

The Tees Autism Partnership held a workshop in October with people with Autism Spectrum Conditions, their Carers and families, and providers of services.

One of the workshops was focussed on 'Good Health'.

The following shows quotes from the health workshop. These are quotes from the meeting and so can be used as qualitative evidence (ie. they are not necessarily representative but provide an indication of people's views).

'Parents should join GP patient groups and make changes to surgeries for people with Autism'

'Still some issues with GP surgeries – it's better than it was but could be better'

'Still some confidence and communication issues with practices'

'GP receptionists can be really difficult'

'I ring the surgery before an appointment, to remind them that my son is coming for his appointment'

'Optician service is really good but we have gone to the same optician for years'

'You don't get recalled to orthotics services – once you have been seen you have to make a re-referral'

'Community dental services are really good. They allow the person more time for the appointment – they let you visit before you are given an appointment so you get to know the place and people.'

'Positive examples of dentistry include de-sense work'

'We don't always get to see the same GP which makes the appointment really difficult'

'GPs don't always have the time so we can have longer appointments'

'Optician visited the home to do an eye test – Specsavers – really positive experience and good service'

'Good Mencap video on Youtube – Going to the dentist'

'Tots TV Dentist – show if before you go to the dentist '

'Sexual Health sessions for people with Autism – put referrals into the Community Learning Disability Team'

'Parents need research or good information about sexual health'

'How do we get information from GPs?'

'Environment is important to us'

'Appointment times should be met – delays make us anxious'

'Flu vaccines are being delivered'

'Awareness raising around capacity and Best Interest by GPs could be better – include the same GP to build up a relationship'

'Home visits instead of visiting the GP Surgery'

'Positive example of One Life – lots of adjustments made and good relationship with people working there'

'Improved response at NTH FT' [North Tees and Hartlepool Trust]

'Experience of difficult service response at JCUH' [James Cook University Hospital]

'Good service from JCUH learning disability liaison'

'Earlier awareness of Autism is needed for student nurses / doctors'

'Information on understanding medication is needed'

'Some delays on ordering pharmacy (electronically)'

'Experiences of making up liquid medication'

'Professionals need to understand the impact of changes to medication including using different brands'

'Podiatry – really positive experiences'

'Health Professionals need to be more aware of Autism, share knowledge and skills'

'Community and District Nursing needs continuity and should be more accessible'

'Limit on incontinence pads'

'Having Locum GP's makes things more difficult'