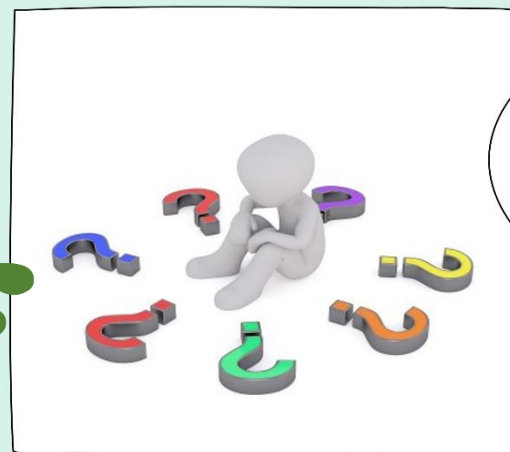


What is autism masking?



The Deputy DCO (SEND) for Halton decided to find out.....

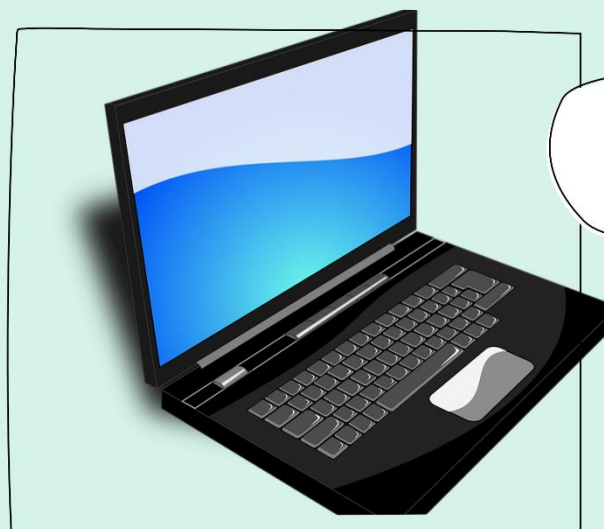


WE WERE APPROACHED BY MICHELLE DOWNES, A PARENT WHO WANTED TO TELL OF HER EXPERIENCES OF THIS LITTLE KNOWN SUBJECT

And so.....

WHAT DID WE DO?

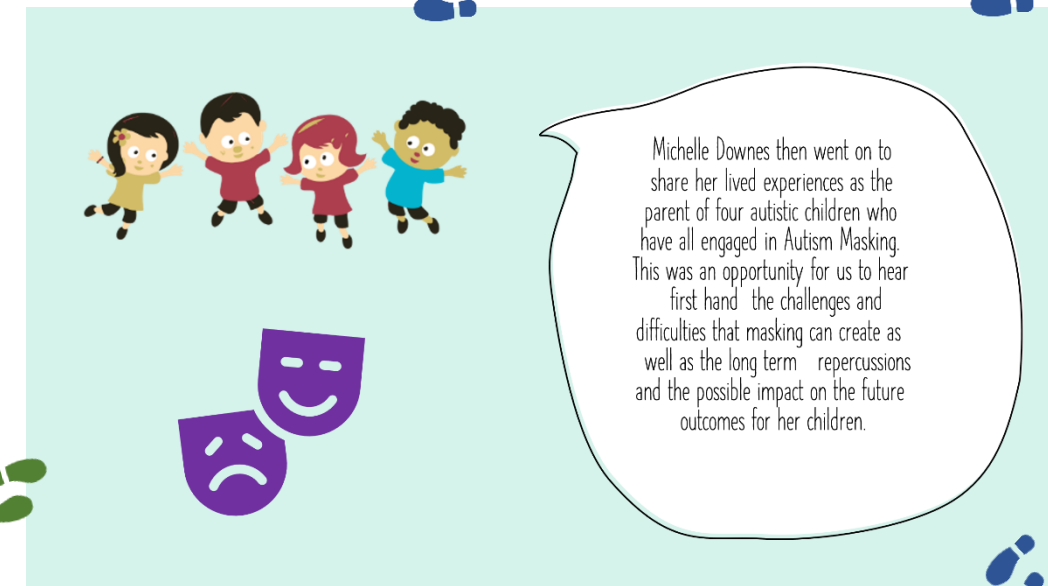
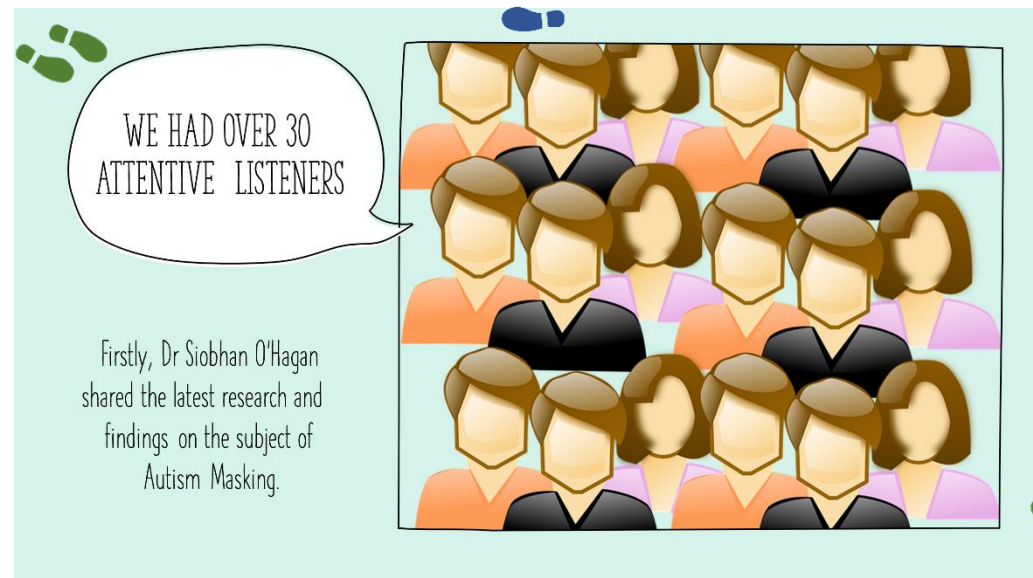
We invited Dr Siobhan O'Hagan, Educational Psychologist and Michelle Downes, Parent Voice/Vice Chair of Halton Parent/Carer Forum and the parent of four autistic children to tell us more about this emerging subject. We also invited professionals from across all services in the Halton area to come and find out more.



HOW DID WE DO IT?

A one hour slot was allocated via Microsoft Teams and we sent the link to health professionals in Halton who had expressed an interest.

The story of our Autism & Masking Event 25th May 2022, Mid Mersey DCO Team



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Q & A

The event finished with a question and answer session during which several health professionals put their questions to Dr O'Hagan and Michelle.

Feedback

During the session, a link to a feedback form was posted on the Teams Chat. We also followed this up with an email after the event which included a link to the form.

RESPONSES

Disappointingly, we only had seven responses to our feedback form

WHAT DID WE WANT TO KNOW ?

Firstly, we asked how much was known about the subject, with all respondents saying they had little or no knowledge.

Do you now feel more knowledgeable about the subject of Autism Masking?

Based on all respondents having little or no knowledge of the subject of Autism Masking, all seven said they now felt better informed.

Would you like to see more events like this in the future?

All seven respondents said yes, they would like to see more events like this in the future whether that be further information about Autism Masking or other subjects that could help them with their professional roles.

WAS IT A SUCCESS?

We think it was. It was the first event of its kind we had organised and we were unsure of the likely response. Dr O'Hagan and Michelle were given a platform to share information and experiences leading to a greater awareness of the subject of Autism Masking for all who attended.