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Conference Abstract

Cognitive support technology for transitions age service users

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Abstract

Background: Identified small cohort of 5 users who did not meet the Fair Access to Care Services eligibility thresholds but could do in the future without some form of intervention

Most young people identified for the project had needs regarding Autism and behavioural problems

Young people identified were not accessing Education/ Training or Employment

Needed support regarding independent living skills which is a key government outcome

Small project was established Spring 2013 to determine if a cognitive support technology intervention could lead to increased independent living skills and to reduce the likelihood of requiring future services

Service Delivery: Joint Project Steering Group established between Children and Adult Services, Connexions, Occupational Therapy, Bucks New University and private sector technology provider

Connexions identify potential users requiring lifestyle management such as travel training, task scheduling, access to employment, etc.

Cases discussed at Project Steering Group and then discussed between OT and family

If all parties in agreement, OT conducts joint assessment with technology provider

Occupational Therapy provides up to six follow up sessions and Connexions deliver on-going support

OT re-assesses at end to see what progress has been made regarding increased independence

Initial Findings: 11 users identified to date, with target of 15 by year end

6 young people are now receiving this intervention and have relevant equipment

3 have been referred onto occupational therapy for further support and then will receive the technology appropriate to their need e.g. smart phone for user to use supporting route planner to access bus to work, or smart tablet to help user schedule ingredients required to prepare healthy meal independently

2 families have already identified a significant reduction in stress at home and improvement in family relationships

Increased independence for user

Potential cost avoidance savings in the future for one of the users identified to be in the region of £40k (supported living)

Positive reception on project findings from Children's Joint Executive Team last November

Outcomes: Short term Occupational Therapy support has proven to be very effective for families

Use of the technology is beginning to up skill the cohort and 1 user now can cook independently of the technology

Without this intervention, 1 user would have likely ended up in supported living which would have ultimately been more costly

Overall health for 1 user would have significantly deteriorated in the next few years due to lack of knowledge about nutrition and how to prepare healthy meals

All have improved independent living skills especially regarding travelling along and cooking .

Evaluation of project in partnership with Bucks New University

Positive media coverage via local papers and TV

Future: Project group are looking into other potential groups that are currently in college or sixth form

Investigating potential transferability of cognitive support technology to other groups e.g. users with a Dementia, Neuro-Rehab, CAMHS, Children's OT.

Recognised that the earlier the intervention, the more likely users will be prepared for move in adulthood and less likely need for traditional, higher cost provision

Extension of project into 14/15

Part of wider discussion in relation to Adult, Children and NHS Services approach to future joint commissioning of AT

Keywords

cognitive; support; technology; transitions; learning disability

PowerPoint presentation:

https://www.conftool.pro/digital-health-care-2014/index.php?page=adminPapersDetails&path=adminPapers&form_id=1
