

## Local ASD Strategy Background

The **Scottish Strategy for Autism** was published jointly by Scottish Government and COSLA in 2011, the aim being to improve the lives of autistic people and their families and to build on improvements to autism services and access to them where appropriate. The original document set out 26 recommendations and set a vision that by 2021 *'individuals on the autism spectrum are respected, accepted and valued by their communities and have confidence in services to treat them fairly so that they are able to have meaningful and satisfying lives'*

Subsequently, in 2014 the Scottish Government published a report on the progress made by the autism strategy during its first two years. A mapping exercise was also conducted, which sought to 'map out' local autism services and to improve their coordination. This exercise coincided with the one-off investment of £35,000 for each local authority in Scotland to develop local autism strategies and action plans.

In East Dunbartonshire, we established our main objectives for our local autism strategy plan using an independent organisation, Figure 8, who undertook a consultative exercise and a needs assessment which helped set objectives for East Dunbartonshire; this was completed in 2014. From the needs assessment there were 19 key objectives established, which we committed to deliver as part of a 10 year strategy

### **Underpinning our objectives are values from the Scottish Autism Strategy which are integral to any activities or development**

- **Dignity** – people should be given the care and support they need in a way which promotes their independence and emotional well-being and respects their dignity;
- **Privacy** – people should be supported to have choice and control over their lives so that they are able to have the same chosen level of privacy as other citizens;
- **Choice** – care and support should be personalised and based on the identified needs and wishes of the individual;
- **Safety** – people should be supported to feel safe and secure without being over protected;
- **Realising potential** – people should have the opportunity to achieve all they can; and
- **Equality and diversity** – people should have access to information, assessments and services; health and social care agencies should work to redress inequalities and challenge discrimination