

## Data Linkage Service User Advisory Group Newsletter

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Issue 3, August 2016

### Group Updates

#### New Members

A big welcome to all of our new members, and thank you for coming along to our introductory meeting this week! At the introductory meeting our new members were able to learn more about the group, the CRIS system and data linkages in the Biomedical Research Centre here at SLaM. We are looking forward to seeing you all again at our next meeting in September.

### Research Spotlight

#### Health and Education Outcomes in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Dr Johnny Downs is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and Clinical Researcher at The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London. He has received a grant from the Medical Research Council (MRC) to investigate the health and education outcomes of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who develop mental health problems.

Johnny is able to investigate this using mental health data from CRIS linked with physical health records from general hospitals, this linkage has enabled him to look at the impact that mental health conditions and treatment may have on physical health problems for children with autism. For example, there has previously been some suggestion that children with autism and ADHD are more likely to be hospitalised due to epilepsy, Johnny was able to investigate this using CRIS and hospital linked data. He found that children with autism and ADHD are no more likely to have epilepsy than children with autism alone, which suggests that having ADHD does not increase the risk of later epilepsy.

A further linkage between mental health data from CRIS and information on education from the Department for Education (DfE) has enabled Johnny to look at what mental health and school factors are associated with lower than expected school attainment, absenteeism, and exclusion. The findings from this work will help us to understand which aspects of mental health care benefit children with autism during their time at school.

If you would like to hear more about Johnny's research you can watch a video of Johnny talking about his work on our website at the following link: <http://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/core-facilities/clinical-record-interactive-search-cris/what-is-cris/>.

## Upcoming

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September**, from **4.30-6pm** at the BRC Nucleus Meeting Room. We look forward to seeing you then!

### Future Newsletters

If there is anything that you would like to see in future newsletters or if you would like more information about something mentioned in a newsletter, you can contact Amelia or Megan via email: [amelia.jewell@slam.nhs.uk](mailto:amelia.jewell@slam.nhs.uk) / [megan.pritchard@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:megan.pritchard@kcl.ac.uk), or phone: 020 3228 8554.