FPSA Grant Report

My name is Fran and I currently work as a Neurodevelopmental Nurse – NMP ADHD within a CAMHS specialist Neurodevelopmental Team. I am a Registered Mental Health Nurse and qualified Non-Medical Prescriber. Attending this training was essential for my professional practice, as being able to support our service to improve patient experience.

Upon receiving the FPSA Grant, I attended the 'Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition: ADOS-2 – Training'. The training took place at Hogrefe House in Oxford and was delivered over 2 days between 9th and 10th October 2018.

The training aimed to allow me to become to be competent, and to develop skills in order to facilitate and score the ADOS-2 assessment, as well as operationalising the diagnostic criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). I believe these aims have been met. The trainer is a very experienced and knowledgeable clinician. The trainer provided a very supportive learning environment and assisted the class to work through the all the materials needed to be able to administer the ADOS. During the training, we explored the various modules that can be used, as well as practiced scoring them to ensure a consistent high reliability rate.
This style of learning suited me very well.

Many sources suggest children and young people that require an assessment for a Neurodevelopmental Condition such as Autism, must wait an extensive amount of time which can result to waiting years (BBC News, 2018; Guardian, 2017). Receiving a diagnosis early in the young person's life has proven to have many overall benefits, and would dramatically increase their well-being (Fernell, 2013).

I will now be able to administer the ADOS within my service to support Neurodevelopmental Assessments. I will be able to support my team, and wider service with knowledge of ADOS assessments and characteristics of ASD. As outlined above, developing these skills has enabled me to facilitate these assessments.