

# Innovation in Autism Practice: The Future is Calling

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# Voice, Participation and Involvement – development of an evidence informed guide for practice

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# Practitioner Research

## Rational

- To explore what we mean by 'voice' and 'participation' in Autism services
- To raise awareness of organisational and policy imperatives for user-participation and pupil voice
- To share case studies and lessons in promoting participation
- To discuss ways of promoting good practice in this area

## Method

- 6 practitioner researchers from across Scottish Autism
- Case Studies, focus groups, parent and service-user interviews
- Individual and service-level strategies considered
- Workshops and practitioner workbook as outputs

## Outcomes

- Development of Communication and Voice workshop for staff
- Good practice share via APIF
- Autism Europe
- Sharing good practice strategies to support individuals organisation wide
- Our Story

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- Core difficulty for people with autism
- Various resources and strategies available:  
PECS, visual aids
- Practitioners skilled at working with individual communication strategies
- Increasing availability of augmented communication through ICT

***but* communication for what?**

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# Scottish autism Principles for Practice

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

**Authenticity of voice:** Promoting Voice means validating the means of communication that are meaningful to individuals and minimising the ways in which practitioners mediate these voices

**Harnessing media meaningful to the individual:** in the individual case studies photography and computed were highlighted as a means of supporting individuals to make their own choices and to express their own preferences

**Ownership of the process:** Inclusion in the whole process seemed pivotal to the success of all the communication strategies developed. Strategies were developed with the service user not for them

**Material outputs and documents:** having something concrete to refer back to helped to reassure and give individuals a sense of control over the process

**Family Involvement and shared understanding:** having the support of all helped validate and support the initiatives underway.

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# Communities of practice

- Bringing Practitioners together to share knowledge and experience
- Promoting the inclusion of lived experience
- Exploring links and common themes
- Documenting communication strategies currently in use
- Highlighting case studies
- Creating useful outputs (who is it for?)

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# Workbook development

## Voice, Participation and Involvement in Autism Services

An evidence-informed guide



By the Scottish Autism  
Practitioner Research Team

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## By Practitioners for Practitioners

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