

**Lambeth, South London and Maudsley Trust.**

**“Engaging with carers during an acute episode”.**

We have developed a family intervention and therapy clinic at Lambeth hospital, South London and Maudsley NHS trust . Families/carers can be referred directly from the acute ward and we meet on a weekly basis. We use Anderson's principle of the Reflecting Team to involve both the team, ward and community staff in the meetings that are led by a family therapist off the ward. The involvement of professionals with an interest in family work as both permanent or temporary (only with a particular family) members of the reflecting team allows for the imparting of skills in working with families and carers and helps to give families insight into how the acute inpatient system works. We have found that engaging families in the acute episode can facilitate engagement with the overall care plan as well as additional therapeutic work.

**Dr Tom Stevens, Julia Bland and Andrea Cohen.**