Turning the Curve (EU Project)

improving the lives of children and young people with autism and their families and carers
Project Scope/Focus

Scope
- Budget £1,1000.00 initially (now extended)
- 750 beneficiaries across the 4 partner areas (currently WHT/SHT have 1963 (401 YP) + 15 Siblings)

Focus
The project will support the (educational, vocational and social) transition needs of children and young people with Autism aged between 15 and 19 and their
Project Outcomes – all met

- Positive educational, vocational and social outcomes for target group
- Reduce isolation for ASD children and young people through social activities
- Introduce ‘respite’ provision for targeted families via social support to ASD child/young person
- Reduce levels of parental/sibling stress and anxiety
- Develop new partnerships between statutory and voluntary organisations in border areas
Additional Benefits - Young People

- Found a number of very talented young people - encouraged to take their gift forward (educationally, vocationally and socially)
- More active young people (taking exercise eg walking clubs)
- Young people who are now supporting and mentoring other young people with ASD (volunteering with project)
- Proactive young people exploring educational, vocational and social options themselves
- Young People have found like minded people to spend leisure time with that is organised without any support
- Measuring the journey made by the young people, all have indicated they are less stressed, are more confident, better organised and more comfortable making decisions
- Increased independence and decreased dependence from/on carers
Additional Benefits - Others

- Number of new networks for siblings, parents and other carers
- Families sign posted to relevant professionals via project staff reducing other family problems and are content there exits an element of support to them
- Improved family relationships
- Better informed employers (public and private eg DEL, HE), training providers, voluntary organisations, leisure activity organisations etc
- Staff design appropriate training – raising self-esteem of young people and Trust providing appropriate training (Focus groups)
- Better relationship between ASD Team and CAMHS Team
- Influenced provision of the Voluntary/Community sector to this age group of young people
For the service – impact

- Only 2 participants required input from a Clinical Psychologist (which represents only 2.6% of the project participants)
- One of the young people involved in the project was known to Tier 4 Mental Health, now in Tier 3. This young person engaged with the project and although continues to receive support from CAMHS this support is greatly reduced
- 4 Young people with ASD that had been known to CAMHS were subsequently discharged as they no longer required this service from CAMH
- No applications for additional support or direct payments to the Disability Panel from those involved in the project. (Historically 18.75% of those referred to the Disability Panel would be between the ages of 14 to 18)
- There were only 2 (which represents only 6.25%) cash grants required by or issued to the families of children and young people participating in the Project.
Not all was perfect

- Recruitment of Staff with relevant experience difficult
- Staff turnover (temporary positions)
- Parents poor at communicating occasionally family commitments – children not available
- Parents not prepared to provide transport
- Families involved requested the need for certain services and yet on a few occasions there were no participants eg sibling workshops
Project Closure

- In the final stages of project and the majority of young people opted to progress social support in a group settings (73%)
- Each family has a robust Exit Strategy based on the achievement of the objectives within the Transition Plan
- Partners are moving towards securing funding to mainstream all or parts of the project
- Collecting data for Final Report