

ASD Pathway Idea to Test: School Information Interview

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Initial problem

ASD assessment in CAMHS are complex and involve multiple components and associated delays.

Our 2016 audit identified that one of the steps in the process commonly leading to delays was when gathering contextual information (e.g. school observations).

Specific aim

- To reduce delays while gathering contextual information and to improve quality of assessment information to inform diagnostic decision making.

Measurement of improvement

- Outcome measure - Length of time of the overall journey (weeks)
- ASD TRAK Specification in the pipeline (to measure steps in the process)
- Balancing measure - is it creating more delays further down the line (formulation meeting)?

Ideas to test

- **PDSA 1:** Improved school observation proformas – primary and secondary
- **PDSA 2:** Caseholder to do - No additional observer required
- **PDSA 3:** Developed School Information Interview based on proformas
- **PDSA 4:** Based on feedback from clinicians, improved design and content of proforma (current)

Tools

- Process map
- Clinician Feedback Questionnaire
- Patient Experience

Effects of change

- Reduced time taken in some cases (still takes time to arrange)
- Increased quality of information and ownership of caseholder
- Unintended positive outcome – effect on teacher perceptions and school approaches

Lessons learned and message for others

- Using PDSA in a large team of autonomous clinicians
- Starting small – an idea to test/ develop
- Involving families – having a conversation

