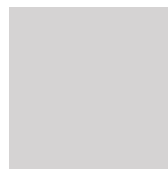
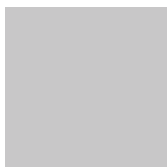
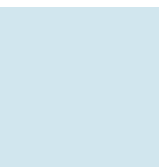




CENTRE FOR AUTISM

MIDDLETOWN

Training 




ADVICE and GUIDANCE SERVICE INFORMATION



ADVICE and GUIDANCE SERVICE INFORMATION

Middletown Centre for Autism has developed, within its Training Department, an education advice and guidance service which delivers intensive assessment and learning support for children and young people who despite specialist input continue to experience difficulties in their educational setting. The

 Training - Advice and Guidance Service is a second level service aiming to provide further assessment, learning

support and intervention for children and young people with autism. The service utilises a trans-disciplinary approach to service delivery. The team includes Specialist Teachers, Specialist Occupational Therapists, a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, a Specialist Educational Psychologist and a Behaviour Intervention ASD Specialist. The service delivery is based on a capacity building model which will provide:

- A detailed trans-disciplinary assessment and learning support plan
- Specific training for those working with the child and young person referred to the service
- Home support and advice for parents in relation to their child's education
- Support for children and young people for up to four terms according to need

REFERRAL INFORMATION

The criteria for referral to the Training  Advice and Guidance Service are as follows:

- The child or young person's special educational needs have been identified by the Education and Library Board
- The child or young person should be aged between 2 and 19 years
- The child or young person will be experiencing difficulty in their educational setting despite support from first level services

THE REFERRAL PROCESS

A parent/carer or any professional working with a child or young person can propose that a referral is sent to **Middletown Centre for Autism** using the referral process described in the table below. Normally one child or young person from each Education and

Library Board is referred, on a rolling basis, in a period of one academic year. The referral can be actioned at any time of the year and assessment and learning support will continue through the summer months.

1

- A parent or professional discusses the possibility of referral with the Principal of the child or young person's school or with the lead team member in their educational placement.
- The ASD service or school proposing a referral will obtain parental consent before proceeding.
- The ASD Interboard Group members agree the sequence in which ELBs make referrals.

2

- The Assistant Senior Education Officer (ASEO) of each Board, or his/her nominee, will be responsible for approving the selection of a pupil for referral.
- If the ASD service is the first level service then the ASD service will propose a pupil to the ASEO having consulted with, school, other relevant professionals and parents and, if appropriate, Middletown Centre for Autism.
- In the exceptional circumstance that a special school is the "first level" service and the ASD Service is not currently involved with the pupil then the Special School will propose the pupil and engage in the appropriate consultations including consultation with the ASD Service.

3

- The ASEO or nominee will arrange for the most appropriate service and/or school staff to gather and collate the referral information required.
- In most instances it is envisaged that the ASD Service and the School will collaborate to collate the required information.
- The ASEO or nominee, if content that the referral is appropriate and the information complete will forward all of the information to MCA. This will include the parental consent form.

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

The success of the trans-disciplinary learning support plan for a child or young person referred to the Training – advice and guidance service is dependent on collaborative practice and multi-agency working.

Throughout the period of assessment and learning support the on-going responsibility for services remains with the Health and Social Care Trusts

and the schools. In the delivery of services the MCA team will endeavour to work collaboratively with health and education professionals already providing services to the child or young person referred. Specific working arrangements will be developed and delivered by mutual agreement between the relevant professionals.



Parents, Education and Health professionals will:

- have the opportunity to attend meetings and contribute to the development of the Learning Support Plan
- be encouraged to liaise with the trans-disciplinary team throughout the period of intervention
- have opportunities to observe/ deliver collaborative intervention
- be provided with opportunities to avail of specialist ASD training where appropriate.

MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

The following outlines the routes that may be employed to establish good practice in multi-agency working.





CENTRE FOR AUTISM

MIDDLETOWN

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FUTURE
TRAINING EVENTS
IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

www.middletownautism.com

Please visit our website to book on-line
or complete an application form to reserve a place.

**There is no charge to parents, family members or
professionals for training events.**

For further information

about **Parent Training** sessions

email: **parent.training@middletownautism.com**

about **Professional Training** sessions

email: **training@middletownautism.com**

or call: **0044 (0) 28 3751 5750**



Middletown Centre for Autism, located in County Armagh, has been established by the Department of Education and Skills, Republic of Ireland, and the Department of Education, Northern Ireland, to support the promotion of excellence in the development and co-ordination of education services to children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder.