



Self Assessment of our SEND Implementation

June 19

*A new approach to special educational
needs and disability*



Development of new clinical pathway for children with an identified Sensory Processing need.

What was the issue

- There is an increasing number of referrals to Children's Occupational Therapy (OT) for children and young people with a queried sensory processing need, where the difficulties impact on the child's functioning within home and school. The volume of referrals has increased significantly over the last 3 years resulting in increased waiting times greatly in excess of desired 18 weeks.
- The Occupational therapy Service ran 4 session training workshop for parents, and also offered a 3 session training course for SENDCo's, both of which received very positive feedback from attendees however this approach was not keeping up with demand and was a significant commitment of time for parents, education staff and OTs

Our Journey so far

- The OT team redeveloped the training package into a one day workshop on 'Understanding your Child's Sensory Challenges'
- The workshop was further differentiated so we can use three different presentations to more specifically meet the needs of parents of children of primary age, secondary age and one for parents and a school representative to attend together

What have we done?

- The OT team ran a pilot of these 1 day workshops during May and June 2019
- Parents (and school) of all children on waiting list at that time referred for concerns due to sensory processing needs were invited to book on to a workshop on a day convenient to them
- 5 x 1 day parent workshops were completed and 1 workshop jointly for parents and school representative.
- Parents (and school) identified 1or 2 priority goals which they needed to work towards with their child and were provided with specific strategies to support them to work on that goals
- 41 families attended and feedback was positive
- Parents (and school) were advised of how to access further OT support following implementation of strategies given
- Following this successful pilot we have continued to offer at least 2 workshops every half term so that new referrals are offered a workshop within the following term
- We are now able to run the workshop with one experienced OT, freeing other OT for other clinical work

What difference has this made?

- Parents of children referred to OT due to sensory challenges are able to access support in a more timely way
- Parents report a significant strength of the workshop is the shared experienced with other parents and the learning from one another
- Using 5 point scale all parents reported an increase in at least 1 point (and most a 2 point) in understanding

sensory processing and how to recognise their child's sensory needs. This is providing parents with knowledge and skills they can use on a daily basis to support their child

- Parents and school representative have received the same information and training and have had an opportunity to discuss the child's goals together
- Of the school's that have attended we have received positive feedback and anecdotal reports that they have been able to transfer the knowledge and strategies given to support other children

Areas for further action

- Liaison with OT colleagues in others areas of Devon to agree a uniform OT pathway including parent and school workshops
- Further development to integrate this parent training into other parent education programmes such as Early Bird, pre-diagnostic workshop for children awaiting ASD assessment in order to improve the timeliness and relevance of support given.
- Making this workshop available at targeted support level without the need for referral to specialist services i.e. OT in the first instance

Immediate next steps

- Continue to offer at least 2 workshops each half term in order to offer a timely service to current children referred

Author

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