

## **Report for FPSA Funding 2016**

### **University College London, Paediatric Neuropsychology CPD module on 'Assessment of neuropsychological disorders'**

I am very grateful for the funding granted to me by the FPSA which enabled me to attend a CPD module on 'assessment of neuropsychological disorders' on the Neuropsychology MSc Course at University College London. I was interested in this course as I am leading on a Neuropsychology Assessment clinic for children and young people where I work. Attendance on this course allowed me to develop my understanding and expertise in neuropsychological assessment and enabled me to put this into practice in the clinic.

The CPD module focused on the underlying principles of neuropsychological assessment in children and adolescents and the many variables involved in the administration, interpretation and reporting of neuropsychological assessments. Paediatric neuropsychologists are required to diagnose functions that are at risk of compromise and provide prognosis of outcome after brain injury/disease at different stages of development.

The module builds on key concepts of normal and abnormal development. It involved lectures and workshops over one week. Workshops were used to review the strengths and weaknesses of various tests used for assessing different components of cognition and behaviour. The importance of interpreting tests within the context of individual cases and describing potential functional implications was highlighted.

Lectures and workshops over the week included assessment of: motor skills, pragmatic language, language functions, memory, literacy skills and executive functioning. There were also workshops on undertaking mental health assessment, educational assessments and challenging neuropsychological assessments. There was a workshop on drawing as a neuropsychological assessment tool and one on cultural issues in neuropsychological assessment, which I found particularly interesting.

My attendance on this course has greatly improved my understanding of neuropsychological assessment and I have been able to apply this through the neuropsychological assessment clinic that I have set up across the CAMHS service where I work. The clinic is now in its 7 month and we have been able to see a number of young people and offer assessment and feedback on their strengths and difficulties, improving understanding and facilitating more support and referral to other services.