Support for staff working with children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) & their families in Hackney

We are pleased to introduce Emma Davies and Lizzie Hampson (ASD Assistant Psychologists), who have recently joined the CAMHS Disability Team at the Hackney Ark to offer school staff and families support to complement and collaborate with existing ASD services in the borough.

⇒ Emma and Lizzie are able to offer short-term, focussed support to families of children/young people with an ASD diagnosis (with or without Learning Difficulties), aged up to 19 years across both mainstream & specialist school settings:

• This short-term work (up to 6 sessions) aims to help families directly with difficulties (for example, issues with communication, behaviour, eating, or sleep). The work includes implementing behavioural interventions; developing individualised support plans; encouraging more socially appropriate behaviour; increasing day-to-day skills; developing emotional understanding; advising on adjustments to the home and/or school environment.

• This work can also be provided to families, where appropriate, of children currently waiting for an ASD assessment through the Hackney ARK. This short-term work would continue to aim to support families with understanding and managing behaviour.

⇒ Emma and Lizzie are able to organise and run ASD specific workshops and to provide consultation, teaching and training to schools, other staff and parents/carers, to develop an understanding of ASD by offering practical advice and signposting to local resources.

⇒ In the future, Emma and Lizzie hope to organise and support drop-in sessions for staff and families in specialist and mainstream schools where staff and families can be provided with practical information and signposted to local resources.

An important part of the work is bridging the gap between home and school and working collaboratively with families and carers, professionals and the wider network around the child/young person.

How can I access this support for children and young people with ASD? By completing the ASD Assistant CAMHS Disability Team referral form with as much relevant information as possible. Please note that referrals cannot be accepted for families where there are current safeguarding concerns or complex issues. If you would like to know more or if you have any questions about what Emma and Lizzie can offer, please contact Emma Davies or Lizzie Hampson on 0207 014 7071.