

Our Autism Plan for all ages 2021 to 2026



**easy
read**



This document is about what we plan to do in Surrey to make life better for autistic children, young people and adults.



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Nëse dëshironi që ky dokument të jetë me shkronja të mëdha, në kasetë ose në një gjuhë tjetër, ju lutemi n'a telefononi në një nga numrat e mësipërm.

إذا كنت ترغب بالحصول على هذه الوثيقة في طباعة مكبرة، أو على شريط مسجل أو في لغة أخرى، فنرجو الاتصال بنا على أحد الأرقام المدونة أعلاه.

আপনি যদি এই ডকুমেন্ট বা নথি বড় ছাপার অক্ষরে, টেপে বা অন্য কোন ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে উপরের যে কোন একটি নম্বরে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

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In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction

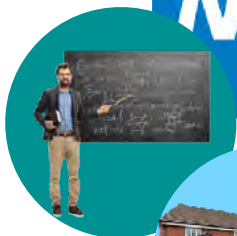


Our plan is to improve life for autistic children, young people and adults in Surrey.

1,165 local people helped with the plan. They told us about what is important to them. They were:



- autistic children, young people and adults
- families of autistic people
- professionals.



Many organisations are working together with autistic people and their families to make the plan happen:

- Surrey County Council
- The NHS
- Schools
- Community groups.

Autism



12,300 people in Surrey have autism. Autism affects everyone in different ways.

Other names for autism are:

- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC)
- Asperger syndrome.



Autism affects communication and how people understand the world.



Many autistic children, young people and adults have other conditions such as mental health conditions, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or epilepsy.

How we plan to work



We plan to work in a way that:

- involves and listens to autistic children, young people and adults and their families
- involves the many different organisations that work with autistic children, young people and adults
- builds on the things that people, organisations and communities do well
- supports autistic children, young people and adults close to home in their local community
- uses our money and support in the best way.



Involving and listening to autistic children, young people and adults

We will:



- set up a Children's Autism Partnership Board to involve autistic children and young people in making decisions and sharing information



- set up a group of young autistic people and their families to help us with our plans



- involve autistic adults and their families more in the Adult Autism Partnership Board when making decisions and sharing information



- build up the group of autistic adults to help us with our plans



- make sure that autistic people and families are involved in all parts of our work.



For all our work

For all our work we will:

- check that we are working properly
- collect better information about autistic children, young people and adults in Surrey
- make sure that services work together and no one is left behind
- look for ways to get the money to make the plan work.



5 areas for change



We have split the plan into 5 areas that need to change:

1. Information and understanding more about autism.



2. Early years education settings, schools, colleges and getting ready to be an adult.



3. Health and social care.



4. Housing and living independently.



5. Having a job.

1. Information and understanding more about autism

Community

We want:



- autistic children, young people and adults to be understood and welcomed in shops, on buses, in clubs and events



- autistic children, young people and adults to have a good life in their local community



- places in the community to understand autism and make changes to make things easier for autistic children, young people and adults.



Information

We want autistic people and their families to be able to get the information they need when they need it.



Services

We want all public services to be accessible to autistic children, young people and adults and their families.



Family carers

We want family members to get support at the right time for them.

2. Early years education settings, schools, colleges and getting ready to be an adult



Local schooling

We want children and young people to be able to go to school or college near to their home.



All early years education settings, schools and colleges will get training about autism.



Autistic children and their families will get more information about what schools can do.



Special needs at school

We want autistic children to be able to get the support they need in school as soon as they need it.



Schools will know:

- how to get more support for autistic children
- when a child might need more support.



Involving autistic children

We want autistic children and their parents to be fully involved in the plans for their support.



Independent

We want autistic children and young people to learn how to be more independent and how to deal with any problems that come up.



Working together

We want services to work together more.



We want autistic children and young people with Mental Health needs to get the right support and for Children's and Adults' Mental Health services to work together better.



Planning for your whole life

We will look at planning for the future so that you have a clear plan to live a good adult life.



Some autistic children and young people have had to be supported outside Surrey. We will work to make sure there are the right services for them nearer to home.



Young people will get help to think about what they want when they become an adult.

3. Health and social care



Assessment

An **assessment** is when you meet with a professional to work out what you are good at and what you need help with.



We want autistic people to get an assessment at the right time for them, so they don't have to wait so long.



Police, courts and prisons

We want the police, courts and prisons to understand more about autistic children, young people and adults.



We want autistic children, young people and adults who commit a crime, or are a victim of crime, to be able to get support from people who understand autism.



Health and social care teams

Health and social care teams are made up of health professionals and social workers.

We want these teams to be experts in how to support autistic children, young people and adults.



The same good health services as everyone else

We want local doctors, dentists and other local health services to provide the same good services to autistic children, young people and adults as everyone else.



A choice of organisations

If you have an individual budget we want you to be able to choose from different organisations that can support you in different ways.



We want you to be able to choose the support that is right for you.

Mental health



We want autistic children, young people and adults to be able to get good mental health services when they need them.



Mental health services will train their staff so they understand more about how to support autistic children, young people and adults.

4. Housing and living independently



We want autistic young people to be ready to live independently when they leave school or college.



We want there to be enough suitable housing for autistic children, young people and adults who need support with their daily living.



We want it to be easier for autistic people to get a place to live.



We want new houses to be right for autistic people.

5. Having a job



We want autistic young people to be ready to get a job when they leave school or college.



We want more jobs for autistic people in Surrey.



We want the Council and NHS health services to give jobs to autistic people.