Training attended: ADOS-2 Clinical Training 2-day Live Online Workshop (by Pearson)

Venue: Online via Zoom

Length: 5 days

Award: Certificate of completion – ability to deliver ADOS and ADI assessments

Dates Completed: 12th November – Friday 16th November

Attendee: Clinical Psychologist in Community CAMHS Noth

Purpose of the training

This training was designed to provide clinicians with the knowledge and practical skills required to use two of the most widely recognised autism assessment tools: the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition (ADOS-2), and the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R).

The ADOS-2 is a structured observational assessment that provides opportunities to identify and evaluate social communication differences, interaction styles and patterns of behaviour associated with autism. The ADI-R complements this by gathering detailed developmental information from parents or caregivers, allowing clinicians to better understand a young person's developmental history and presenting profile. Together, these assessments form an important part of evidence-based, multidisciplinary autism assessment pathways.

Content an delivery

The training combined theoretical teaching with practical exercises and clinical examples. Throughout the five days, participants were guided through assessment administration procedures, scoring frameworks, algorithm use and interpretation of findings. Video demonstrations and case discussions provided opportunities to practise coding behaviours and apply learning in realistic clinical contexts.

One of the most valuable aspects of the course was the opportunity to see how assessment techniques can be adapted across different developmental levels while maintaining standardisation. The training also emphasised the importance of integrating assessment findings with wider clinical information, rather than relying on assessment scores in isolation.

Extensive learning materials were provided to support ongoing development and future practice, including guidance documents, scoring resources and post-training learning activities.

Impact on my clinical practice

Completing this training has enhanced my professional knowledge and skills in several important areas:

- Increased my confidence in contributing to autism assessments within CAMHS services.

- Developed my ability to administer and score both the ADOS-2 and ADI-R accurately and consistently.
- Improved my understanding of how autistic characteristics may present differently across young people.
- Enhanced my awareness of factors that can complicate assessment, including anxiety, trauma, learning needs and other neurodevelopmental or mental health presentations.
- Strengthened my formulation skills by considering assessment findings within a broader developmental and family context.
- Increased my knowledge of neuroaffirmative assessment principles and person-centred approaches when working with young people and families.
- Equipped me with skills that can support service development and improve local autism assessment provision.
- Enabled me to share specialist knowledge with multidisciplinary colleagues and contribute to more informed discussions regarding neurodevelopmental presentations.

Application of Learning

I intend to apply these skills within my role as a Clinical Psychologist in Community CAMHS by contributing to high-quality autism assessments and supporting timely access to neurodevelopmental assessment pathways. The training has increased my confidence in working collaboratively with young people, families and multidisciplinary teams to ensure assessment outcomes are clinically meaningful and lead to appropriate support and recommendations.

The knowledge gained through this training will also contribute to wider service development, helping to strengthen local expertise in autism assessment and ensuring that young people receive assessments that are evidence-based, comprehensive and neuroaffirmative.

Summary

I found the training to be highly valuable and directly relevant to my clinical role. The combination of theoretical knowledge, practical exercises and opportunities for discussion provided a strong foundation for implementing these assessment tools in practice. I would recommend this training to clinicians involved in neurodevelopmental assessment, as it provides both the technical skills and clinical understanding needed to undertake autism assessments effectively and confidently and I am very grateful to FPSA for the funding for this training.