

Welcome to
our launch
event!

Sara King –
MARG Chair
21 June 2023



Welcome to MARG

Maternity Autism Research Group

Aim

To improve the experiences of Autistic people accessing services related to pregnancy and early parenting by signposting information and resources

Mission Statement

To act as an Autistic-led collective of health professionals and researchers committed to addressing the Autistic community's priorities around the maternity period, with the emancipation of all Autistic people at the heart of all we do.

The MARG website will become an accessible and comprehensive resource for the latest high quality research, information, resources and training relating to pregnancy and maternity for Autistic people.



www.maternityautismresearchgroup.co.uk

'How do maternity services support autistic women and birthing people?
Exploring improvements to help autistic people and the health professionals who
support them'

PhD Research Project
ACER – Autism Centre for Education and Research
University of Birmingham

SARA KING PGDIP AUTISM (ADULTS)

15 qualifying questionnaire responses
from Autistic women – themes
identified:

Disclosure

Anxiety and Depression

Sensory

Control and need for information

Suggestions to improve care (advocacy
and self-advocacy)

Sara King 2018 - unpublished

PhD Research Participants

Phase 1

Maternity services
health professionals



Questionnaires

- 99 questionnaire responses
- 13% said they are autistic
- 40% have an autistic family member

Interviews

- 18 interviews
- 4 individuals said they are autistic
- 1 awaiting diagnosis
- 12 have an autistic family member

Training

81% (n=95)

had not had any autism training

19% (n=95)

had received training – but not all of this was maternity specific or autism specific

72% (n=92)

said that autism training was extremely or very important

QUESTIONNAIRES - HEADLINE DATA

Maternity Services Health Professionals— early findings from 18 interviews

Participants stated that misunderstanding, lack of knowledge and stigma exists in maternity services

Interview participants have significant understanding of autism

Real drive and passion to make improvements for autistic people

Suggestions for improvements and mechanisms for change

Requirement for national guidance

Requirement for maternity specific autism training

Next steps – Phase 2 and where to find out more!



Currently interviewing autistic people about their experiences.



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Or please email me for further information S.King6.pgr@bham.ac.uk



Website <https://saraking.online>



Thank you!
