Topic guide for interviews (Intervention Caregivers)

Early Positive Approaches to Support (E-PAtS) for families of young children with intellectual disability: Feasibility study

Topic guide for process evaluation interviews with caregivers in the intervention arm

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Information and consent

- Has interviewee read the participant information sheet?
- Does interviewee understand purpose of interview?
- Assurance of confidentiality and anonymity
- Any questions?
- Happy for interview to be recorded on digital voice recorder?
- Happy to sign consent form?

Participant background

- Number and age of children
- Family composition / structure (e.g. who else is involved in the care of their child(ren)
- Use of support services in the past

Recruitment into the study and the E-PAtS intervention

- How did you first hear about the research study / EPAtS intervention?
- What information did you receive about the programme / study and who provided this?
    - *Do you remember what was said about when a researcher would do a follow-up interview with you?*
- Experience of completing baseline questionnaires
    - *Were there any measures which were difficult or which you didn't like?*
- Experience of 'preparation interview' and whether it was seen as beneficial
    - Report on the results of the adaptive behaviour assessment:
        - Did this influence your decision to take part in the trial in any way?
        - What did you think of the report? Was it useful? If so, how?
- Acceptability of randomisation
- Selection of Study Path A/B
- Overall what was your experience of being recruited into the study and how this was organised?
- Before attending E-PAtS what were you expecting? Did you have particular reasons for attending?

Attendance at E-PAtS

- Did you attend the E-PAtS intervention? Who else attended with you?
- How many sessions did you attend?
    - *Reasons for non attendance / stopping attendance*
- Can you tell me about your experience of attending the intervention?
    - *Activities and content?*
    - *Interaction with other caregivers / group dynamics?*
    - *The way in which the facilitators delivered the intervention?*
- What things did you learn during the programme?
- Attending parents: did you share what you had learnt with your partner or other family members? If so what?
- Non attending fathers (where partners attended): did you discuss the E-PAtS programme? If so, what things did your partner talk about?

- What were the things that you thought were good about the programme?
- Was there anything you didn't like or would have changed?
- Practical arrangements: e.g. quality of venue, ease of accessibility, barriers to attendance such as childcare, length and duration of sessions

After attendance at E-PAtS

- Have you applied any of the learning from the programme? If so, how?
- Has attending the programme made any difference to your family? If so what?
- What other programmes / support services are available? Which ones have you used?

Future study

- Thinking back to the consent form / participant information sheets (perhaps provide a copy of a blank one?) we would be interested in a future study to also include permission to access your routinely collected data.
  This is information that is made available to researchers in a secure way that was originally collected by public services, for example information on hospital attendance, for children it could be their school attendance and attainment and also contact with social services.
  The reason we are considering this is to reduce the amount of questions we ask you directly because we would be able to access that information from these sources. It would also mean details such as prescriptions would not be prone to being forgotten.

- If we had added this element into the study, and provided the information to explain exactly what information we would request and why, would this have affected your decision to take part in any way?

- Would there be anything specific that you would want to know about before deciding?

- Would you see all of this information (health, education, social services) as equal in your decision making (or are you more preferential toward some more than others?) e.g., Information on your health vs. information on your child's health vs. information on your child's education

- If you were asked to consent to this in order to be part of the whole study how might that alter your decision to take part in the study?

Final Questions

- Of all the things we have talked about today what is the most important issue?
- Have we missed anything?
- Is there anything you would like to add?