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Title of innovation / initiative

- SEND friendly health needs assessment

Problem

- *Recognising that we have a growing number of children and young people in both Special Schools and mainstream schools, we were aware that our standard health needs assessment, completed by children and young people in year 6, 10 and 12, was very lengthy and potentially inaccessible to these young people for a variety of reasons. We wanted to find a way to ensure that we could capture the voice of these children and young people, as well as listening to any concerns they had about their own health and wellbeing.*

Aim

- *To undertake a review of the current online health needs assessment to streamline, simplify and make this visually more accessible to children and young people, piloting with a group of schools and students in year 10 to assess whether this has been effective.*

Plan

- *What did you do and how did you do it?*

We worked with our partners at The Lancaster Model (Kath Lancaster Nursing Consultancy Ltd) to review and adapt the current online questionnaire, strengthening our partnership and working relationship through this piece of work with a view to it being made accessible to other Trusts and School Nursing teams across England.

- *What were the key steps / actions you took and changes you made?*

Throughout the review process, we were focused on reducing the length of the questionnaire, utilising plain language and removing repetition, balanced against the need for the responses to still provide enough information to provide a robust assessment of the child/young person's needs.

Benefits

- *What were the benefits of the innovation / initiative for patient experience, staff satisfaction, health outcomes and costs?*

The health benefits to children and young people who may otherwise have been excluded from completing a questionnaire, and being given the opportunity to voice their concerns or worries are huge. Locally and nationally, we know that there are often long waits for both specialist assessments and services, therefore by proactively working to ensure that young people can tell us if they are experiencing any difficulties, we can intervene early and try to prevent escalation of poor physical/emotional health.

Measures

- *Please share any measures that you used to discover if your initiative resulted in an improvement.*

Resources / team

- *What did you need to make the change (equipment, budget etc)? Partnership approach with KL Consultancy Ltd enabled us to think about the changes/adaptions that were needed, and digital team to ensure that all algorithms would still pull through alerts and outcomes.*
- *Who was involved in making the change – did you involve patients and carers? Piloted with a small group of young people (Year 10) in Special Schools – feedback from young people and teaching support staff.*

Key learning

- *What have you learnt from this project? In the initial scoping stages, we thought that we may need to completely redesign a health needs questionnaire to suit the needs of all SEND children and young people, however, this piece of work has provided us with reassurance that for certain cohorts, adapting the existing questionnaire has been effective in meeting their needs and we can now begin to look at how to provide a service for children with more profound and complex needs.*

Tips for others

- *What advice would you give to others doing the same thing? Don't be afraid to try something out, and utilise partnership working to provide better outcomes – we can utilise each other's skills and share our learning 😊*

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Do you have any attachments?

- "A picture is worth a thousand words". Are there any photos or graphics that could help bring your story to life?
- Are there any supporting materials, documents, communications or other outputs that you used or produced that you could share to prevent others reinventing them?

If so, please upload them to the Fab site with this completed template.