

Feedback from the National Autistic Society (for parents)

- Parents liked the leaflet for GPs (with a few minor amendments) and thought the CAMHS 'passport' was a good idea. They would like to see an extended version of the leaflet showing a scenario of a child with a difficulty and the journey of the child and family taken through CAMH services, depending on their need. They would also like to see a comprehensive listing of what each service does, ie play therapy.
- Ideas for distribution of leaflets: libraries, Citizens Advice Bureau, maternity wards, health visitors and consultants. A link from the special needs section on website to be looked into.
- Some parents had had experience of schools blocking requests for services, ie BST, EPs, so parents have had to telephone the services themselves.
- Some parents had had experience of being talked down to. What can the CAMHS Trust do to stop this happening?
- There doesn't appear to be much assistance for youngsters aged 16 with additional needs who are leaving school and going to college or work. Further help is needed to help the youngsters prepare for interviews, applying for college or jobs and to feel supported.
- Waiting lists for autism assessment is long. An acknowledgement of receipt of referral would be appreciated, together with some idea of waiting time.
- Some parents who were encouraged to seek independent schooling for their child were not told that some services wouldn't be available to them, ie Education Welfare.

Karen Clark
16 April 2009