

This intervention has been awarded the Dementia Elevator Innovation Award from Dublin City University in December 2015.

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## Introducing the New Autism Spectrum Disorder Special Interest group

By Maria Gleeson-Cary, Senior Speech and Language Therapist, Regional Autism Team, Brothers of Charity Southern Services



Maria Gleeson-Cary

It was with great pleasure that we launched the Autism Spectrum Disorder Special Interest Group (ASD SIG) on Thursday September 8th in UCC.

We had a great response nationally to the suggestion of forming the ASD SIG. Over 35 clinicians from across the country attended the initial meeting and we also had over 20 email submissions regarding proposals for the SIG to consider.

Denise Healy and Fiona O' Sullivan kicked off the morning with their excellent and thought provoking presentations on LEGO Therapy and Parents Perspectives on the Talkability Programme respectively, before the nitty gritty of the SIG was brainstormed among the group. Ideas around governance, terms of reference, committee projects and priorities were discussed.

The committee has come away with a lot of great ideas and projects to be put into action. We aim to be up and running in the coming few weeks. We are all really excited about this new venture and are looking forward to seeing what can be developed from our collaborative work.

If anyone is interested in being on the mailing list for the SIG so as to keep up to date with the developments please email [sltasdsig@gmail.com](mailto:sltasdsig@gmail.com)