



Autism- Clinical presentation, policy framework evolution and use of the Mental Health Act

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- Autism and clinical presentation
- Policy framework over the years and 'Transforming care'
- Use of the Mental Health Act 1983 (2007)
- Case example



- Social interaction
- Imagination
- Communication
- Repetitive/ restricted interests



- Typical autism vs Atypical autism



AUTISM

Social Interaction

1. Normal early development : At 3 months babies babble 'conversation' with mother, eager demand for social interaction
2. Impairment of reciprocal interaction.
3. Deficits on 'Theory of mind'



Communication

- **Second year of life- Development of speech**
- **Delay in development of speech and quality of speech**



Imagination

- Development of imagination with pretend games
- Act out thoughts and actions of other persons
- Developing of theory of mind
- Abstract thinking - and transition from concrete to abstract thinking



Autism is a 'spectrum' condition

So.....What causes Autism?



Association or links

- Genetic
- Environmental
- Pre term birth
- Medical conditions
- Gender?

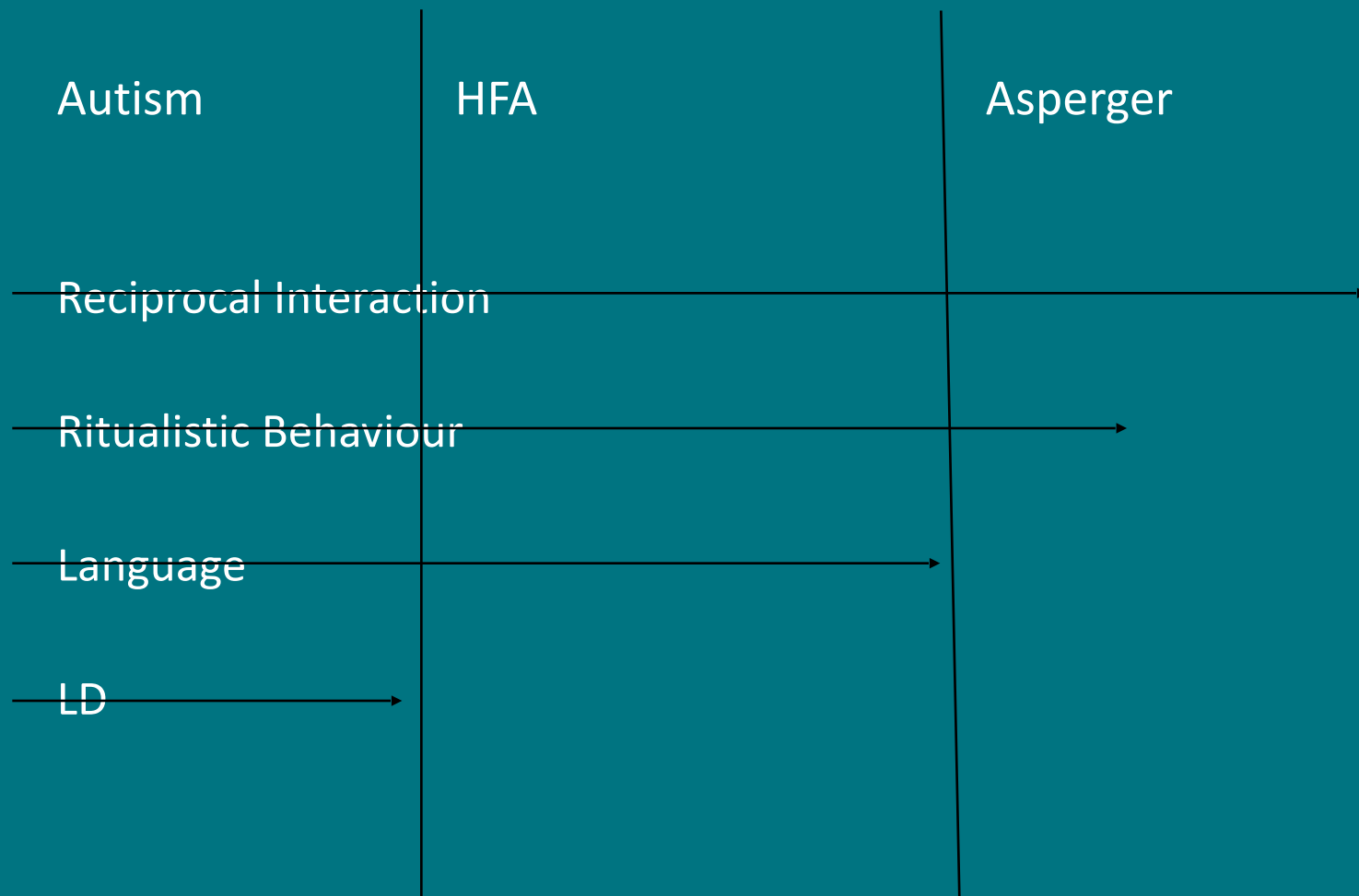


Managing Autism

- Adjustment to a 'normotypic' world
- Sensory management
- Medication
- Environmental modification
- In patients- co morbidity



Autism Spectrum



Comorbidity

- Psychosis
- Personality disorders
- Attachment issues
- Anxiety

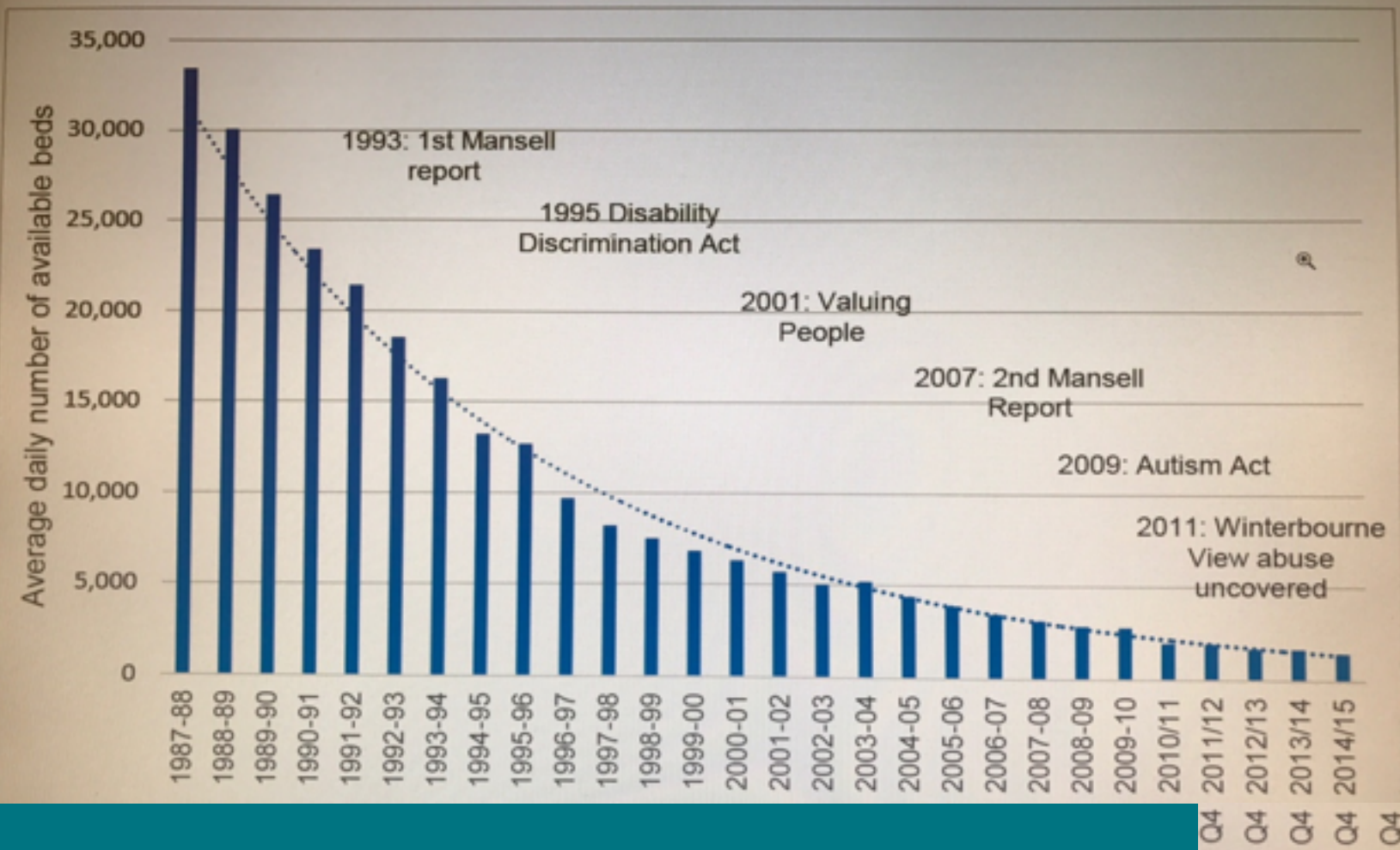


National context of development of ASD service at Thornford Park Hospital

H Bains, Clinical Director



Figure 1: NHS learning disability beds since 1987



...the journey...

'Better Services for the mentally handicapped', DoH
1971....beginning of *deinstitutionalisation*

Mansell report 1993

DDA 1995

Valuing People, DoH 2001

Mansell report (revised) 2007

Winterbourne- BBC Panorama programme 2011

DoH Winterbourne view – Concordat of Action 2012- Rapid
reduction of beds by 1 June 2014

- all inappropriately admitted people in community
- PCTs to have a list of all PWLD in hospital



- 'Time for Change'- Sir Stephen Bubb 2014
- Transforming Care for People with Learning disabilities- Next steps
- 'Winterbourne View- Time is running out'- 2015
- LD census – stagnation at around 2600
- 'Building the right support'- 2015
- Transforming care 2019
- Whorlton Hall, Panorama 2019



Transforming Care Model Service Specification 2017- challenges

Restricted patient

Interface with CTRs

Conducive to aim and objectives of TC?

*PJ (A Patient) v A Local Health Board and Secretary of State for
Justice v MM. Court of Appeal 2017*

MoJ guidance January 2019



Transforming Care Model Service Specification 2017- challenges

The scope of enhanced services is suggested to be wider than LD

Widened to include people with ASD

Care pathways into community – 'the bottleneck'

Transfer of funding between specialist to local services



Autism and the Mental Health Act

The 'mental disorder'

- 2007 amendment introduced 'mental disorder'
- Autism is a 'mental disorder'- ICD 10 Pervasive developmental disorder. DSM V- ASD
- With/ without learning disability – where seriously irresponsible and abnormally aggressive behaviour becomes a determinant



Autism and the Mental Health Act

Nature of the disorder

- Neurodevelopmental disorder
- From early childhood
- However may be diagnosed later in life
- 'Chronic' condition
- Not 'curable'



Autism and the Mental Health Act

Degree of disorder

- Chronic disorder
- Neurodevelopmental disabilities that are life long
- BUT
- There are environmental influences that affect presentation



Case Example

- 30 yr old man
- Schizophrenia, ASD, PD and attachment issues
- History of severe emotional and physical abuse as a child
- Special schooling
- Chaotic family environment and violence
- Multiple admissions under MHA – non compliance and substance misuse
- Weapons
- Last 7.5 years in secure care – low and medium
- Transferred Jan 2019



Case example

- Difficult first few months with difficult to manage behaviours
- Leave was commenced after 2.5 yrs
- Incidents eventually led to seclusion and LTS
- Move to flat
- Now having unescorted leave
- Being discharged soon



THANK YOU

.....Questions

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