

Round-up of complex needs meeting (April 2024)

Jane started by welcoming people to the meeting and then people introduced themselves in the chat. There were three people attending for the first time. There was a brief summary of the previous meeting then J introduced today's session topic.

Topic: Theme of this year's WDS Day - Stereotyping

How has stereotyping impacted on you and the person you care for?
What assumptions have you or others make about the person you care for?

Points from discussion

An interesting discussion initially started with a parent talking about how following advice has not been helpful for her child and this was followed by a more general chat that every child is individual, and some strategies will not be appropriate for some children. People felt that professionals can make assumptions that certain advice will work because a child has Down's syndrome.

One person mentioned how sometimes parents within the Down's syndrome inadvertently present the achievements of their children who have Down's syndrome in a way that can make other parents feel a failure/like they are a bad parent because their child isn't like that.

The lack of awareness about the possibility of dual diagnosis was something a few people talked about although there was a recognition that the DSA provide information and support but for instance autism organisations don't mention Down's syndrome. It is hard to find information/resources/services that can cater for both the Down's syndrome and autism and people don't fit into either.

Some people had been surprised by what their child had achieved however some people acknowledged that their child had not been able to achieve what they had hoped.

There was a brief discussion around Gestalt language development as one parent had been introduced to it as an explanation for her sons language development.

Useful Links and resources

[When Down's Syndrome and Autism Intersect: A Guide to DS-ASD for Parents and Professionals Second edition](#)

[Froehlike & Sattel](#)

[Mental Wellness in Adults with Down Syndrome: A Guide to Emotional and Behavioral Strengths and Challenges \(2nd Edition\) | Adult Down Syndrome Center \(advocatehealth.com\)](#)

COMING SOON



Thursday 25 April 2024 | 10.15 to 11.30am | £10



2 May 2024 – 10.00 to 1130am | £10



Thursday 23 May - 10.30am - Midday

To book any events please visit our Training Page - [Training - Downs Syndrome Association \(downs-syndrome.org.uk\)](https://downs-syndrome.org.uk)

Complex Needs Webpage

downs-syndrome.org.uk/about-downs-syndrome/lifes-journey/downs-syndrome-with-complex-needs/

*******In person meetings*******



Down's syndrome with complex needs
Parent/Family carer
regional support meeting
South west London

Friday 14 June 2024 | 10am – 3pm | £10



Down's syndrome with complex needs
Parent/Family carer
regional support meeting
Central Manchester

Monday 23 September 2024 | 10am – 3pm | £10



Any questions, please email:

jane.mitchell@downs-syndrome.org.uk

or

stuart.mills@downs-syndrome.org.uk