

FPSA Grant report

I am an Assistant Psychologist in an NHS CAMHS team. I have a BSc in Psychology and a MSc in Clinical Applications of Psychology. I recently received a grant to attend Pearson's 'Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition: ADOS-2 – Training' which took place on 4th and 5th December at the Life Science Centre in Newcastle. The ADOS is a semi structured assessment of communication, social interaction, and play for people with queried autism and autism spectrum disorder. This tool has proven to be a valuable tool which adds quality and evidence to the overall assessment process for neurodevelopmental conditions. With increasing demands on CAMHS services and ever growing waiting lists for assessing queried neurodevelopmental conditions, this training will be incredibly helpful for reducing waiting list times for children and young people with queried autism and autism spectrum disorder. In reducing waiting list times people are said to experience less distress and feel more supported and satisfied with health care services.

The training itself was interesting and well-delivered; there were a range of clinicians from various different backgrounds which allowed for a more varied discussion and learning experience. The trainer used different methods for teaching the background, administration and scoring of the assessment, such as PowerPoint, videos, worksheets and group discussion. This helped keep the content interesting and allowed space for personal reflection. Although we didn't have an opportunity to physically practice what we learnt, we were able to practice our scoring with the use of pre-recorded assessments. In addition, we were provided with post course materials to practice at home.