

The second part contains a directory of services available to people with ASD within their local area, including provision such as direct services, support groups, play and leisure facilities, health services and assessment centres.

'Next Steps' will compliment the current resources available for parents post-diagnosis, such as the NAS *Help!* Programme and our online Public Autism Resource and Information Service (*PARIS*). It will be available to everyone at no cost with no waiting list and no need to have access to a computer.

Availability

It will be distributed throughout Scotland via each local authority over 2006/2007.

A national launch of the resource took place in Greenock, Inverclyde in May 2006. The launch was addressed by Arlene Nelis, a parent of a child with autism, who stated:

"The launch of this new pack means that parents will know where to go for help and not be going around in circles."



Four more local launches are anticipated over the following year to be held in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Highlands and Dumfries and Galloway.

The information contained in the directory will also be available from the NAS helpline and via the Scotland website portal.

Aims & objectives

The pack aims to:

- increase understanding, knowledge and awareness of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)
- ensure that parents, families and individuals with an ASD can access relevant information and services
- provide information, advice and support to individuals with an ASD and their Carers
- help individuals with an ASD receive the support they need to fulfill their potential
- provide information on local services that may be available to people with an ASD
- support and advise parents and Carers on how to access services and benefits for people with an ASD
- improve general awareness of autism and provide advice to health, education and care professionals working in the field

For more information about the project and to find out how to request a copy of the resource, please contact:

Nicola Gray
Project Officer - PDI
National Autistic Society Scotland
1st Floor, Central Chambers
109 Hope Street
Glasgow
G2 6LL

0141 221 8090
nicola.gray@nas.org.uk

www.scotland.autism.org.uk