

# Green Light for Coventry & Warwickshire

The Learning Disability Acute Liaison role in the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust has been well received. The role mainly involves supporting my mental health colleagues to consider the reasonable adjustments that they can employ for those people with Learning Disabilities, Autism, both, or those we suspect to experiencing difficulties with their understanding and are therefore at risk of not receiving an equitable service.

I encounter a lot of people who sit on the borderline of eligibility for learning disability services that are at risk of falling between the gaps in services. I advocate strongly that these people continue to be seen in Mental Health services when their primary need is a mental health one. Unfortunately, I continue to encounter people who need assessment and diagnosis of Neurodevelopmental conditions, both Autism and ADHD. Luckily, there is a 3-year project beginning in the Trust, as led by colleagues in the Neurodevelopmental Team, to support Mental Health services so that they can better assess and diagnose Autism, rather than seeking referrals to other agencies.

My liaison role is across inpatient and community settings. I act in an advisory capacity always seeking to meet with patients alongside my mental health colleagues. I also act as a resource for communication tools and social stories that promote understanding and support better access to mental health services. I produce bespoke easy read documents and am a resource for easy read materials on a wide range of topics. I am particularly keen to support people to understand their diagnoses, their medication, and the processes that are happening to them.

I support my mental health colleagues with Capacity Assessments where we want to consider additional learning needs and the use of reasonable adjustments to improve the validity and veracity of these assessments. I regularly visit patients who are in acute settings, building therapeutic relationships with them, to understand their needs and support staff on the wards to support them better. I have the additional support of a Learning Disability Health Care Assistant for some of his week to support me with this.

I deliver education and awareness via formal training packages in Learning Disabilities and Mental Health to wards and community teams. I also deliver a brief Autism Awareness package that has received good feedback from my colleagues, external agencies, and families of those who support people with Autism.

Finally, I support people being discharged from ward settings so that a transition can be achieved where we are mindful of the reasonable adjustments required.

Simon Ashby, March 2022