The Liverpool Asperger Team

Chris Austin, Team Manager
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Background

• 1999 - High profile people with complex needs
• Problem of mental health v learning disabilities
• Demands on clinical services
• Public raising of the needs of people with Asperger Syndrome in the city
Immediate Response

• Establish multi disciplinary steering group
• Set up a panel to help people in crisis
• Apply for DISCO training for some clinicians
• Commission research to look at numbers and need within the city
• Hold public consultation events
Information from the Panel

• Very small number of people require intensive clinical support
• Many people request more information about Asperger Syndrome
• Most people benefitted from the development of a person centred plan
• Most people need help accessing mainstream services e.g. family counselling, employment opportunities
Additional Themes

• Emotional support/counselling
• Information about Asperger Syndrome following diagnosis
• Training for carers in how best to support their family member.
• Practical Support, e.g. claiming benefits

The team was set up on 1st April 2003
Proposed Team

- A session of Psychiatry
- 5 sessions of Clinical Psychology
- 3 sessions of Speech Therapy
- 5 sessions from a Social Worker
- 5 paid sessions from service users/carers
- Team Manager/Specialist Practitioner
- Care co-ordinator
- Support Worker
- Administrator
MANAGED CARE PATHWAY

Education
- Further & Higher Education
- Specialist Provision

Primary Health Care / Secondary Health Care

Social Services
- Supported Houses
- Day Care Services

Drop-in Centre

Police

Specialist Services
- Criminal Justice
- Mental Health
- Alcohol & Substance Misuse

Probation

Prisons

Local Solutions

Asperger Syndrome – Specific Multi Disciplinary Team
Central Point of Access for Assessment and Diagnosis
Co-ordinating role within network

Service User / Carer Groups

Employment
- Support Into Mainstream Employment
- Access to Specialist Provision
What do we offer?

• Assessment and diagnosis
• Person centred approach
• Specialist knowledge, information and advice
• Awareness training
• Clinical interventions – either from the team or the Managed Care Pathway
Intake/Assessment

Diagnosis/Needs Assessment

Intervention/Formulation

Social Care Packages/Review

Autonomous Groups/Independent Work

Level of Team Input
Mission statement

The Liverpool Asperger Team are here to provide a specialist service for people with Asperger syndrome. The team adopts a person centred approach and uses creative and innovative interventions. This assists the individual with the social and communication barriers that they may face in everyday life.
What’s worked well...

- Service user involvement
- Support for carers
- “An Asperger Life” DVD
- Flexibility of staff
- Groups
- Drop In/The Hub
- Research
- Planning and reflection
- Full time members of the team
- Psycho-social model
- Solution focused
### Referrals to date

( pop of Liverpool 436,072)

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