



December 2024

Learning Disability and Autism Training for General Practice staff in Coventry and Warwickshire ICB

In January 2024 Coventry and Warwickshire Training Hub (CWTH) submitted a proposal to the ICB to educate General Practice staff with regards to Learning Disability (LD) and Autism awareness.

Those with a Learning Disability and Autistic people experience significant health inequalities and on average die earlier than the general population. Evidence suggests that communication difficulties with people living with Learning Disability and Autism is a major contributing factor to these health inequalities

(<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/accessibleinfo/>). Despite awareness of the needs and a willingness to learn there was no training easily accessible to general practice staff. We used Protected Learning Time (PLT) to deliver the Learning Disability and Autism training via 2 half day virtual sessions in June covering LD and 2 further half day virtual sessions in November covering Autism. The course content was created by the Education team at the CWTH, based on CQC training requirements, and reviewed and delivered by Dr Ayesha Mahmud and Dr Caroline Wrigley both local GPs with a special interest in this field. Emma O'Brien, health team project worker from Grapevine Charity, coordinated our Experts by Experience (EBE) and delivered the awareness training. We also had input from the local general practice Freedom to Speak Up Guardian Dr Maisun Elftise.

The sessions were split into 2 elements. The first element for was for the whole workforce both clinical and non-clinical and then the second element was for clinical staff only. General practice teams were encouraged to attend together so they were able to share their thoughts and feedback as the sessions were delivered. The sessions were very interactive with participants able to post their feedback and ask questions throughout.

We had 1715 attendees for the June session on LD, with 914 of these being clinical and staying for the full session. For the November session on Autism, we had 1505 attendees, with 729 staying for the clinical session. The event was recorded and the numbers for November are likely to increase as people watch after the event. All Places attended well, there are approximately 3500 staff working in Coventry and Warwickshire general practice over 50% of staff have been trained.

All attendees have been given proof of attendance, which can be used for appraisal and CQC visits to practices.

Feedback can be found on the following pages, but wished to draw your attention to the fact that the session was enjoyed overwhelmingly, and that practice will change as a direct result of the training.

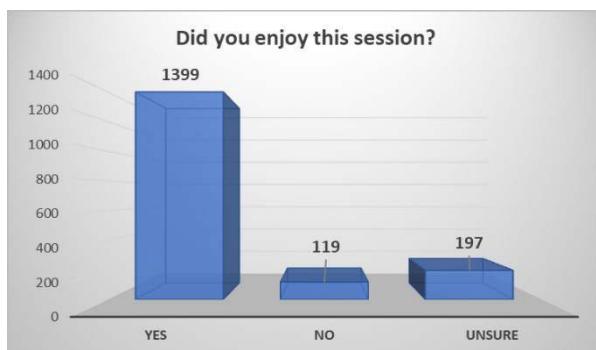
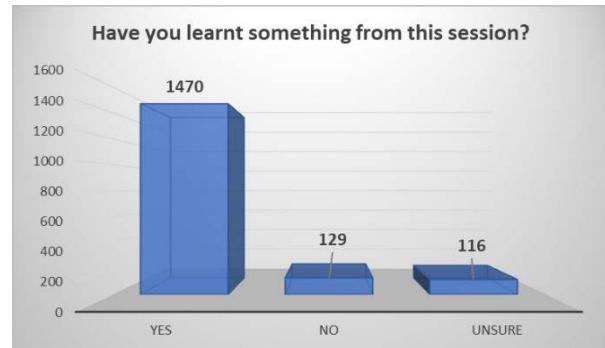
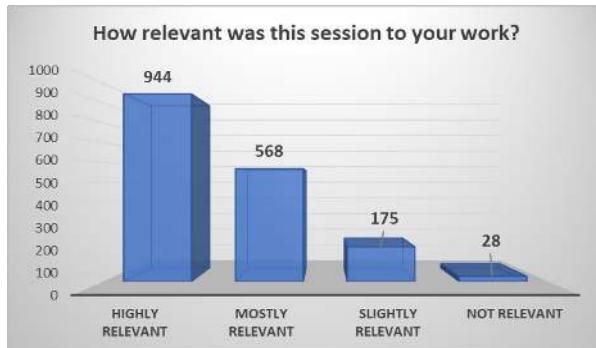
We believe that as a direct result of our education sessions there will be improvements in patient care and outcomes, supporting personalised care and reducing health inequalities in those with LD and Autism.

Should the ICB wish to commission a similar approach for other topics please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Learning Disabilities June 2024

How to support those with Learning Disabilities

Evaluations: 1715



What went well?

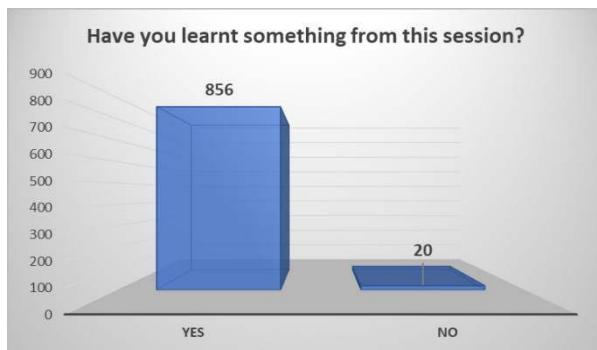
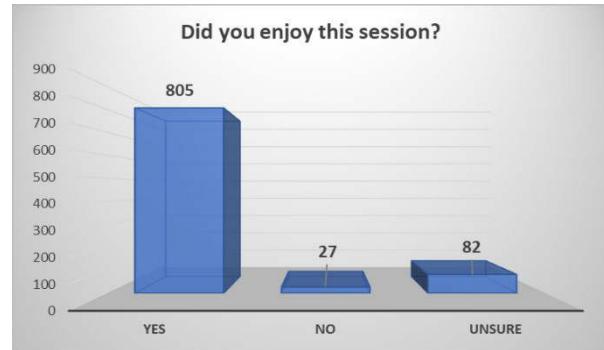
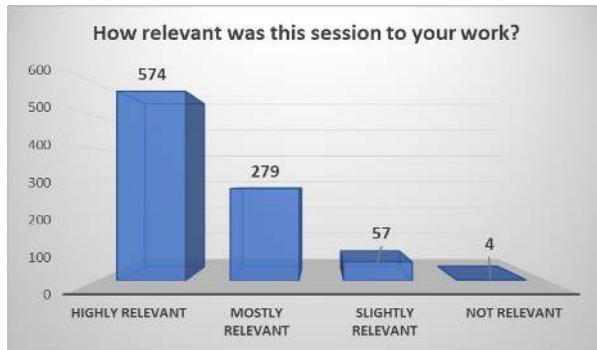
- Able to assess easily
- A chance to discuss how other surgeries do their reviews
- All the talks were informative and relevant
- Good case examples and ideas on local services available
- Great speakers who are clearly enthusiastic, feel like I am better informed. Very relevant
- Great to get information regarding local services for people with learning disabilities
- It gave me a wider perspective of how it feels for a patient with learning disabilities attending an appointment.
- I think this session was great as it was and has provoked many discussions and thoughts around LD, we have now set up a focus group as a practice

What could have made the session better?

- Not necessarily to make it better, but how we can help given the limitations we face eg room space as we can't switch rooms, music licence is extremely expensive so it would be good to have alternatives on what may help in light of these factors we face
- Quiet a lot of discussion breaks with not much feedback on those discussions
- Would have been better if pre-recorded, too many issues with quality of sound and buffering
- Was quite repetitive could of been more concise and maybe some actual case studies of incidents to learn from
- Some more practice based scenarios
- Showing how someone who is unable to communicate would manage and get their point across. Show a wider range of disabilities.
- Nothing, honestly thought it was a great session. Some difficult to articulate learning points made really well.

Clinical aspects of Learning Disabilities

Evaluations: 914



What went well?

- Advice about undertaking LD assessment and making diagnosis
- Awareness of learning disability problems , access to health services, how we could change things in my practice
- Covered a wide range of topics, expressed patient concerns and frustrations clearly
- Explanation of Reasonable adjustment - brilliant
- Good speakers outlining steps to move forward
- Good for bringing all of these points to the forefront of our minds
- Helpful to know what steps practices can take to improve access to care for people with LD. i think it would be helpful for each practice to have an LD champion
- The presentations were concise and easy to follow

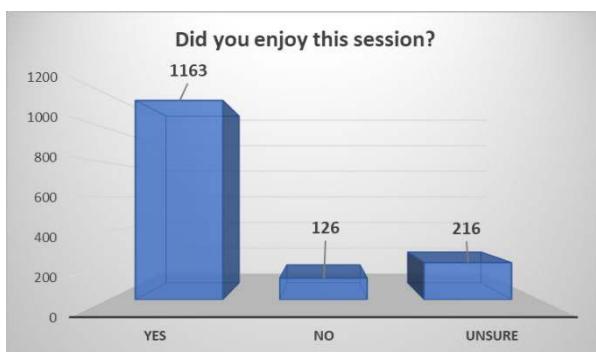
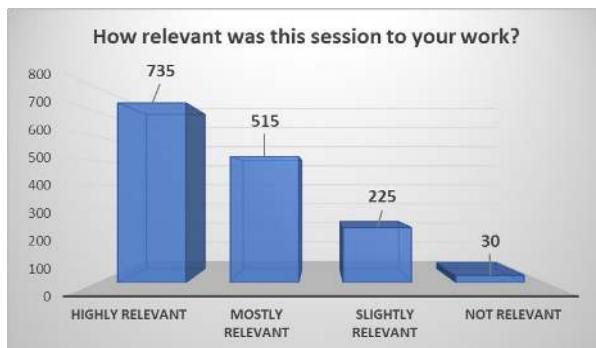
What could have made the session better?

- More info on referral for assessment for diagnosis in adult patients
- More audience participation
- The clinical element could have been given a longer time frame. Lots of information to take on board.
- More similar sessions in future
- More time for Q&A
- How to deal with patients without a formal diagnosis yet obvious special needs
- More variety in the delivery, I feel a little too "talked at" after this session, compared with the earlier one.
- Keep up with great work

Autism Awareness November 2024

What is Autism?

Evaluations: 1505



What went well?

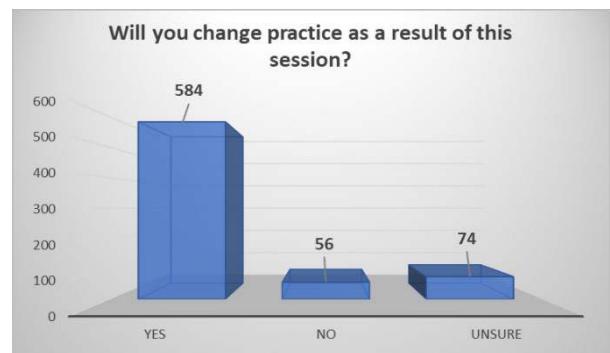
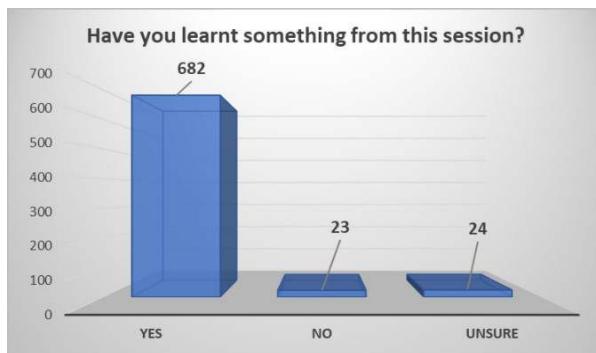
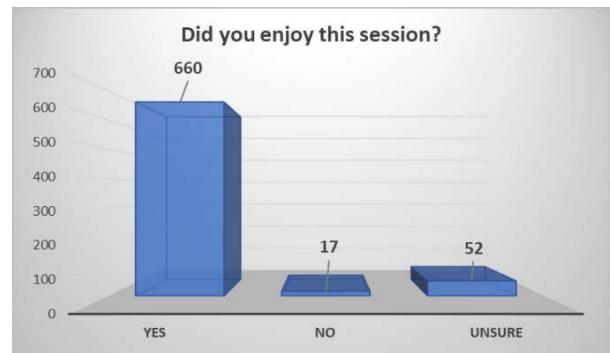
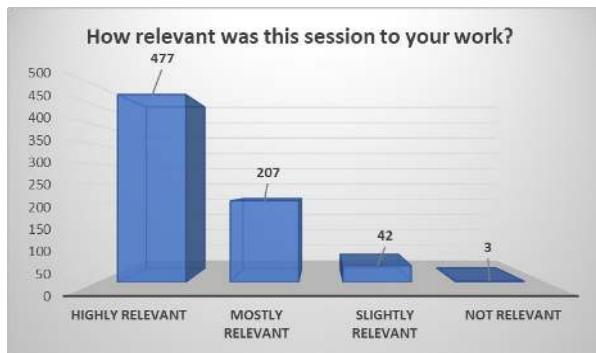
- A better understanding of how I deal with patients with this condition.
- All brilliant presentation
- Allowing those with autism to be part of the lesson
- It was useful to know about grapevine and knowing how to signpost patients/parents to
- Explanation of autism in a simple but impactful way
- Gave us the opportunity to discuss changes at our practice and enjoyed the videos.
- Hearing lived experiences is so powerful, you really understand the challenges faced. The video hearing the sensory issues faced was fantastic too.
- I enjoyed the pauses to discuss and reflect, and the point of view / experiences relayed from people with autism so that we can be more supportive in our practice

What could have made the session better?

- As a mother to a child with severe autism and several other issues also non verbal the session was not aimed at the more severely autistic - mild to moderate
- A lot of silent break outs for those not in a group
- Revision and regular sessions
- Use polling system (such as Vevox) to minimise chat clutter
- Further clinical focus
- I feel that plenty was covered, so no need for any improvement!
- Write a slide with 'This bit is silent!' Will save inches of chat space

Clinical aspects of Autism

Evaluations: 729



What went well?

- Advice to parents to support them in dealing with behaviour of a child with autism, understanding PDA
- All the technology worked and the speaker was very effective
- Both sessions were amazing
- Brilliant speakers, clinically relevant and a great update
- Case discussions. Considerations on how we can make our practice more compliant. Has created good points for us to reflect on as a practice team
- Considering diagnosis of autism and how it affects people in different ways
- Excellent ! I've become more confident with this condition.
- Very interesting talk about a doctor's own experience of autism. Useful tips on supporting and signposting these patients and families

What could have made the session better?

- Maybe more breaks as quite lengthy to concentrate fully
- Longer! There's so much around this subject, I feel it needs a whole day
- Resources handout guide for clinicians
- More on the problem with waiting list.
- Larger diagrams might have been helpful to see the pathways etc
- Maybe a useful quick reference to these resources could be produced or standardised patient leaflet to help
- More focus on adults as my practice encounters more of these requests than paediatric patients