



CENTRE FOR AUTISM  
MIDDLETOWN

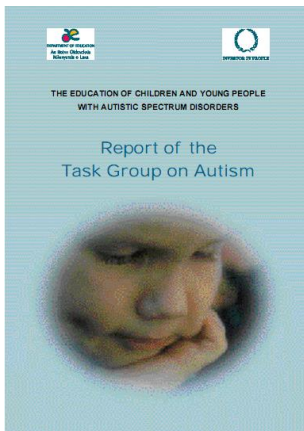


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MIDDLETOWN

**SCOTENS  
2015**



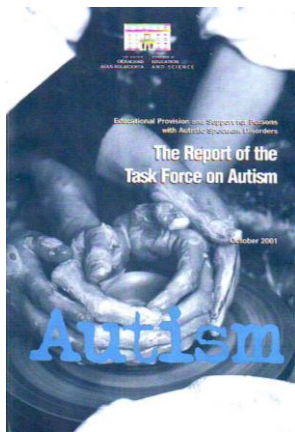
## An Overview



## Highlighted the need to:

- Address the increasing prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Recognise good practice
- Support and complement current services

Resulting in a joint Government approach and policy decision to establish Middletown Centre for Autism to provide a specialist, second level, autism support service.





**“Supporting the promotion of excellence throughout Northern Ireland and Ireland in the education of children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders”**



# What the Centre is Required To Do...

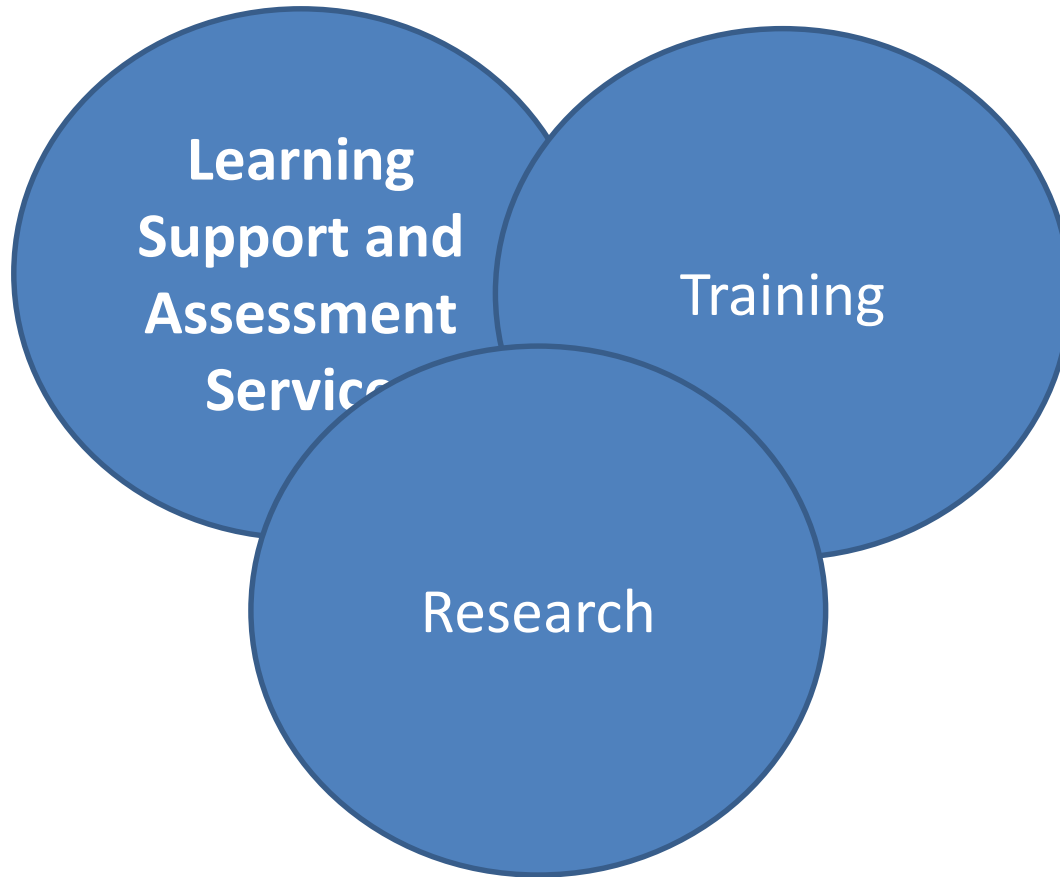
The Centre will be dedicated to improving and enriching the educational opportunities of children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders.

Provision will be made for comprehensive educational assessment, individual intervention, accredited training, and accessible research support. It will seek to develop indicators and measures of good practice in service provision and will provide an advice and support service.

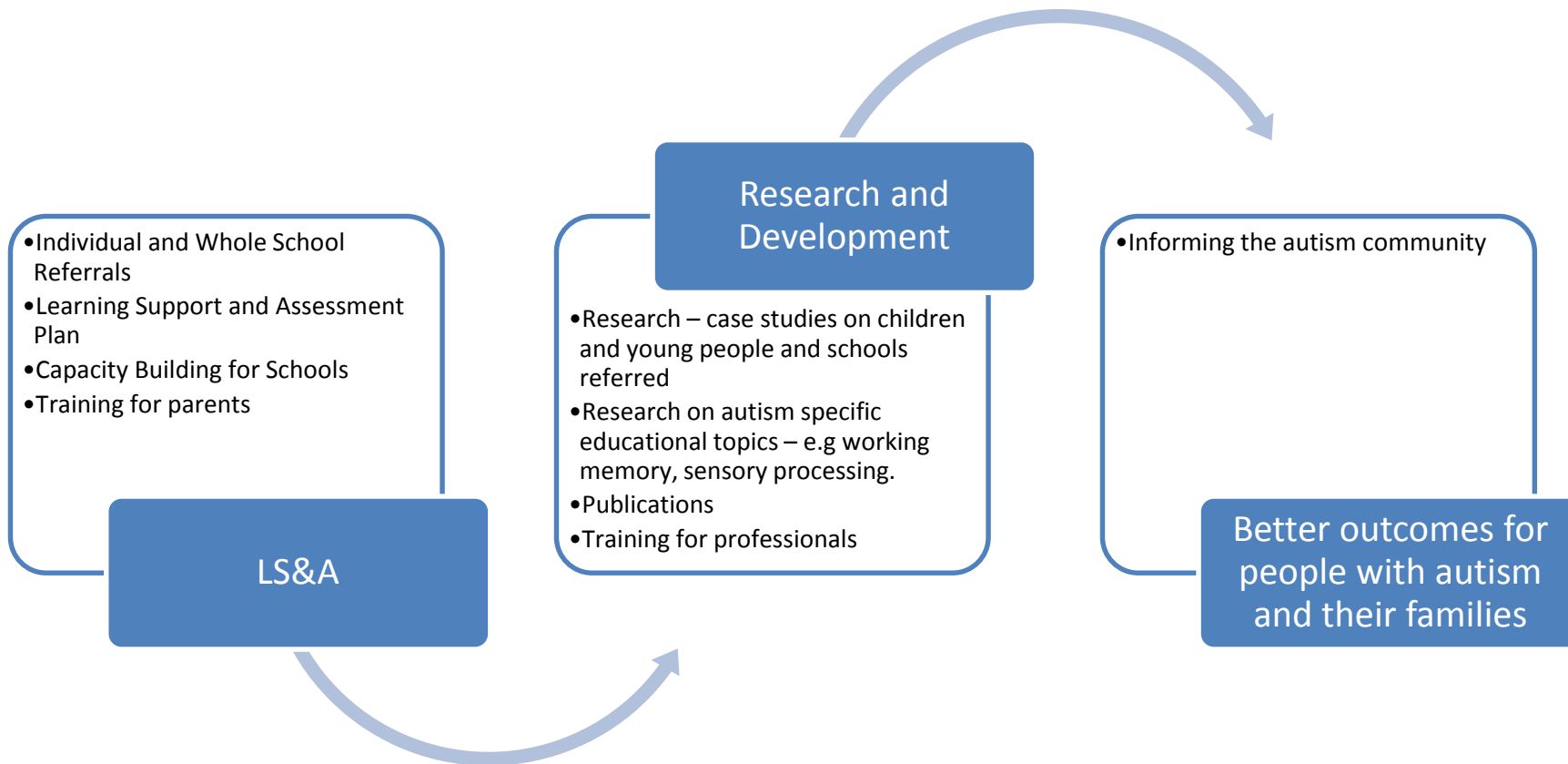
# Forging Effective Partnerships

- **The Special Education Support Service (SESS), Ireland.**
- **The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), Ireland.**
- **Teacher training organisations on the island.**
- **The Inter-Board ASD Team, Northern Ireland.**
- **Voluntary and Parent Groups (Northern Ireland and Ireland).**
- **The Regional Training Unit, Northern Ireland.**
- **Universities in Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, UK and USA.**
- **Health Trusts and HSE**

# Service Areas



# Circular Process





- **Providing specialist autism based in-service continuous professional development**
- **Delivering specialist parent training**
- **Supporting the delivery of the learning support plan for children and young people referred to the Learning Support Service**
- **The identification and development of needs led training**
- **Developing and providing access to an autism specific research network**

## **Outcomes – since 2008** (numbers accurate Jan 2015)

- **10037 Professionals from ROI trained**
- **13593 Professionals from NI trained**

- **Enabling parents to support their children's education in partnership with the child's school and teachers**
- **Increasing parents' knowledge of autism and how it impacts on their child**
- **Helping parents manage their children's autism**
- **Provision of education based home support**
- **Provision of advice for the parents of children and young people referred to the Learning Support Service in Northern Ireland**
- **Provision of specialist led second level training to assist parents in the management of specific difficulties in the education of their child**

## **Outcomes – since 2008 (accurate in Jan 2015)**

- **9526 Parents from ROI trained**
- **2658 Parents from NI trained**



- **Relationships and Sexuality**
- **Transition**
- **Behaviour**
- **Inclusion**
- **Sensory Processing**
- **Visual Structure**
- **Autism and Play**
- **Emotional Regulation**

- Supporting the introduction of new research based practice
- Sharing good practice particularly on a North South context
- Developing and providing access to an autism specific research network
- Access to autism literature and peer reviewed research

## Outcomes

- Twelve research bulletins available
- Two major research projects completed
- Currently working on “Sensory Processing & Activity Choices”



- **the provision of a trans-disciplinary assessment by Learning Support teams**
- **the development and implementation of intervention using a trans-disciplinary Learning Support Plan (LSP) reflected in revised educational plans for the child or young person**
- **supporting the development of an autism competent school environment**
- **improving service delivery for children and young people with autism**
- **specialist placement for children for intensive assessment and /or support following assessment**

- **Direct intervention with children/young people, their families, schools and other agencies**
- **Referrals received from DES/NCSE/NEPS Panel**
- **18 in a the 3 year pilot project**
- **Referral locations were Donegal, Navan, Kildare, Bantry, Cork City, Dublin in the first round of referrals.**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> level service**
- **Intervention lasts up to 4 school terms**
- **Transdisciplinary model**
- **A model is developed where all school staff are offered training and advice on autism (in liaison with the schools' SMTs) This is to encourage and strengthen the capacity of the school to provide and 'autism competent environment' long after the intervention from MCA has ended.**

# Transdisciplinary Model

- **Coordinator allocated to each child or young person referred to the Centre**
- **Coordinator can be any member of the team**
- **Other team members provide specialist assessment and advice**
- **Intervention plan is coordinated and delivered by the coordinator for the referral**
- **Development of relationships to create actions of change in the environment**



# Intervention Models

- **Autism-specific interventions are used by the whole team and provide the framework for intervention**
  - **TEACCH: visual teaching strategies**
  - **Behavioural interventions**
  - **PECS**
  - **Counselling/CBT-based programmes**
  - **Attention Autism**

# Transdisciplinary Intervention

## Education

- Adjusting tasks to appropriate developmental level
- Adjusting tasks to visual learning style
- Curriculum-based activities

## OT

- Adapting classroom environment
- Structured fine motor activities
- Sensory Diet

## Behaviour Specialist

- Replacement behaviour
- Data keeping
- Function of behaviour assessment

## Speech Therapist

- Introduction of communication system
- Teaching of advocacy skills (how to refuse tasks offered appropriately)
  - Social skills assessment

# Links to Training

- **Capacity building**
  - Pupil's teachers and assistants
  - Whole school training
  - Parent training
  - Training for other agencies
- **Intervention with children and young people informs the training provided by Middletown Centre for Autism**

# Links to Research

- **Research Department carries out single case research studies**
- **Assessment, evaluations and interviews carried out 6 month post-intervention**
- **Informs future practice**
- **Informs wider practice in autism**

- **Continue to develop the services offered by the Centre on a whole island basis**
- **Strengthen current partnerships**
- **Build on existing service expertise**
- **Continue to deliver value for money**



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## Keep up to Date with Events at the Centre



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