Early Years Autism Support Service

A pre-school model of autism support – delivering early intervention to children, families and early years practitioners

**Autism in Southwark**

- 94 per year
- 51 per year

Between 2010 and 2015:

On average, 245 per year children were assessed in the Autism and Related Disorders Clinic per year. 145 per year were given a diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder (94 were under 5 years old, and 51 were over 5 years old).

**Service offer and pathway**

This free service supports pre-school aged children, with a diagnosis of autism in London Borough of Southwark and is provided by the local authority Special Educational Needs and Disabilities team.

**Outcomes**

- **Individual intervention support 2015 (51 cases)**
  - Areas of priorities identified by parents/careers and practitioners
    - Sensory, 4
    - Ongoing support, 6
    - Play, 7
    - Sleep, 8
    - Behaviour, 8
    - Interaction, 12
    - Toileting, 22
  - Summary impact score as recorded on Review Plan
    - Learning, 4
    - Communication, 30
    - Routine, 25
    - Sensory, 4
    - Ongoing support, 6
    - Play, 7
    - Sleep, 8
    - Behaviour, 8
    - Interaction, 12
    - Toileting, 22

- **Three year review**
  - 12 months
  - 24 months
  - 30 months

- **Parents course evaluation 2015 (31 respondents)**
  - Before course
    - 5
    - 4
    - 3
    - 2
    - 1
  - After course
    - 1
    - 2
    - 3
    - 4
  - 1 Understanding of autism and the core impairments
  - 2 Understanding of different strategies and activities I can use to support my child
  - 3 Confidence in using autism strategies and activities

- **Practitioner Training Evaluation 2015 (79 respondents)**
  - Before training
    - 5
    - 4
    - 3
    - 2
    - 1
  - After training
    - 1
    - 2
    - 3
    - 4
  - 1 Understanding of autism and the core impairments
  - 2 How diagnosis can impact on a child’s learning
  - 3 Knowledge of practical strategies to support individual children
  - 4 Knowledge of whole setting level adaptations

**Implications and next steps**

**Early Intervention**

The Early Years Autism Support team provides children, families and early years provision support at the earliest point post diagnosis; in line with "Autistic Spectrum Disorders: Good Practice Guidance" (DfES, 2002). This aims to achieve better outcomes and longer-term resiliency for children and families living with a diagnosis of autism. The team also builds capacity in early years settings and transition support between early years and school settings. Another expected benefit is that earlier intervention aims to be preventative and more cost effective to services.

**Future Developments**

Current outcome measures only evaluate short term impacts of training to settings, and support to families. The team aims to gather longer-term data through six month and 12 month reviews, and beyond.

**Presented by**

Dr Jennifer Greene, Marco Cheng and Claire Grainger

Early Years Autism Support Team, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team
London Borough of Southwark