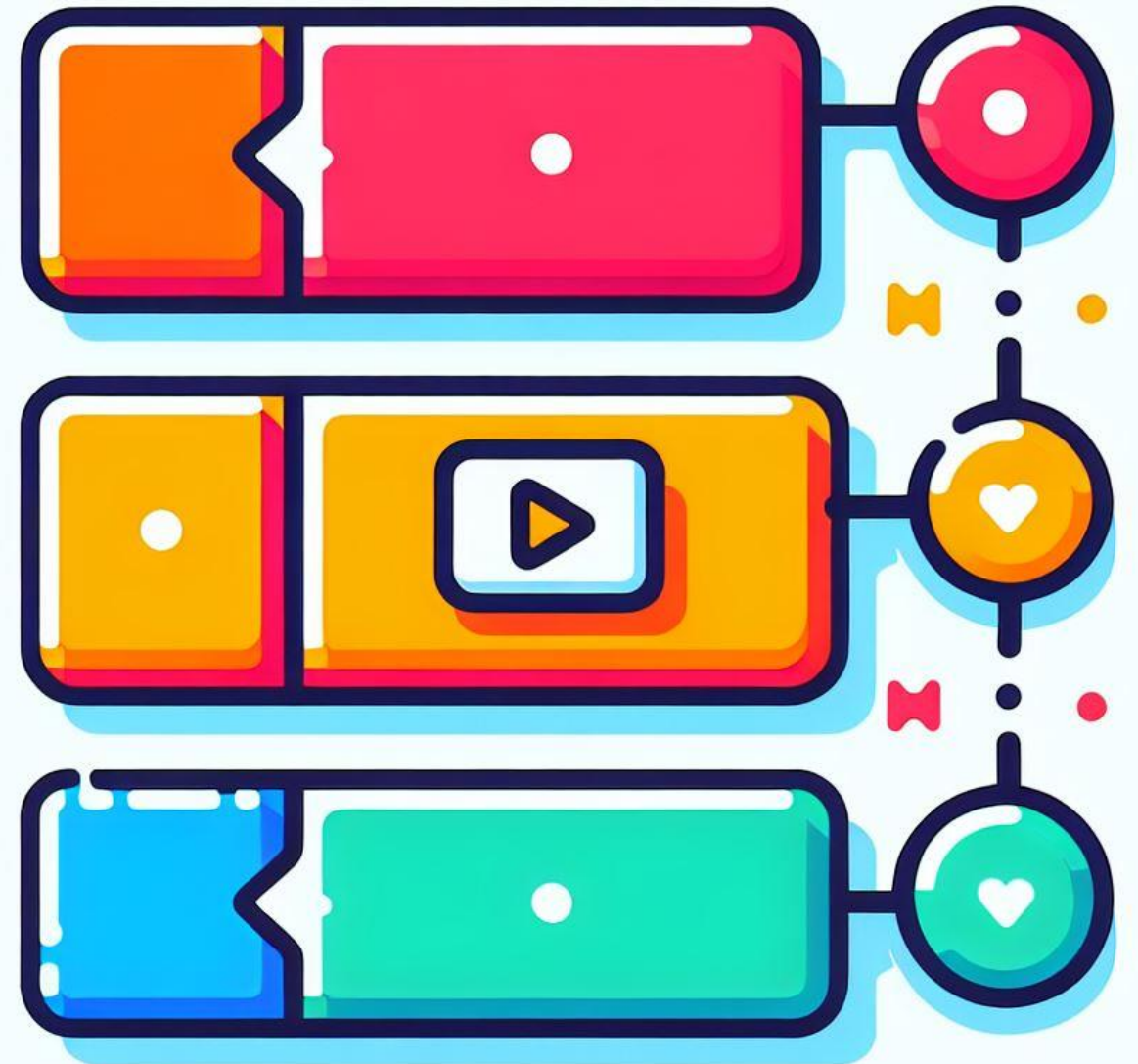


# A digital approach to improve the pathway for autism assessments

AHPreciate and Progress  
October 2024



# Autism assessment

- Multidisciplinary Team
- Lothian pathway has over 700 referred into autism assessment pathway each year. Excluding CAMHS referrals.
- SIGN guidelines recommend a contextual assessment.



# How were we doing?

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Service user feedback indicates high levels of satisfaction with clinicians.

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Frustration regarding duration of assessment.

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Accessibility of some families due to anxiety, transport issues etc.

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Some concern that contextual observations do not give full picture of child.

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Contextual information can be difficult to gather and time consuming.

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The covid effect.



What could  
we try?

- NHS trusted secure video messaging used to help families communicate whilst relatives in hospital, for diagnosis and care management
- Scottish Government funded tests of change in neurology
- Parents were able to record suspected seizure activity and upload for clinicians to see

# App functions

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Secure platform to share videos

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Consent at start for teaching purposes

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Message functioning

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Data collection

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Classification tools – DSM5

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PDF clinical note to TRAK

# Outcomes

- 138 families have registered for an account.
- 33 clinicians have registered for an account.
- There are now 570 videos uploaded.
  
- We estimate that 167 face to face appointments and associated travel has been avoided.



# Feedback from clinicians

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95% found vCreate easy or very easy to use.

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68% felt videos were high quality and easy to interpret.

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45% felt that using vCreate shortened the time to reach diagnosis.

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90% felt that vCreate was useful or very useful in their overall management of a child or young person.

# Feedback from clinicians

this young person is very distressed in a clinical setting. A much more neuroaffirmative experience for them

we were unable to get clear assessment of child until vCreate allowed her to interact in her own home. It was invaluable in reaching a diagnosis



# Feedback from service users


- 95% of service users found vCreate easy or very easy to use

enables staff involved with child's care to see behaviours that wouldn't have otherwise been observed

Think this is a much easier way to do assessment and less anxiety all round

This is perfect for us. Saves time, stress, tantrums etc.

# What have we learned so far?

- Change takes time!
  - Parents need more guidance than emailing them the instruction sheet
  - Some may submit far more videos than requested
  - Some children and young people do not want to be videoed
  - Inclusive – majority of families have a smart phone. Messaging function with translation tools very convenient
  - Clinician experience build time/system for reviewing
  - Teaching tool
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# What next?

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Evaluation

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Link with CAMHS ID team

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Exploring funding sources to allow us to continue using vCreate

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Thank you



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