



This political delegation to Washington is an opportunity to provoke fresh thinking in the Celtic Nations on adapting a rights-based approach for inclusive lifestyles for individuals living with Autism and to build a strong alliance with partners that support exchange of experiences and knowledge. The unity of nations within the Celtic Nations Autism Partnership is further enhanced by the new partnership with the Autism Society of America to create the Atlantic Autism Alliance – to share political, policy and practice experiences to improve knowledge and its application in order to support the development of improved life chances for individuals with an Autistic Spectrum condition.

History and achievements

The Scottish Society for Autism was founded in 1968. In addition to developing a focused education and training resource at New Struan - a Centre for Autism, the Society has evolved new levels of service for adults with Autism, providing community based resources to support adults living in local settings.

Café Kudos and Kudos Crafts provide outlets for the skills and talents of people with Autism and are used by members of the public as café and specialist card/craft outlets.

The Society also supported a range of other services including 14 Community Houses, support workers throughout Scotland and a respite centre.

The commitment to excellence continues as the Society, in partnership with the National Centre for Autism Studies (University of Strathclyde) have been funded to develop a national system of accreditation for Autism training.



The Scottish Society for Autism, Hilton House
Alloa Business Park, The Whins
Alloa FK10 3SA
Scotland, United Kingdom

email: info@autism-in-scotland.org.uk
tel: (00) +44 (0) 12 5972 0044
fax: (00) +44 (0) 12 5972 0051

Vision Statement

Provide and promote exemplary services and training in education, care, support and life opportunities.

Influence policy and practice to ensure the best possible education, care, support and life opportunities.

Raise public awareness of Autism and how it affects the lives of individuals and families in Scotland.



The political delegation to Washington, led by the Celtic Nations Autism Partnership and the creation of the Atlantic Autism Alliance with the Autism Society of America is evidence of our wish to see a unified and coordinated effort between our respective nations to improve the quality of the lives of all affected by Autism, through appropriate services and effective political action to protect the rights of the individual and their families.

History and achievements

The Autism Society of America was formed in 1965. Over the last 40 years the Society has grown from a handful of parents into the leading source of information, research and reference on Autism. Today, more than 200,000 members are connected through a network of nearly 200 Chapters nationwide. The Autism Society of America is dedicated to raising public awareness about Autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with Autism, their families and the professionals with whom they interact. The Society and its Chapters share a common mission of providing information, education, supporting research and advocating for programs and services for the Autism community. The Autism Society of America established a Research Foundation in 1996. The ASA Foundation supports research in both the biological basis of Autism as well as strategies and treatments that may improve life opportunities for individuals with Autism. The Society has been involved in the successful launch of a number of pieces of legislation aimed at protecting the rights of individuals with Autism as well as legislation mandating services.



Autism Society of America
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 300
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3067
U.S.A.

tel: (00) +1 301 657 0881

Vision Statement

Autism Society of America (ASA) is the leading voice and resource of the entire autism community in education, advocacy, services, research and support. The ASA is committed to meaningful participation and self-determination in all aspects of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. ASA accomplished its ongoing mission through close collaboration with a successful network of chapters, members and supporters.

This document is produced by the Celtic Nations Autism Partnership (CNAP) and the Autism Society of America to commemorate the foundation of the Atlantic Autism Alliance to promote the mutual support, exchange of models of best practice and joint campaigning on rights based ASD issues, and to mark the links between the Autism Caucuses at Capitol Hill and the NI Assembly.



Nations Uniting for Autism
Washington 2007

The delegation to Washington brings all Nations within the Celtic Nations Autism Partnership closer to our collective and individual goal of rights-based legislation for Autism. It is vital that the spirit of mutual support, encouragement and courage which has characterised the Celtic Nations is re-created for our Northern Ireland politicians as they cross the line from supporting legislation to enacting legislation. This spirit will be created and sustained through the formalising of links between the Autism Caucuses at Capitol Hill and the Northern Ireland Assembly as well as through the coming together of the Autism Societies of America, Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland within the Atlantic Autism Alliance.

History and achievements

Autism Northern Ireland was established in 1990 to act as a catalyst for Autism awareness, enhancement of professional expertise and family support, as well as strategic service development. The Society has been involved in all major ASD strategic and research documents in Northern Ireland and has pioneered partnership-based service developments in training, early intervention, family support and support services for adults with ASD. Creative partnerships have characterised much of these achievements. The most dynamic partnership with regard to adult services is with Autism Initiatives UK. Autism NI is the largest provider of specialist ASD training in Ireland and with a membership of over 1,000 individuals it maintains a network of 17 Branches which provide family based support within local communities in Northern Ireland. Based upon the Society's involvement in research, development of best practice models and strategic development, a political advocacy role was established. Autism NI's role in activating the political debate on the rights of individuals with Autism began in 2002 and has achieved cross-party support for legislation for Autism. The restoration of devolved political institutions in Northern Ireland, the establishment of the Celtic Nations Autism Partnership, the Atlantic Autism Alliance and the deepening links between the Autism Caucuses in Washington and Northern Ireland give cause for great optimism regarding the imminent introduction of legislation in Northern Ireland.



Autism NI (PAPA), Donard House
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road, Belfast BT8 8BH
N Ireland, United Kingdom

email: info@autismini.org
tel: (00) +44 (0) 28 9040 1729
fax: (00) +44 (0) 28 9040 3467

Vision Statement

Autism NI (PAPA) is a parent led partnership organisation having been formed to promote positive collaboration between parents, professionals and individuals with Autism to address the need for appropriate services. This partnership ethos extends to the Charity's promotion of a multi disciplinary, cross agency response to issues such as assessment, diagnosis and intervention. The Charity's mission to support parents and individuals with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder is core to its work and is based on individualised assessed need. The charity is committed to promoting best practice, accessible to all, irrespective of family circumstances.

A cross-Atlantic tie-up can become the catalyst for significantly propelling forward the cause of autism. A seismic shift can result from the development of strong and enduring partnerships between our nations based upon the sharing of knowledge, models of practice, and above all the strategies which enable our governments to introduce far-reaching policies to the benefit of people with ASD, their families and to those who work with them. Each nation will have something positive to bring to this partnership and equally each of us can learn so much more from it.

History and achievements

Founded in 2001, Autism Cymru is Wales' own national Charity for ASD. As a nation, Wales has a population of 3m but also since the Millennium has had its own government. Consequently, Autism Cymru seized the opportunity to quickly present a concept to Ministers proposing that the Welsh Assembly Government should establish an All-Wales Strategy for ASD. This autism strategy went out to consultation in early 2007 and when implemented on 1st April 2008, Wales will be the first nation in Europe to have a government-led strategy for ASD. Autism Cymru is currently leading a partnership developing a Wales Autism Research Centre and a Wales Chair in ASD at Cardiff University due to be established in Sept 2008. Underpinning these strategic developments, the Charity takes a whole-nation approach to partnerships which improve the quality of life for people with ASD. These include working with all four of Wales Police Forces, creating 'autism-friendly' mainstream and special schools throughout Wales; providing a free and comprehensive bi-lingual on-line information resource for Wales visited by over 16,000 people each week; delivering a range of training opportunities for practitioners and families throughout Wales including major international research and practice conferences attended by over 5,000 people; and running, on an annual basis, what Professor Simon Baron-Cohen has described as 'the best-online autism conference on the planet'. Autism Cymru is also a collaborating partner in the development of a European Autism Information System (EAIS) which is a European Parliament initiative to promote consistency in ASD diagnosis and provision across Member States.



Autism Cymru
6 Great Darkgate Street, Aberystwyth
Ceredigion SY23 1DE
Wales, United Kingdom

email: info@autismcymru.org
tel: (00) +44 (0) 19 7062 5256
fax: (00) +44 (0) 19 7063 9454

Vision Statement

Autism Cymru aims to make a real difference to the provision and delivery of services for people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in Wales. Its primary task is to influence and drive forward strategy, policy and whole-nation practice on behalf of the autism community in Wales at national and local level.

The Celtic Nations Autism Partnership is a new and exciting way to harness the goodwill that exists in the minds of ordinary people. It is a vehicle which will deliver the appropriate legislation necessary for the future of all people with Autism and it gives politicians of all parties and persuasions a forum for informed debate.

History and achievements

The Society was formed in 1963 by parents concerned about the ignorance surrounding Autism. The Irish Society has campaigned with the Department of Health and Department of Education achieving the recognition of ASD as "a separate category" within Education and serving as members of the Task Force on Autism Review of ASD Services in the South of Ireland. The Society provides a range of adult support services in Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Westmeath and Wexford and has been involved in research with Professor Fitzgerald in the prevalence of ASD. The Irish Society is a founder member of Autism Europe and Autism World Organisation and was the initiator of the European Charter of Rights for Persons with Autism.



The Irish Society for Autism
Unity Building
16/17 Lower O'Connell Street
Dublin 1, Republic Of Ireland

email: autism@isa.ie
tel: + 353 (0) 1 874 4684
fax: + 353 (0) 1 ??? ????

Vision Statement

The need for recognition of the individuality of persons with Autism, their capacity to benefit from education, training and care and their entitlement to participate in the development of society in accordance with their individual capacity and dignity as human beings.