

THINK AUTISM SPECTRUM TRAINING

It is important that staff working with people with autism have appropriate training and support. This can take many forms – courses, in classrooms, e-learning, attending special interest groups, supervision, consultation, shadowing and mentoring.

This pack is designed for managers and should help you to think about the sort of training your team members need.

You need to decide what level of training you and your staff need and turn to that section of the pack. There you will find ideas for training and support. Many of these do not incur additional expense, though you will need to give staff time to access the materials.

Once staff have done training or accessed additional support, please encourage them to use the 'Autism Spectrum Passport' to record their progress.

We are particularly keen that you nominate an Autism Champion or Champions from your team. Information on the Autism Champions Scheme is included in this pack.

Helen Bradley

Trust Lead (Learning Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Conditions)/

Consultant Clinical Psychologist

LEVEL 1 – BASIC AWARENESS

This training is suitable for people with occasional interactions with people on the spectrum

Type of Staff	Resource/Training
General	To check your initial knowledge of autism, try this quiz: http://mindchecker.channel4.com/test-autism.html
	For a number of modules in autism awareness, see Autism Connect online: http://elearning.autism-connect.org.uk/store/8841-autism-awareness?tab=1 You will need to set up an account and have a password but there is no charge for this training Or: https://www.forms.portsmouth.gov.uk/autismawareness/ http://etraining.dudley.gov.uk/nolms/AutismAwarenessWeb/story.html Module one
	To learn a bit about sensory differences and difficulties in autism: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycCN3qTYVyo https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPDTEuotHe0
	To listen to an autistic lady talking about anxiety: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2bgTcURrqQ
	Other organisations that have you can search for resources are: Autism West Midlands - www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk National Autistic Society - www.autism.org.uk Autistica UK - https://www.autistica.org.uk
Learning Disabilities	Autism awareness days – to book onto this day e-mail Tessa.Dunnaway@nhs.net There is no charge for this course
Mental Health	For an insight into issues between autism and mental health, you can read this information: https://www.autistica.org.uk/research/mental-health/ or watch this film: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWoTVAOq-iY

LEVEL 2 – ABILITY TO APPLY BASIC PRINCIPLES DAILY

This training is suitable for people with who encounter people on the spectrum in their everyday work and include, for example, nurses, care workers, police, probation officers, housing officers. Services should consider nominating an autism champion(s) who can access more advanced training and bring resources back to the service

You might first want to check out the suggestions from the previous level before progressing to these materials.

Type of Staff	Resource/Training
General	Autism Champions scheme – for information and access, please contact Tessa.Dunnaway@nhs.net . There is no charge for Worcestershire staff.
	General information: http://etraining.dudley.gov.uk/nolms/AutismAwarenessWeb/story.html Module 2
	For the current government guidance, use the link and read the introduction and then the relevant section for your job role from the following: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299866/Autism_Strategy.pdf
	For a booklet on how to support people with sensory issues see: http://cds.sthelens.gov.uk/media/6265/sensory_booklet.pdf
Social Care Sector	Here are two great films about people’s personal experiences of living with autism: Rory Hoy ‘Autism & Me’: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POIJG3qmV9Q Graeme: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKT3swmn_wc
	For guidance on the support needs of autistic spectrum individuals, please watch: http://scie.org.uk/socialcaretv/video-player.asp?guid=11ba2edb-cc2e-4a4a-9f88-68f9a0817c01
Employment Sector	To read about good practise in employment of those with ASC: http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/images/resource-section/service-area/autism/How%20to%20be%20a%20great%20personal%20assistant%20for%20someone%20with%20autism.pdf
Criminal Justice Sector	For an introduction, read: http://www.autism.org.uk/Professionals/others/Criminal-justice

LEVEL 3 – ABILITY TO ASSES NEEDS AND ADAPT APPROACHES IN A MORE COMPLEX WAY

This training is suitable for team leaders or more experienced staff who encounter people on the spectrum in their everyday work and include, for example, nurses, care workers, police, probation officers, housing officers. You might first want to check out the suggestions from the previous level before progressing to these materials.

Type of Staff	Resource/Training
General	For a book on the Assessment of Developing Communication & Thinking Skills: http://www.jkp.com/uk/assessing-and-developing-communication-and-thinking-skills-in-people-with-autism-and-communication-difficulties.html price £22.99
	For a sensory environment checklist: http://www.aetraininghubs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/sensory-environment-checklist.pdf
	To attend the Autism Specialist Interest group, e-mail Tessa.Dunnaway@nhs.net for dates of the meetings and access to individual clinical supervision.
	For the latest publication on The Adult Autism Strategy: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/think-autism-an-update-to-the-government-adult-autism-strategy
	To read the Worcestershire Autism Strategy http://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s2812/5.%20Autism%20Strategy%20Apx.pdf
Employment Sector	To read a guide to assessing individuals on the spectrum and their employment support needs: http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/resources/service-area/20-autism
Social Care Sector	For a selection of articles on assessing appropriate access to social care services see the following link: http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide43/accessibility/assessments.asp For guidance on the assessment of individuals for social care support see: http://www.autism.org.uk/~media/NAS/Documents/Working-with/Social-care/Assessments_of_need_for_adults_with_autism.ashx
Health Sector GPs Psychiatrists	To see The Department of Health series of online training and booklets to increase awareness and understanding of autism across all public services: https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiYrOiw9cFLAhUEYw8KHT9vA7cQFggIMAE&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F215651%2Fd128203.pdf&usq=AFQjCNFJMY9Toj9KE0mu9ypo7QO3B0V5pQ&sig2=yG4xnLLimWogOpcGMrwUA To see the NICE Guidelines on Diagnosis and Management: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg142

LEVEL4 – HIGHLY SPECIALISED KNOWLEDGE WITH UNDERSTANDING OF POLICY

This training is suitable for specialised or senior staff who encounter people on the spectrum in their everyday work and require evidence based knowledge. It may include, for example, senior nurses, Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Social Workers, Allied Health Professionals

You might first want to check out the suggestions from the previous level before progressing to these materials.

Type of Staff	Resource/Training
General	Excellent resource for the downloading of clinical resources: http://www.autismresearchcentre.com/
	For degrees at level H and M at The University of Birmingham consider: http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/education/acer/courses/index.aspx
	For more in-depth reading materials on ASC, consider: http://www.tonyattwood.com.au/index.php/books-by-tony/english-books/64-the-complete-guide-to-aspergers-syndrome or look at The Jessica Kingsley Publishing House catalogue: http://www.jkp.com/uk/autism-and-related-conditions.html
	Books and articles written by authors on the spectrum include: http://www.jkp.com/uk/catalogsearch/result/?q=aspergirls http://www.donnawilliams.net/
Mental Health	To read about the complexities of ASC and Mental Health: http://www.jkp.com/uk/mental-health-aspects-of-autism-and-asperger-syndrome.html