**Interview Topic Guide**

**Interview schedule**

**Background and administrative items:** interviewer explains purpose and context of interview, length and structure, right to withdraw, confidentiality and audio recording. Participant completes consent form and demographic info.

**Part one: the diagnostic process**

1. To start with, can you talk about the different things you take into account during diagnosis?
2. How does the MDT meeting contribute to dx process?
3. How do different roles in meetings contribute to negotiating the diagnostic decision?
4. How do factors outside your control impact on dx: EG SES, clinician availability, resources, govt spending etc, waiting lists?
5. How do you deal with that intersection between the social/environmental/biological/behavioural aspects of autism?

**Part two: using diagnostic tools and guidelines**

1. How do you use clinical guidelines? (and which ones) ICD/DSM etc and or NICE etc.
2. How do you use diagnostic instruments (and which ones?)
3. How do they contribute to dx process?

**Part three: case discussion drawing from MDT data – tape/transcription assisted recall**

1. Can you tell me a bit about NAME?
2. Can you tell me where they were referred from?
3. Do you know the background to them seeking a diagnosis?
4. Specific questions to prompt based on the data extract
5. Is there anything you’d like to add?

**Debrief:** Interviewer will bring the interview to a close, thank participants for their involvement, describe next steps for research project and how they can keep in touch.