

Summary Report from ADOS-2 Clinical Workshop supported by funding from FPSA

I would like to thank the Foundation for Professionals in Services to Adolescents for enabling me to attend this 2-day course in May 2018 and develop my knowledge and skills in the clinical assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The course focused on providing an introduction and guidance on the use of the ADOS-2 for the purposes of clinical assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The course aimed to demonstrate administration and scoring as well as operationalising diagnostic criteria for ASD. The training provided the opportunity to learn about administration and scoring of all the modules for the ADOS-2, this was a useful experience due to younger children rarely being referred to our ASD assessment clinic meaning that opportunities for observing the lower modules are limited.

The training course also provided the opportunity to practice scoring the ADOS-2 with guidance from the experienced trainer on the nuances of administration and coding. This was facilitated through discussing the assessment tool in detail and practicing scoring of videos that we watched of different modules being administered. This felt very important and I feel that this worked to reach better levels of inter-rater reliability and thus, in the future, a more robust service for the young people and families accessing our ASD assessment clinic.

Attending this training has allowed me to support our current specialist assessments for young people presenting with possible ASD. It has also enabled me to facilitate the assessment process by considering alternative formulations in understanding why a young person may be presenting with difficulties associated with social communication difficulties including developmental trauma, intellectual disabilities and attachment related needs. As a CAMHS service we feel that it is critical to ensure that comprehensive assessments are completed for the young people accessing the ASD assessment clinic to enable us to understand their presenting needs. This is important for our service as often young people accessing the clinic present to us later as older children when their difficulties become more evident or where previously their presenting developmental needs have not been fully understood. As such I feel very grateful for the support of the Foundation to enhance my experience, understanding and expertise in this way which has made a big difference to my clinical work with young people and their families.