## PLUS Project Spotlight on Autism, Acquired Brain Injury and Learning Disability 16 December 2015 - Event Report

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<tr>
<th>List of Attendees</th>
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<td>Aleksandra</td>
<td>Trepka</td>
<td>St Mungo's Broadway</td>
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<td>Amanda</td>
<td>D'Souza</td>
<td>Headway East London</td>
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<td>Andrew</td>
<td>Greenhill</td>
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<td>Annie</td>
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<td>Equinox Care: Probation Housing</td>
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<td>Ben</td>
<td>Troy</td>
<td>Emmaus - South Lambeth Community</td>
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<td>Chris</td>
<td>Stringer</td>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
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<td>Dean</td>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>New Horizon Youth Centre</td>
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<td>Graham</td>
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<td>Helen</td>
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<td>The Albert Kennedy Trust</td>
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<td>Jacqui</td>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>The London Rehabilitation Company Limited</td>
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<td>Jessica</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Peter Bedford HA Ltd</td>
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<td>Jimmy</td>
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<td>John</td>
<td>Verge</td>
<td>Golden Lane Housing</td>
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<td>Liza</td>
<td>Dresner</td>
<td>Resources for Autism</td>
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<td>Atim</td>
<td>Abrams</td>
<td>Mencap</td>
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<td>Marilyn</td>
<td>Adolphe</td>
<td>West London Mental Health Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark</td>
<td>Brennan</td>
<td>CARIS Islington - Churches Cold Weather Shelter</td>
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<td>Croydon Association for Young Single Homeless (CAYSH)</td>
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Aims of the event:

- To give delegates the opportunity to network with colleagues across different sectors to improve links between homelessness, autism, learning disability and ABI services.
- To increase delegate’s awareness of the needs of clients with autism, learning disability or ABI.
- To promote good practice when working with clients with autism, learning disability or ABI.
- To inform delegates about the availability of services, training, tools and resources to support their work with clients with autism, learning disability or ABI.

Chair: Tasmin Maitland, Head of Innovation and Good Practice Homeless Link.

Speakers:

- Liza Dresner, Resources for Autism
- Dr Andrew Greenhill, Westminster Adult Autism Assessment and Diagnosis Service
- Atim Abrams and Richard Lawrence, Mencap
- John Verge, Golden Lane Housing
- Leigh Andrews, City of London
Amanda D’Souza, Headway East London

Link to full presentations: http://www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/national-projects/london-plus-project/plus-project-presentations-and-resources

Aims of each presentation:

Presentation 1: Autism a route into homelessness and a barrier to being housed - Liza Dresner, Resources for Autism

Aims for the presentation:

- To help you understand the basics of autism
- Why these might be a driver towards homelessness
- To provide some practical tools to work with.
- To provide information about the services provided by Resources for Autism

Presentation 2: The Westminster Referral Pathway and Diagnosis Service - Dr Andrew Greenhill, Westminster Adult Autism Assessment and Diagnosis Service

Aims for the presentation:

- What services should be in place locally
- What we do in Westminster
- Challenges of working with people who are homeless and have autism
- Referral pathway for people who are homeless

Presentation 3: Everything you want to know about learning disability (but were afraid to ask) – Atim Abrams and Richard Lawrence, Mencap

Aims of the presentation:

- To assess current knowledge regarding learning disability
- To provide key facts and figures on learning disability in the UK
- To dispel myths around learning disability

Presentation 4: Opening the door to real housing solutions for individuals with a learning disability - John Verge, Golden Lane Housing

Aims of the presentation:

- To highlight different accommodation options for people with a learning disability.
- To discuss key considerations for accommodating individuals with a learning disability.
disability.

- To provide details on Golden Lane Housing’s accommodation and approach.


**Aims of the presentation:**

- Brain Injury for beginners
- Key statistics on brain injury in the UK
- To provide information on the link between ABI and routes into homelessness

**Presentation: 6 Supporting people affected by brain injury - Amanda D’Souza, Headway East London**

**Aims of the presentation:**

- To provide information about different types of brain injury
- To raise awareness of the effects of brain injury on an individual
- To discuss different methods of support for clients with ABI
- To provide information about Headway East London’s services and approach

**Actions:**

- To look at how clients are assessed and incorporate learning from the day into the assessment process.
- Learn more about the Care Act and how it can be used to support vulnerable clients.
- Consider employing different methods of communication when working with clients with autism, ABI or a learning disability.
- Find out about Neuro Navigators and how they can support clients with ABI.

**Useful Links and Resources:**

**Autism:**

- Resources for Autism – [www.resourcesforautism.org.uk](http://www.resourcesforautism.org.uk)
- Westminster Adult Autism Assessment and Diagnosis Service – Phone: 020 7641 7411 Email: autism@westminster.gov.uk

Learning disability:

• Resources for supporting individuals with a learning disability, Mencap - https://www.mencap.org.uk/about-learning-disability
• Golden Lane Housing - http://www.glh.org.uk/ and for case studies https://www.mencap.org.uk/our-services/personal-support-services/housing-0?gclid=CJvAs5-Sx8oCFQcYwwod3bUCnA

Acquired Brain Injury:

• Headway East London - http://www.headwayeastlondon.org/

Other:

• PLUS Project Training Brochure (Free for PLUS members) - http://www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/national-projects/london-plus-project
• Homeless Link’s Training (Charged for) - http://www.homeless.org.uk/events/training
• The London PLUS Project – This project is a partnership between Homeless Link and Shelter funded by London Councils. The project offers free to access training, events, mentoring and support to London based organisations and local authorities supporting people experiencing homelessness.