

# Network News

The Newsletter of the Scottish Autism Service Network

Part of the The National Centre for Autism Studies  
Issue 4

March 2007



SCOTTISH AUTISM SERVICE NETWORK

Welcome to issue 4 of *Network News*, the newsletter of the Scottish Autism Service Network!

We are pleased to include updates and information about ASD and related topics and would like to thank all those who have submitted information for this issue and encourage others of you to submit information for future editions of *Network News*.

The focus of the Network for the coming months is to develop our networking groups, some of which will be highlighted here in *Network News*. The networks are about bringing those working in the field of ASD together either regarding specific topics, within certain sectors, or in specific geographical areas. For instance, apart from those featured in this newsletter, we are also looking at the possibility of developing ASD specific networks in Early Years, Higher Education, Further Education, Training, & Commissioning. I would encourage you to join these networks to share good practice, information and gain support.

If you are interested in any of these networks, please contact us, letting us know which you are interested in. Also, if you have an idea for a network, either sector specific, for a certain geographical area, or concentrating on a specific area, please contact us to discuss.

Please note that you can also access this and previous editions of *Network News* on our website

[www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk/newsletter](http://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*.

Best wishes,  
Dawn Larman, SASN Manager

## Social Workers Network

Following the Forum at the SASN Conference last November a group of Social Workers came together in February to explore the possibilities of forming a network for Social Workers working with people with ASD and their families across Scotland.

Those who attended were from both children and adult services and covered a number of local authorities and health areas. The consensus was that a network, which could be both physical and virtual, could address some of the issues that workers were being faced with e.g. child protection and ASD, risk assessment, attachment, criminal justice, mental health. The group also felt that there would be great benefit in being able to exchange information and share resources. The next meeting has been planned for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

## ASD Co-ordinators Network

The Public Health Institute for Scotland (PHIS) report recommended that each local authority/health board area should appoint an ASD co-ordinator to audit local practice in health, education and social work against published national standards. The role of ASD co-ordinator has developed differently in different areas and in some areas there has been no appointment.

SASN facilitated a meeting for those who have the title of ASD co-ordinator to come together to share information and discuss these roles. The meeting took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February and it was agreed that a questionnaire would be circulated to collate information on the roles and remit of each of the co-ordinators and funding issues with a view to producing a report. The next meeting is planned for Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

If you are interested in either of the above networks then please contact Gill West at [gill.west@strath.ac.uk](mailto:gill.west@strath.ac.uk) or phone 0141 950 3070.

## ASD Primary and Secondary Teachers Networks

Are you a primary or secondary school teacher providing education and support to students with ASD? Would you like better links to teachers working in similar roles or positions?

**If so, you are invited to join the ASD Primary or Secondary Teachers Networks to...**

- connect with a network of teachers interested in ASD
- link together to share ASD information, good practice and strategies
- network with practitioners across Scotland through Virtual Networks
- gain mutual advice and support from colleagues
- receive regular updates, information, and newsletters

**What will you gain from joining the ASD Primary or Secondary Teachers Network?**

- ✓ a forum for teachers to share information and experiences about ASD
- ✓ details of innovative ideas and methods for ASD in primary education
- ✓ help in meeting the challenges of interdisciplinary working
- ✓ support in improving and updating your knowledge, practice and skills
- ✓ opportunities for collaboration to develop and share solutions
- ✓ links to other relevant existing national and regional networks

The ASD Teachers Networks are free to join! To find out more contact the Scottish Autism Service Network at [scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk](mailto:scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk) or on 0141 950 3072 and state which network you are interested in.

## New Network Developments for Counsellors and Transitions!

Following discussion with various members of the Network and contacts, we plan to develop possible new networks focused on specific specialised areas of interest and sectors.

Two of these will potentially be an *ASD Counselling Network*, bringing together those with interest/expertise in counselling people with ASD and/or their family members, and an *ASD Transitions Network*, for those with an interest/expertise in post school transitions for people with ASD.

**Each of these networks will have a focus upon enabling professionals within specific sectors or areas of interest to:**

- connect with others in a similar position to share information, good practice, policy and strategies regarding ASD
- enable communication and networking with others across Scotland through our Virtual Networks
- help professionals to meet the challenges of interdisciplinary working
- enable professionals to gain advice and support from colleagues
- provide opportunities for collaboration to develop and share solutions
- link to other relevant existing national and regional networks

All networks are free to join, but those participating must become members of the Scottish Autism Network and sign up to our principles of participation. To register your interest in any of these networks contact us at [scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk](mailto:scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk), or telephone 0141 950 3072 and state which network you are interested in.

## Information Sharing Network

Are you in a role specifically focused upon passing over information about ASD to others (people with ASD, family members and/or other professionals)? If so, you may wish to join our *Information Sharing Network*. Members of the group from various organisations have had two informal meetings, an on site visit, and have developed guidance on seeking good ASD related information. The group aim to develop ways to share information to save time, effort and replication and assist one another with developing good information and resources relating to ASD. The group is open to those working in positions where they focus primarily on provide information specifically in terms of ASD as part of their role. For more details contact Dawn at the Scottish Autism Network on 0141 950 3072 or at [scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk](mailto:scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk).

## Local Information

### Glasgow Autism Resource Centre

The Autism Resource Centre (ARC) opened in November 2004 to provide a hub of ASD expertise and information to people living and working in the NHS Greater Glasgow area who have a personal and/or professional interest in ASD. A partnership between the NHS, Glasgow Council, the National Autistic Society, the Scottish Society for Autism and the Strathclyde Autistic Society, the ARC delivers services to adults with ASD, parents, carers, partners, family members and professionals in health, social work, community care & the voluntary sector.

### Services provided by ARC are as follows:

- For adults aged 16 plus: Information, diagnosis, post-diagnostic support, activity groups, drop-in resource centre.
- For children below age 16: No direct services, but team can advise on transitions issues.
- For parents: Information and access to relevant training (e.g. free autism awareness training). Direct support if their child is on the ARC caseload.
- For Professionals: Information, case management support, training, partnership working.
- Library resources are available for use by all visitors (reference only).

### Developments/forthcoming events:

- Diagnostic training for clinical professionals will take place at the ARC on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April (Part I) and the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June (Part II). To enquire please call 0141-201-6247. Cost: £650. Supported by NES (NHS Education for Scotland).
- Planned developments in training include specific autism awareness training sessions for parents/carers, partners and family members.
- The ARC's Young Person's Coordinators, have designed and piloted an autism awareness course specifically for young people aged 16-25 called "Me, Myself and ASD".
- Current activity groups for adults: Social Development/Drama, Art Group, Couples Group (CLASP) and a Games Group. A private website for adults who have Asperger Syndrome and who live in Greater Glasgow is currently in operation.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the ARC please contact the Autism Resource Centre, The Quadrangle, 59 Ruchill Street, Maryhill, Glasgow, G20 9PX. Telephone 0141 201 6247 or email [SW\\_Infoarc@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:SW_Infoarc@glasgow.gov.uk).

### Triad Project Inverclyde – ASD Early Years Training

The Triad project, as described in Issue 1 (June 2006) of Network News, continues to develop its' remit to support children and staff in early years settings. The early years support team has developed an informative & practical three day course offering autism specific training for early years workers in Inverclyde.

The course aims to lead participants towards a better understanding of autism spectrum disorders, how they affect children and families, and implications for support/learning in early years settings.

Between October and December 2006 ten early years staff, working in a range of roles, completed the course. Feedback was extremely positive and it is hoped that the course will be re-run in the near future. For further details contact The Triad Project on 01475 714726.

### Public Autism Resource and Information Service

PARIS (Public Autism Resource and Information Service) is the most comprehensive autism services directory in the UK. Provided by the National Autistic Society, this free on-line service is aimed at people with ASD, their families/carers and professionals. The PARIS database holds detailed information about a range of local and national services including schools, residential and day services, respite, diagnosis and support groups. The directory also supports professionals by providing information on training, conferences, networks & statutory organisations.

There are several options for finding information on PARIS, from keyword searching to browsing by category and/or location. The Scottish section of the directory is being updated in conjunction with SASN and there are currently over 700 Scottish services listed. If you know of a relevant service not already listed on PARIS then please contact us.

The NAS will be relaunching the directory in the next few months – as well as having a new name, *Autism Services Directory*, the Browse facility will be easier to use. In addition, a new complementary on-line service, *Signpost*, will also be launched. Signpost gives information specific to the person's life stage, diagnosis and location. For further information on PARIS in Scotland contact Chris Hunter on 0141 221 8090 at e-mail [directory@nas.org.uk](mailto:directory@nas.org.uk) or visit [www.autismdirectory.org.uk](http://www.autismdirectory.org.uk).

## Research

### Exploring Social Scene Viewing and Face Processing in Autism

Dr. Deborah Riby and Dr. Peter Hancock in the Psychology Department at Stirling University were recently awarded £79,000 from the ESRC to explore social scene viewing by individuals with autism and Williams syndrome. The project began in January 2007 and will run until February 2008. The aim of the research is to utilise eye tracking techniques to identify where individuals look when viewing pictures and movie clips of social situations containing people. Previous research suggests that individuals with autism may spend less time looking at people and faces in their environment than typically developing individuals. These techniques have not previously been used with individuals with Williams syndrome. This research program will systematically identify the perceptual strategies of individuals with autism when viewing pictures of social scenes. The type of information that is retrieved from the environment is particularly important and has implications for the way individuals function and interact with people. Differences in viewing patterns and items of visual interest may be particularly important where differences occur between typically developing individuals and those with autism or Williams syndrome. For more information please contact Dr. Debbie Riby on 01786 466375 or e-mail [deborah.riby@stir.ac.uk](mailto:deborah.riby@stir.ac.uk).

### Losing the Opportunity Gap - A Literature Review on Multiple and Complex Needs'

The Development Department of the Scottish Executive commissioned this literature review to inform its Multiple and Complex Needs Initiative that aims to improve services for people with these needs. The purpose of the literature review was to collate and evaluate existing research evidence to understand the processes through which people with multiple and complex needs engage, or do not engage, with services. A key focus of the review was to identify good practice in the light of the evidence. The paper summarises the main lessons learned from the review and details several good practice case studies. To gain a copy of the review contact the Scottish Executive Social Research Department at [socialresearch@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:socialresearch@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), or 0131 244 0874 or access the review at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/18133343/1>.

### Computer Systems for People with Autism

Research is being carried out at Leeds Metropolitan University regarding approaches to using computer technology to help people with autism. Many aspects of computer technology for people with autism are being looked in to and student-produced software that is available to parents and teachers is being produced. The team can also often produce software that is requested. For further details contact Dr. David Moore on telephone 0113 283 7556 or e-mail [d.moore@leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:d.moore@leedsmet.ac.uk).

### NAS Scotland ASD survey for adults

The National Autistic Society (NAS) Scotland's next campaign will be about improving services for adults with ASD. As ASD in adults is far less documented than in children, it can lead to a lack of awareness of ASD in adult society and can mean that relationships, employment and finding accommodation can all be difficult if the right support is not made available.

NAS Scotland feels it is imperative for those actually using the services available to them to tell them about their experiences of what works and what needs to be improved. Therefore, they are seeking as many adults with ASD, and as many of their families and carers, as possible to take part in a survey on the services and care available to adults with ASD in Scotland.

The questionnaire can be filled in on-line at [www.nas.org.uk](http://www.nas.org.uk), a printed copy can be downloaded from the NAS website or a copy requested by e-mailing [policy@nas.org.uk](mailto:policy@nas.org.uk) or phoning 0141 221 8090. An easy-read version and a glossary for some of the more complicated or lesser known terms found in the questionnaire are available.

### Post Graduate Certificate Opportunity in Aberdeenshire

The University of Strathclyde Multi-professional Postgraduate Certificate in Autism (ASD) is being offered in Aberdeenshire from April 2007. This course will be of interest to any health, education, social work or voluntary sector professional who has responsibility for or involvement with individuals with ASD, their families and carers. The course has also proven to be beneficial to parents, carers and family members and their involvement and the unique contribution they can make is welcomed. Participants will typically have a degree in a relevant discipline and will have direct experience of working or living with individuals with ASD. For an informal discussion and application details please contact [charlene.tait@strath.ac.uk](mailto:charlene.tait@strath.ac.uk) or telephone 0141 950 3522.

## Events

**New To Autism** - 16th March 2007 or 12th Sept 2007 (09.30am-3.30pm): University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

This course is aimed at practitioners who have limited knowledge and experience of individuals with ASD to equip them with foundation knowledge of ASD and provide insight and understanding as to how best to support children and adults on the autism spectrum. Issues will be explored at both practical and theoretical level. For details telephone 0141 950 3033 or e-mail [pdu@strath.ac.uk](mailto:pdu@strath.ac.uk).

**Aspergers syndrome, sexuality and relationships** - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007 (10am - 4pm): Glasgow College of Nautical Studies

Intended for professionals who wish to update their knowledge and skills or who are interested in exploring the rationale for their own practice. Prior completion of a core level course or equivalent is necessary for this event. For further information contact Eleanor McCormick on 0141 5652800 or email [e.mccormick@gcns.ac.uk](mailto:e.mccormick@gcns.ac.uk).

**3 Day Introduction to TEACCH Seminar** - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May: The Marriott Hotel, Glasgow

Designed to familiarise participants with the various approaches to working with people with autism and their families using the Teacch approach. For further information contact The NAS Conference and Events Department on telephone 0115 911 3367 or fax 0115 911 3362.

**Structured Teaching in the Home Seminar** - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May: The Marriott Hotel, Glasgow

The purpose of the one-day seminar is to explore the most important characteristics of autism and the implications for living and learning situations. It will cover general principles that are applicable to all ages including pre-school children. For details contact The NAS Conference and Events Department by calling 0115 911 3367 or fax 0115 911 3362.

**Prof. Tony Attwood – A Complete Guide to Asperger's Syndrome:** 12<sup>th</sup> May (10am – 4pm) Argyll Hotel, Inveraray

This seminar will explore Asperger's syndrome (AS) in terms of both clinical practice and personal experience. A range of topics will be discussed from the pathways and process involved in diagnostic assessment, to the manifestation of common difficulties and differences, and practical strategies to support personal development and fulfilment. This seminar is organised by Autism Argyll for information contact Maureen MacKintosh on 01546 600004 or e-mail [m.mack@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:m.mack@tiscali.co.uk).

**Challenging Behaviour & ASD Workshops – Theory into Practice:** 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 (10am – 4pm) Argyll Hotel, Inveraray

The aim of this two day workshop is to address some of the behavioural issues in autism and examine strategies of support. The theory behind the behaviour will be considered on day one and practical strategies will be discussed on day two. Janet Stirling, Head Teacher of New Struan, the Scottish Society's specialist school for pupils with ASD, will be a guest speaker. For further information contact Maureen MacKintosh of Autism Argyll on 01546 600004 or e-mail [m.mack@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:m.mack@tiscali.co.uk).

**Sensory differences in people with ASDs** - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June (10am - 4pm): Glasgow College of Nautical Studies

Intended for those who have some knowledge and training in autism and who wish to develop their knowledge. For details contact Eleanor McCormick on 0141 5652800 or email [e.mccormick@gcns.ac.uk](mailto:e.mccormick@gcns.ac.uk).

### help! programmes

The aim of the *help!* programme is to provide parents and full-time carers with post-diagnostic information and advice, to develop their knowledge and understanding of ASD, positive management strategies and local support services. For further information contact Lauren Jarvis on telephone 0141 285 7114 or e-mail [lauren.jarvis@nas.org.uk](mailto:lauren.jarvis@nas.org.uk).

Full Programmes (6 full days spread across 3 weeks):

- The National Autistic Society Office, Glasgow starting 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007
- Anchor Centre, Paisley, starting 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Two Day Programmes:

- The Lanthorn Complex, Livingston on 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> April 2007
- Moncrieff Community Centre, Perth on 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> June 2007

One Day Programme:

- The Dell Farquharson Centre, Dunfermline, on 28<sup>th</sup> June

**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.

## The Scottish Executive ASD Reference Group

In 2001, the Scottish Executive commissioned the Public Health Institute of Scotland (now NHS Health Scotland) to carry out an ASD Needs Assessment. This recognised that services for people with ASD needed to be improved, and made a number of recommendations to provide quicker access to assessment and diagnosis, and improved services. In response to the report, a Reference Group was set up to help take forward priorities for improvements to services in Scotland and focused on the initial priorities of diagnosis, training and information. The Executive have funded a number of projects and developments, outlined below, to take forward the groups priorities;

### Diagnostics

- A set of Diagnostic Standards
- Projects to deliver training in diagnostic tools to reduce waiting times
- A directory of assessment and diagnosis practitioners has been produced and distributed to GPs and primary care health professionals across Scotland
- SIGN guidelines have been developed for children and young people up to age 18 which will be published to help clinicians with diagnosis

### Research and Information

- The Autism Network has been developed to allow greater exchange of information, specialist knowledge, research, and good practice
- Post Diagnostic information packs have been prepared and circulated for parents at the point of diagnosis. A complementary information pack has also been developed for distribution through educational settings when a child is believed to have ASD
- ASD information website for Primary Care Professionals
- A Bio-medical Interventions Conference was held to focus on developments and research in relation to Health and Autism

### Services

- Autism Co-ordinator posts have been created
- Funding of 3 centres for support and information for adults with ASD
- A project to improve respite for people with ASD is underway
- Guidance for local agencies setting up Community Health Partnerships and for Partnership in Practice agreements (PiPs)
- A database of people with ASD is being collected through the eSAY project run by the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability

### Training

- A Training framework has been drawn up
- Development of ASD Specific qualifications (SVQ level 3 & 4)
- NHS Education for Scotland have developed training materials for GPs and primary care staff

This work is ongoing and new developments are planned. A policy into practice subgroup has been set up to produce guidance for local commissioners to encourage more appropriate service provision for people with ASD. It is hoped that awareness of the varying needs of people with ASD and their families will permeate all aspects of planning for people in Scotland.



### Outside the Box: Peer training about the electoral process by people with learning disabilities

Outside the Box has been awarded a grant by the Electoral Commission to produce a resource pack encouraging people with learning difficulties and people with autism to take part in elections. By the end of the project they will have lots of resources including a DVD, posters, leaflets and signposts to existing materials.

The project will look at all the stages of electing someone and how elections are relevant to daily life. The first resources will be available for the Scottish Parliament elections in May 2007. The project will be completed by September 2007. As part of the initial stages of the project Outside the Box are looking for help to hear views and experiences about elections from people with learning difficulties and with ASD.

A pack is available with leaflets and discussion points, and any groups who would like to take part in providing feedback are welcome. You can contact Outside the Box by emailing [peervote@otbds.org](mailto:peervote@otbds.org) or by phoning the office on 0141 445 3062. You can visit the website for Outside the Box at [www.otbds.org](http://www.otbds.org).

## 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 or reviewers. We have provided this information so that Network members are kept up to date about books regarding ASD and can explore them further for themselves.



**Brotherly Feelings - Me, My Emotions, and My Brother with Asperger's Syndrome** by Sam Frender and Robin Schiffmiller (ISBN 978 1 84310 850 4) £9.99; Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Brotherly Feelings explores the emotions that siblings of children with Asperger's Syndrome (AS) commonly experience. With illustrations throughout, this book will help siblings to understand that their emotional responses - whatever they are - are natural and OK. It is the ideal book for parents and professionals to use with siblings to discuss their emotional experiences, and will also help children with AS to form an understanding of the feelings of other family members.

Visit: <http://www.jkp.com/new/9781843108504>, phone 020 7833 2307



**Asperger Syndrome in the Inclusive Classroom - Advice and Strategies for Teachers** by Stacey W. Betts, Dion E. Betts, and Lisa N. Gerber-Eckard Foreword by Peter Riffle; February 2007. (ISBN: 978 1 84310 840 5) £11.99; Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

This book offers support and practical techniques for teachers who work with children with Asperger Syndrome (AS). Based on the experiences of classroom teachers, and written from a teacher's perspective, this book provides creative and easy-to-apply strategies that support and encourage AS students in the mainstream classroom, from organisation and time management techniques to framing classroom instructions to make lessons more accessible for children with AS.

<http://www.jkp.com/new/9781843108405>, phone 020 7833 2307



**Autism and Me** by Rory Hoy; (ISBN: 978 1 84310 546 6) £15.99: DVD and booklet; Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

This short film by Rory Hoy, an 18-year-old filmmaker with autism, provides a glimpse into his autistic world. In easy, accessible terms, Rory explains what having autism means for everyday functioning: what it's like, for instance, not to have the natural inclination to respond to someone who calls you by your name, or someone who waves at you; what it's like to take someone literally when actually they have used a figure of speech. He describes the confusion caused by high noise levels, crowded environments and even by his own emotions and physical sensations, as well as the security and comfort found in routines, forward planning and having thoughtful, calm and loving people around him.

<http://www.jkp.com/new/9781843105466>, phone 020 7833 2307



**Mental Health, Incapacity and the Law in Scotland**

by Hilary Patrick, Honorary Fellow, University of Edinburgh. (ISBN: 1845920627) £90. Tottel publishing.

This book is a comprehensive and up to date guide to mental health law in Scotland, including the far reaching changes brought about by the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000. Mental health and incapacity law affect not just those subject to compulsory orders, but everyone with a mental health problem, dementia or a learning disability. This practical guide covers every aspect of mental health law, including tribunal procedure, procedures for adults with incapacity, community care, patients' rights and legal remedies for when things go wrong.

<http://www.tottelpublishing.com/article/mcs/art/16>; phone: 01235 465500

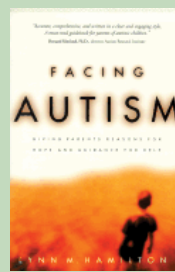


**ISPEEK at School** CD-ROM by Janet Dixon (ISBN: 978 1 84310 511 4) £23 + VAT Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

ISPEEK visual aids provide a means of facilitating communication with children on the autistic spectrum. This CD-ROM contains 1300 picture symbols, designed especially for applying to a wide range of situations typically encountered at school, from social skills to school curricula, work and break times. ISPEEK at

School also provides useful word templates for teachers, therapists and classroom assistants in putting together daily schedules, as well as PDF samples to assist them in setting up visual aids for children with autism. They are also suitable for parents and carers to use at home, covering the important themes of transitions and independence, and can be used alongside the companion CD-ROM, ISPEEK at Home.

<http://www.jkp.com/new/9781843105114>, phone 020 7833 2307



**Facing Autism** by Lynn Hamilton is a realistic, yet encouraging book. Lynn tells with honesty the story of her son, Ryan's, early life and diagnosis with Autism. She then details the interventions and treatments which they used with Ryan, as well as informing parents of other options which may be of benefit to their own child. This book is a wonderful signpost, pointing out the wide variety of ways to help children with ASD. As a parent of a young child with Autism, it encouraged me to take the first steps along the path of treatments and therapies, which have proved helpful to my son. I heartily recommend "Facing Autism" to parents and professionals.

Review by Kirsten Graham (parent of a six year old child with autism and a Support for Learning Teacher)

ISBN: 1578562627

Publisher: Barbour Books

RRP: £12.99

[www.barbourbooks.com](http://www.barbourbooks.com)

## Disability Equality Duty launched in colleges and universities

The Disability Equality Duty (DED) is a legal duty which requires all public bodies, including all colleges and universities, to actively look at ways of ensuring that disabled people are treated equally. This duty came into force on 4 December 2006, which means that all colleges and universities should have produced a Disability Equality Scheme by this date to set out how they plan to promote disability equality in every area of their work. This should include:

- publishing a Disability Equality Scheme and an associated action plan
- involving disabled people in producing the Scheme
- demonstrating how they have taken actions as set out in the Action plan and achieved appropriate outcomes
- reporting on progress
- reviewing and revising the scheme.

For further information contact: <http://tinyurl.com/2u39cq>

## Report of the Scottish Parliament's Inquiry into Disability

Following a two-year inquiry into the barriers to participation faced by disabled people, the Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee published its disability inquiry report at the end of November. The inquiry, which began in June 2004, aimed to identify the issues that create barriers to the participation of disabled people in accessing work, further and higher education, and leisure, and to make recommendations to tackle these barriers. The Committee gathered evidence from a range of organisations, including Skill Scotland, and the final report made 156 recommendations covering these three key areas.

The report made the following recommendation in relation to further and higher education:

- a fundamental review of careers guidance to young disabled people in schools to help them move more easily into further or higher education
- all colleges and universities should go beyond their minimum duties in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) in relation to informing disabled students about their legal rights
- a comprehensive review should be carried out to investigate the availability of the full range of communication support available to students with communication difficulties
- consideration should be given to extending DSA to further education students or introducing an alternative to meet the same objective

You can read the report at: <http://tinyurl.com/2r7fxl>

**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. Following consultation at our forums the majority felt that ASD was the most appropriate term. However, some items in the newsletter are written by individuals from other agencies and therefore we have not necessarily changed their use of terminology.

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.

## How to contact the Scottish Autism Service Network:

Telephone 0141 950 3072

E-mail: [scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk](mailto:scottishautismnetwork@strath.ac.uk)

Visit: [www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk](http://www.scottishautismnetwork.org.uk)

Newsletter design by Mark Murphy [www.dreamlogic.co.uk](http://www.dreamlogic.co.uk)