

Training attended: ADOS-2 Clinical Training with Compass Psychology

Venue: Online via Zoom

Length: 4 days

Award: Certificate of completion- ability to deliver ADOS assessments

Dates Completed: 1st-4th June 2026

My role:

I am an Assistant Psychologist working within a CAMHS Neurodevelopmental Team. In my team, we assess young people from 6-18 years old for autism and ADHD. Due to long waiting list times, we mostly see young people over the age of 11. To assess for autism at Enfield CAMHS, we use the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2) as the main child observation for autism assessments. I wanted to complete my ADOS-2 training so that I could complete the ADOS for young people and contribute to their ND assessments, as well as allowing us, as a team, to be able to increase the number of assessments we complete each month.

Training:

The ADOS-2 training took place over the course of four days. The course was delivered by Emma Woodhouse at Compass Psychology. The training used a range of tools to help us learn and I especially enjoyed learning from the group discussions with other professionals from different disciplines. Being able to reflect and discuss the case studies allowed me to develop a more comprehensive understanding on scoring and delivering the ADOS in a neuroaffirmative manner. We were also provided with a number of opportunities after the course finished to continue practicing our observation skills and increase our reliability when scoring.

Application to practice:

I have already completed two ADOS assessments with two young people who needed urgent assessments due to their age and complexity. I will also be allocated ADOS assessments to complete when we are allocated our next month of ND assessments. This has meant that as a team, we are able to increase the number of autism assessments we can complete in the upcoming month. As a result of the training, I have been able to have a more comprehensive understanding of autistic traits, improve my reliability in recognising these traits, and it has helped me to improve my critical thinking when assessing someone for autism. The training also helped me to think about how the ADOS can be used in services, the limitations of the tool and improve my understanding of differential diagnoses. I have been able to contribute additional information to our ND team MDTs to inform assessments and diagnoses. I am very thankful to the foundation for providing me this opportunity to be able to improve my practice and contribute to my service.