<u>Review of current strategy and two suggested areas of focus for 2020</u>

At the most recent East Dunbartonshire Autism Strategy meetings, in recognition that the strategy is nearly half way through its lifespan, there has been reflection on what has been achieved, what still needs to be done and what changes need to be made. There is also recognition of the need to be cognisant of direction and policy coming from the Scottish Government with regard to the national strategy.

The 19 objectives have been reviewed from the local ASD strategy and the extent to which each is confirmed as being met/partially met or unmet has been considered. As would be expected at the midpoint of the life span of a strategy, few single objectives are fully met – as work should be ongoing and improvements should be made throughout the ten year period of the strategy. Notwithstanding this, indications at the five year stage indicate that improvements and development in relation to thirteen objectives from the strategy have been made.

This leaves six objectives which will require some specific focus and attention in the remaining life span of the strategy. Based on discussions from the steering group; analysis of the local objectives; and feedback from one stop shops, our ASD parent carers forum and ASD drop in sessions (including those carried out at our recent EDC Autism Festival) it has been concluded that many of the outstanding local objectives can be covered by two focusing on two main areas of development and that short term working groups can be used to take forward work in each of these areas as follows:

Establishing Clear Pathways (from pre diagnosis, through to post diagnosis; covering significant transition periods for individuals and families and identifying and signposting to supportive resources)

Objectives: 2,3,4,5,6,7

Developing Autism Friendly Communities (Raising awareness of autism in EDC and exploring the development of autism friendly environments in HSCP, Council, Education and leisure and culture services - and in mainstream community settings and resources)

Objectives: 8,9,10,11,13,17