Autism Awareness Screening Workshop

About this workshop: The purpose of this workshop is to provide a better understanding of ASD characteristics in a range of children and adolescents. In particular it is aimed at professionals who may have little prior knowledge. This will enable professionals to make decisions about referral of children for diagnosis. The format of the workshop will include both talks and group based discussion to facilitate shared clinical experience.

9.45 am **Registration**

10.00 am – 10.45 am **Typical vs atypical development. Differentiating developmental delay and deviance**

This introductory session provides a generic picture of children's progress compared to same age peers. It also includes the features of delay and deviance in development.

10.45am – 11.30am **ASD features in very young children**

This session comprises information about "red flags" for ranges of concern for very young children, signs of autism in childhood.

11.30 am – 11.45 am **Coffee break**

11.45 am – 12.15 pm **ASD features in early age school and adolescence**

This session comprises information about signs of autism in school age through to adolescence.

12.15 pm – 1.00 pm **Complexities in clinical presentation: differential diagnosis vs comorbidities (Case vignettes)**

Case vignettes will be presented providing concrete examples of developmental disorders and/or other psychiatric disorders, such as: speech and language disorders, ADHD, anxiety, attachment disorder, mood disorder. The aim here is to stimulate group based discussion and reflection on the clinical issues.

1.00 pm – 2.00 pm **Lunch break**

2.00 pm – 2.30 pm **ASD presentation in girls**

Update on current thinking with respect to the presentation of ASD in females.

2.30 pm – 3.00pm **To screen or not to screen? An overview of international guidelines**

Guidelines of best practice in recognition and referral of children and young people on the ASD.

3.30 pm –4.30 pm **Course participant - Case based discussion**

Each of these case vignettes presents a case study of a potentially difficult mental health situation that practitioners may need to deal with as part of their practice. (A number of participants will be invited prior to the workshop to submit cases for discussion. Discussion will be developed based on topics discussed during workshop).

4.30 pm – 4.45 pm **Communicating to parents – how to best communicate to parents reasons for referral for further diagnosis**

Guidelines in offering feedback and support during the diagnosis process.

4.45 pm - 5.00 pm **Summing up – key points from workshop**