Aims:

- Bring together teams across Scotland who are working on efficient and effective neurodevelopmental assessment services for children and their families and carers.

- Increase delegates understanding of how they can work together using quality improvement methods, to ensure neurodevelopmental services for Children and Young People are of the highest quality, and

- Explore what does good look like in relation to assessing, diagnosing and supporting children and young people with neurodevelopmental disorders.

The event was chaired by Jennifer Halliday, Healthcare Improvement Scotland with Linda Clerihew, NHS Tayside opening the event sharing both her national and local paediatric experience and those relationships with CAMHS. Linda also shared her experience in development of a national paediatric collaborative and the importance of this for delivering change in neurodevelopmental services.

NHS Lothian – Cathy Richards and Julie Blackwood, shared their project on improving information given to families about the ADHD Pathway, developing efficient pathways for ASD, the use of PDSAs in their improvement work and how families and carers were crucial in supporting ideas for change.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran – Kerry Allison, Joyce Nish, Gemma Stewart and Denise MacMillan aimed to reduce length of time people have to wait for a neurodevelopmental assessments. Key to this included communication with the use of an ‘appreciative inquiry event’, working with parents and carers, their PDSA cycles including challenges and results. The parent shared their experiences of working with CAMHS shaping the need for change.

NHS Dumfries & Galloway – Dr Fiona McCrohan and Andy Margerison shared their improvement journey, identifying problem areas and concentrating on the development of “The Hub” for post-diagnostic support (across agencies and areas), training and knowledge. 

Quality Improvement Knowledge was shared by our Improvement Advisors, Kirsty Ellis and Marie Innes, who provided workshop activities on the lens of profound knowledge, the Model for Improvement, PDSA and Force field Analysis.
Feedback: We received 74 completed and partly completed evaluation forms from delegates with very positive responses on all questions, which related to sharing and spreading of good practice, relevancy to role and increased understanding after event attendance.

Next Steps: We identified 6 common themes that NHS boards/areas committed to take forward following the event – PDSA/QI and data, collaboration and communication, improvement of assessments, training, coding and working on neurodevelopmental pathways.

If you are one of these teams we would very much like to hear from you and have you share your work on our WebEx’s. Please do get in touch!

Neurodevelopmental Pathways WebEx sessions are scheduled for 13 and 23 October.

Feedback:
We received 74 completed and partly completed evaluation forms from delegates with very positive responses on all questions, which related to sharing and spreading of good practice, relevancy to role and increased understanding after event attendance.

Improvements for Future Events:
We have noted your improvement suggestions and will feed this into future events including: logistical issues: such as temperature, layout and viewing access; more time on quality improvement and networking; including sharing of information across areas and boards; presentations: more patient/carer stories and a more nationwide approach. We would very much welcome your help and would invite you to approach us with anything you or your board/area wish to share with others. Please do get in touch with us with your ideas via hcis.MHAIST@nhs.net.

Dates for your diary:
- 13 October – WebEx
- 23 October – WebEx
- 28 November – CAMHS National Event
Further details will be sent out soon!

What delegates took back to their service:
48 delegates provided a response. The percentage of responses are provided in the following bar chart, comments included:

- "So much - I can't even think! Lots of good practical stuff we can use to assess where we are/what we do well AND how we can improve/look at what people think about what we do and how to engage with folk"
- "Importance of post diagnostic support"
- "That we are doing well"
- "ND pathway design"
- "Applying principles: clarity of issue, force field analysis and then applying improvement approaches to develop"
- "Importance of consultation with other agencies/stakeholders” “to get to know my data analyst” “I plan to share what I have learned today with my team i.e. to explore if/how we can support clinicians better to address the key ‘problems’ identified in the first session”

MHAIST and SPSP-MH are collaborating on another joint CAMHS Event on 28 November which will have a Neurodevelopmental breakout session. Please hold the date in your diaries, further details will be sent out soon!