**The Fetal Alcohol Assessment & Support Team**

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**Background**

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are lifelong physical & neurodevelopmental difficulties related to prenatal alcohol exposure.

The estimated prevalence of FASD is 6%¹

FASD is the most common cause of neurodisability in the UK.

The Scottish Government message is ‘No Alcohol, No Risk’ during pregnancy.

Yet ~41.3% of pregnant women in the UK drink Alcohol¹ This is 4th highest in the world.

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**Methods**

Pilot pathway based upon Canadian model²

- **Assessment & intervention of affected children** > an understanding of strengths & difficulties.
- **The Fetal Alcohol Assessment & Support Team (FAAST)** are a multidisciplinary healthcare team who aimed to:
  - Pilot the assessment & diagnosis of children affected by prenatal alcohol.
  - Increase FASD awareness & support.
  - Build capacity in local services to identify & diagnose FASD.
  - Increase professional knowledge.
  - Contribute to prevention.

**Pilot Outcomes**

NHS Ayrshire & Arran are the 1st Scottish health board to routinely assess for FASD in CAMHS & Community Paediatrics

The FAAST team:

- Support clinicians to assess & support ~200 children overall.
- Use child-centred approach to understand strengths & difficulties.
- Offer national case & service development consultation.
- Created a carer support group “Making Sense of FASD”.
- Developed a parent/carer resource with advice/strategies.
- Support screening & recording of antenatal alcohol use via ABI.
- Trained over 5000 individuals nationally.
- Presented at conferences nationally & internationally.
- Hosted FASD Conference ‘Breaking Down Barriers’ (March ‘17).

We promote the message: “No Alcohol, No Risk”

**Audit & Research Undertaken:**

- Qualitative and qualitative research to advance literature base:
  - Trident Service Evaluation³
  - Neuropsychological Profiles of FASD
  - Economic Cost of FASD

- **Parent/Caretakers & Professional Perspectives**

  "I finally feel like someone understands my child and I know what I can do to help and support him...”

  "We had pursued services for our child for years and no-one could help or listen, now FAAS have listened and we feel understood"

**Conclusions**

The NHS A&A Fetal Alcohol Assessment & Support Team have become **The Scottish Government Fetal Alcohol Advisory & Support Team.**

The SG FAAST Team will continue to:

- Support service implementation across Scotland through training, consultancy & resource development.
- Support families & affected individuals through a resources hub.
- Work with partners to increase awareness & create sustainable implementation & improve outcomes.
- Support professionals’ confidence to promote the ‘No Alcohol No Risk’ message at every contact.
- Support service development across Adult, Intellectual Disability, and Forensic services.

FASDs are common & have a huge impact on health, education, social care & the 3rd sector. FASD is preventable.

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are everybody’s business!**

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