SMaRteN Autism & ADHD Working Group

SMaRteN is the UKRI funded mental health research network, focusing on student mental health. We have a remit to encourage and facilitate better research for student mental health, through stronger stakeholder engagement. We are working to bring together researchers and stakeholders from across Higher Education to improve research dissemination and develop new research questions.

**Autism & ADHD Working Group**

* The Equality Act 2010, gives a legal framework for students with disabilities in accessing further and higher education. Universities must make ‘reasonable adjustments’ to make sure they have the same access to education as non-disabled students.
* Supporting aspirations, improving access, and supporting individuals with autism and ADHD in Higher Education can be challenging.
* Mental health problems are thought to be more common for people on the autism spectrum than in the general population. Similarly, ADHD is accompanied by high levels of anxiety. The overlap between educational support needs and mental health is often overlooked.
* Within Higher Education this means that students may benefit from joined up support from mental health / counselling services, disability services and learning support.
* This group aims to bring together expertise from across these areas, with clinical and research expertise, to explore new ways of effectively supporting students with autism and ADHD.
* The group will, provisionally meet quarterly to review existing provision, identify good practice, explore opportunities to use current research to improve practice and use challenges faced in practice to inform future research direction.

**Commitments for members**

* Participate in quarterly online meetings via skype / zoom
* Contribute ideas to the direction of the group, its outputs, and its meeting agendas
* Promote the work of the group via your networks and via the SMaRteN network
* Encourage new members to join

**Expression of interest**

* If you have an interest in ADHD or Autism and student mental health, we would encourage you to consider joining this working group. Please contact the group coordinator …..

**Key contact:**

..[………](mailto:Laura.Beswick@kcl.ac.uk)..