

Belfast Locality Planning Groups Autism Awareness Training

Background

Members of the Locality Planning Groups and Family Support Hubs reported high levels of families who are affected by Autism and require support around this.

As one of the main priorities in all 4 Locality Groups, Autism NI agreed to deliver 3 Autism Awareness sessions for members, hosted by NIACRO. This enabled over 100 front line staff, including health visitors, social workers and other practitioners to participate in the sessions.

These sessions took place in February and April 2016.

North Belfast LPG-

All children, young people and families will be supported to build resilience

Outcome 3

West Belfast LPG-

All children and young people will have access to inclusive community services & social activities

Outcome 3

South Belfast LPG-

Families in South Belfast are more resilient

Outcome 1

Outcomes of the training:

1. Improve/challenge attitudes and inform people of Autism through awareness raising sessions.
2. Increase front line staff knowledge about how to support families who have a child with Autism.
3. Introduce strategies and tips which can be implemented.



How much did we do?

- In total, over 100 Practitioners attended the Autism Awareness Training over 3 sessions
- Presentation/ session led by Autism NI trainer
- The workshop included interactive activities, visual resources and group discussions

How well did we do it?

- There was no financial cost to LPG- Autism NI provided trainer and NIACRO provided the venue
- 80% of those attending completed evaluation forms
- 98% of attendees rated the training as good or excellent
- 78 out of 80 respondees gave the content of the workshop 4/5 or 5/5 for meeting their expectations

Is anyone better off?

In the evaluation forms practitioners commented on how they would change their practice as a result of the session. Some examples are as follows:

- Ideas and tips of effective communication, environment and behaviour management
- Will help my work with parents to help their understanding of their child's needs
- Will use clearer instructions and take more time
- Will use more visual aids, depend less on oral communication
- More aware of how to communicate

Most helpful aspect of the workshop

