Caldwell explains how hypersensitivities and stress affect people with autism, and lead to Challenging Behaviours.

Combining theory and real-life examples, she clearly illustrates how Intensive Interaction reduces Sensory difficulties and Challenging behaviours, leading to more communication.

As a parent of a child with autism, I heartily recommend this book to other parents. Try the ideas and strategies- they really work!

As a Primary Teacher, I also recommend this book to Professionals who assist people of all ages with ASD, because it is so informative and so thought provoking!

In the last 4 years, I have read many, many books about Autism - this is one of the best!!

Review by Kirsten Graham, Parent and Primary School Teacher

For details of this book phone 0207 833 2307 or visit <http://www.jkp.com>

Proposed Changes to the Definition of Disability

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) has recommended to the Government that disability discrimination law moves away from protecting a group of 'disabled' people and instead protects anyone who experiences discrimination on the grounds of an impairment.

They recommend that the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA)'s definition of disability should be altered to one which gives protection from discrimination to everyone who has (or has had or is perceived to have) an impairment without requiring the effects of that impairment to be substantial or long-term.

They suggest that there would be strong benefits from the change such as; ensuring clear protection for all those who need it, placing focus on the fairness and reasonableness of employers/service providers rather than on the medical condition of the individual, producing a simpler, and more certain approach for identifying who has protection, providing better access to justice and producing a more positive approach, encouraging a more systemic approach to change and bringing the law into alignment with best practice.

For further details telephone the DRC on 08457 622 633 or visit

http://www.drc.org.uk/about_us/commission_for_equality_and_hu/definition_of_disability_withi.aspx

Carers Allowance Claim Pack

The Carer's Allowance (CA) claim form now requires a signature from the disabled person to confirm they know someone is claiming CA for looking after them for 35 hours a week, that their benefit records will be checked and their benefit income may be affected. An explanation of how Severe Disability Premium (or the additional amount on Pension Credit) may be affected is included in the claim pack notes, along with an assurance that DLA/AA will not be affected.

http://www.direct.gov.uk/CaringForSomeone/MoneyMatters/MoneyArticles/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10012522&chk=kAko1j Phone: 0800 88 22 00

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.