

Coventry and Warwickshire Neurodiversity and Autism Stakeholder Newsletter

Welcome to the Coventry and Warwickshire Neurodiversity and Autism Stakeholder Newsletter. Neurodiversity and Autism remains a top priority and through working with partner organisations from across Coventry and Warwickshire, we aim to improve the lives of neurodiverse and autistic children and adults and help them feel part of their communities.



2024 Together for Autism Conferences



act for autism Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System

Save the dates!

Together with Autism Conferences 2024 **FREE Events**

For professionals, parents and carers of autistic children, autistic adults and for anybody wanting to better understand autism.

Great news! **act for autism** have partnered with Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System to bring you three conferences covering all things autism.

Coventry 14 th September	Nuneaton 9 th November	Leamington 7 th December
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Come along to hear great talks, attend dynamic workshops, meet the services and talk to others about their experiences of autism.

Free to attend. Bookings will open six weeks before each event.

9.45am - 4.00pm
More details to follow

In partnership with

Coventry City Council NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board Warwickshire County Council

For queries and information: info@actforautism.co.uk
 @actforautismnow @actforautism_ @actforautismL

Following the successful 'Together with Autism' Conferences, in 2022/23 a further three conferences have been arranged to take place in 2024 on the following dates and locations:

- Saturday 14th September 2024: Meadow Park School, Abbey Road, Coventry CV3 4BD
- Saturday 9th November 2024: North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College, Hinckley Road, Nuneaton CV11 6BH
- Saturday 7th December 2024: North Leamington School, Sandy Lane, Leamington Spa CV32 6RD

Registrations for the conferences will open around six weeks before each event. These free conferences will run all day between 9.45am - 4pm and are for parents/carers of autistic children, autistic people, professionals and anyone interested in learning more about autism. The conferences will include speakers, topical workshops and information stands to showcase local support and services for the autistic community.

For queries or more information, please email info@actforautism.co.uk.



To receive information and newsletters around Learning Disability and Autism services and support across both Coventry and Warwickshire, just email IntegratedLDACommissioningTeam@warwickshire.gov.uk and specify what you are interested in receiving.

Previously, approx. 870 people attended across the three events with positive feedback received from both attendees and workshop leads / stand holders on how they helped connect services directly with families, were uplifting, facilitated peer networking and support and offered the opportunity for learning. We hope to see you there this year.



Adult Autism Education Sessions

The Community Autism Support Service (CASS) is running some new, free, online Adult Education Sessions.

These sessions are a series of information and education sessions for autistic adults (those diagnosed, waiting for diagnosis, or who think they may be autistic).


Running weekly online, on a Wednesday evening, the CASS staff (including Experts by Experience) will be leading short topic-based sessions.

Other available sessions from CASS include:

- Toolboxes for parents/carers
- Adult education sessions for autistic adults
- Four-week workshop for parents/carers of autistic teenagers
- Dads' drop-in for fathers of autistic individuals

NEW online information sessions for autistic adults

A series of **FREE** information and discussion sessions for **autistic adults** – (those diagnosed, awaiting diagnosis or think they may be autistic).

 **Weekly Wednesdays**
6:30pm–7:30pm
Online

Sessions are run by our friendly staff, including people with lived experience.

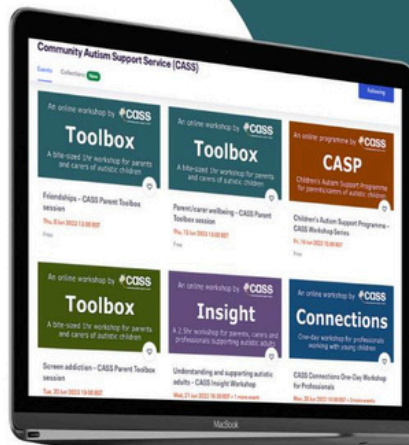
More topics and dates, and in-person sessions coming soon!

Scan the QR code or visit casspartnership.eventbrite.com to book your **FREE** place.

 **cass**
community autism support service



Or scan the QR code now:



 **cass**
community autism support service

Training and education

- ✓ Parent/carer workshops
- ✓ Professional workshops
- ✓ Parent/carer 1hr toolboxes

To book your place on any of the above, visit casspartnership.eventbrite.com

Why not take a look at the latest [CASS newsletter](#).



New referral route into the Dynamic Support Register

What is the Dynamic Support Register (DSR)?

Coventry and Warwickshire's Dynamic Support Register is a register of people with a learning disability and autistic people, including those considered to be at risk of admission to a mental health hospital.

It brings together health, social care, education and other system partners to provide good quality support at the right time and in the right plan with the aim of preventing unnecessary hospital admissions for people with a learning disability and autistic people.

Self referral

A [self-referral form](#) is now available via the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System (ICS) website, so that people with a learning disability and autistic people, their parents/carers or a health professional can refer them to the DSR.

The DSR Team does not provide an emergency crisis response service and works 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

If you are referring yourself or someone close to you, please note that:

- We will contact you within 5 working days to take further information to understand their current needs and help us to manage your referral. Information submitted will be shared with colleagues from health and social care to discuss current needs, levels of risk and potential sources of support.
- If the person is added to the DSR, their information will be shared with organisations who may be providing support, depending where they live including:
 - Coventry City Council or Warwickshire County Council
 - Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board
 - Coventry and Warwickshire Mind
 - Fine Futures

Please note that if the person being referred needs an urgent or immediate response from mental health, they should look [here](#).

Referral Information

When referral decisions are being made, it is important that all relevant information about the DSR is shared with the person the referral is for, plus those with parental responsibility (if applicable) and services that support them.

Consent: Information about the DSR is available in various formats to ensure that the person can understand, retain and weigh up information about this decision, so that they are able to give informed consent. Consent can be withdrawn at any time.

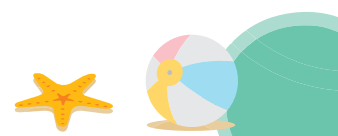
If a person is assessed as not having the capacity to give informed consent, a best interest decision can be made under the Mental Capacity Act to be referred to the DSR.

It is important to know that not consenting to join the register will not affect the person's current support.

For a referral to be accepted it is [essential](#) that:

1. The person has capacity to give informed consent or
A best interest decision has been made on behalf of them if they don't have capacity.
and
2. The person has a diagnosis of a Learning Disability or Autism

For further information about the DSR, please visit the [Coventry and Warwickshire DSR webpage](#).





Updated Information e-booklet for Neurodivergent People and their Families



The information e-booklet has now been reviewed and updated to share information and support available for neurodivergent people and their families across Coventry and Warwickshire.

It is now available on the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System's new Neurodiversity and Autism webpages, along with other useful resources.

Visit

www.happyhealthylives.uk/neurodiversity-autism

Or scan the QR code now:



Dimensions of Health and Wellbeing update

Since announcing the launch of the new accessible, all-age version of the Dimensions of Health and Wellbeing tool, we have been gathering feedback from our regular users of the Dimensions tool. Along with our experts by experience, we have co-created frequently asked questions and a more in-depth explanation of the changes we have made.



Please click on the links below to find out more:

[Introducing the new accessible, all-age Dimensions of Health and Wellbeing tool](#)

[Dimensions FAQs](#)

Visit <https://dimensions.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/> today to create your own Dimensions profile to identify your strengths and support needs. Then explore the support options available to you in the self-care flyers.



News from Warwickshire Library Service

Warwickshire Libraries are committed to making our libraries welcoming and inclusive to all, enabling as many people as possible from across the county to access library services. Over the last two years, we have been embedding a sensory approach in our libraries, with social stories and access information available on our website, sensory elements in some of our spaces, and resources and toys available to use when visiting our libraries.

In addition, we also offer sensory story time sessions at these libraries

- [Atherstone Library](#)
- [Bedworth Library](#)
- [Nuneaton Library](#)
- [Rugby Library](#)
- [Warwick Library](#)
- [Stratford Library](#)

New Sensory Mobile Library, the Discovery Den

We now have some exciting news to share with you about the next phase of this project. Warwickshire Library and Information Service through the Libraries Improvement Fund, administered by the Arts Council England, has secured funding to provide a new sensory mobile library.

Called the Discovery Den, the mobile library will provide a safe and inclusive space for children, young people, and adults with additional and more complex needs.

The Discovery Den will be fully equipped and accessible with an immersive and interactive sensory room environment. The vehicle will support engagement with children and adults through creativity and imagination, stimulating senses and building confidence, as well as social and literary skills.

The new mobile library will be taken out into local communities across the county, reaching people who might otherwise find the traditional library experience more challenging. It will extend the library service, continuing to offer a free, inclusive, and welcoming space.

The Discovery Den will host an extensive library of equipment to enable parents and carers to test things out. There will also be a selection of specialist books. The library service will work with partners to develop a range of sessions to support children, young people, and adults with additional needs. We hope the mobile library will be on the road in Autumn 2025.

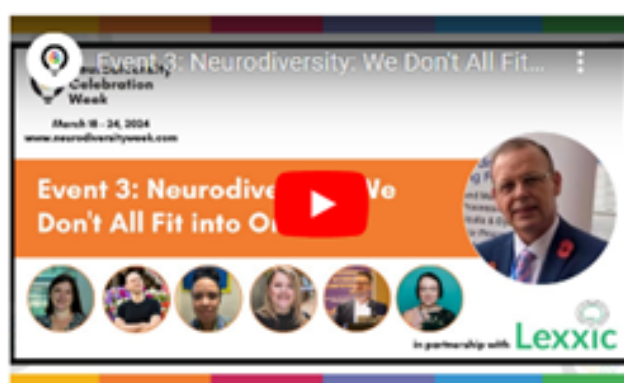
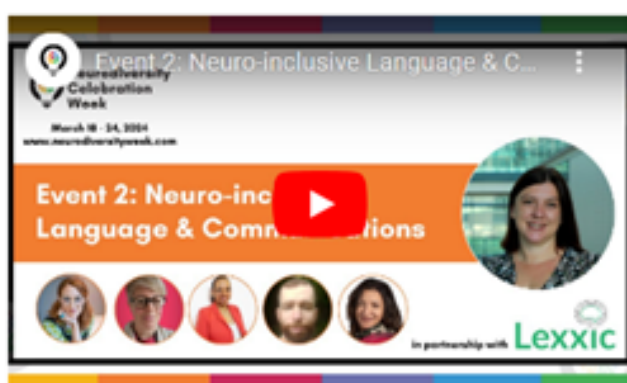
Sign up to our [Warwickshire Library Newsletter](#) if you would like to be kept updated about the progress of the Discovery Den. Keep an eye on our social media channels for updates as the project progresses.



Helpful Resources from Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Take a look at [Resource Hub](#) from the Neurodiversity Celebration Week. There are some really useful downloads available. There are also [23 event recordings](#), covering many subjects including:

- Neuro-inclusive language and communication
- Neurodiversity: We don't all fit into one box!
- Neurodiversity in higher and further education
- Neurodiversity at work Q&A: As the experts
- Culture, community and class in neurodiversity: who gets left behind?
- The benefits of neurodiversity in the workplace
- Creating a neuro-inclusive classroom
- Neurodiversity: fuelling creative minds
- Neurodivergent and LGBTQIA+: the 'double rainbow' intersection
- Connecting classrooms to careers: neuro-inclusive tech for future leaders
- Neurodivergence isn't a mental health problem
- Understanding neurodiversity as a family
- Neurodiversity for HR professionals
- Late discovered autism and the menopause
- Empowering yourself as a neurodivergent woman in the workplace
- Neurodiversity for parents and carers
- The experiences of neurodivergent women and girls
- Global perspectives: neurodiversity around the world
- Good practice for neurodiversity professionals



Warwickshire Housing Related Support

Together Warwickshire's Floating Support provides support to people with a range of disabilities who would benefit from targeted, 1-to-1 housing related support to set up, understand, manage and maintain their tenancies and prevent a risk of eviction and homelessness. Its aim is to empower people so that they can independently maintain their tenancies once the support comes to an end, through person-centred, self-directed support.

Supporting Warwickshire in Forward Thinking (SWiFT)

SWiFT is a service that is run by the Together Warwickshire team to provide support for people with disabilities who may not require full floating housing support, but would still benefit from short-term help and guidance on their housing situations.

Download the flyer on Warwickshire's Floating Support Service here:



Download the flyer on Supporting Warwickshire in Forward Thinking here:



For more information on both services, email Warks-hrs@together-uk.org or call 024 7679 6416.

Supported Internships for Coventry young people

Project SEARCH is a one year supported internship programme for students with special educational needs who live in Coventry. It is a transition-to-work education programme for young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

For more information, download the flyer, email Hannah Rogers at Coventry City Council: Hannah.rogers@coventry.gov.uk, call 07534 280586, or visit www.dfnprojectsearch.org



New Warwickshire Health Visiting Service resource platform

Warwickshire Health Visiting service has recently launched a linktree platform to facilitate the dissemination of information and resources to parents, carers, and professionals. Within this linktree, a dedicated SEND branch has been established, serving as a comprehensive hub of knowledge and support.

Through this initiative, Warwickshire Health Visiting service aims to provide easy access to tools and knowledge that may be beneficial for parents and carers.

The linktree can be accessed via <https://linktr.ee/WarwickshireHealthVisitingInfo>



Or scan the QR code now:



Helpful Warwickshire newsletters

Take a look at the [special edition newsletter focussed on Family Information Service \(FIS\)](#). You can subscribe to future editions [here](#). Missed the Warwickshire SEND newsletter? Take a look at [June's edition](#).



New Self-Advocacy Toolkit available



The Self-Advocacy Toolkit is designed to support people to share their thoughts, feelings and needs with others, in a number of different contexts e.g. phone calls, health appointments, when making a complaint etc. It helps people identify the themes that are most important to them and supports them to structure the information in advance of upcoming conversations, to ensure they feel prepared and confident that their message will be understood.

Download the flyer here:

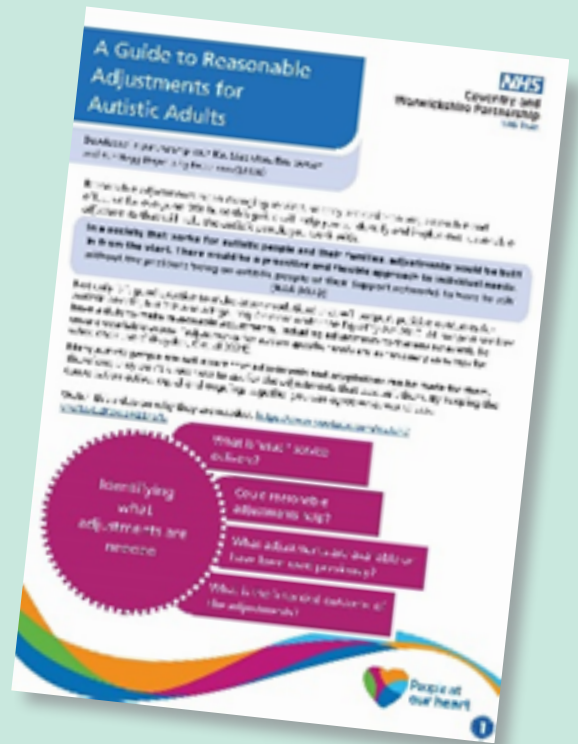


Professionals Corner

Guide to Reasonable Adjustments for Autistic Adults

The Guide to Reasonable Adjustments for Autistic Adults was co-produced by a number of autistic Experts by Experience and staff working in the Neuro-liaison and Adult Neurodevelopmental Teams from Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust.

The guide has been adapted from the original mental health-based version, to include suggestions for implementing reasonable adjustments in a wider range of contexts. We hope that this toolkit will encourage you to think about how you can make some really small but powerful changes, to help reduce some of the inequalities autistic people face when trying to access support services.



Download the Guide to reasonable adjustments for autistic adults here:



One Page Profiles

The one-page profile is a quick way to understand someone's interests, environments they thrive in and how best to support them. It's a conversation starter...something that isn't medical, which might help to reduce anxiety and build connection. It means people don't have to re-tell their story over and over and can help you to build the trust of the person you are working with. The conversation becomes person to person, rather than clinician to client.

- One page profiles guidance for professionals
- One page profiles guidance for clients
- Editable one page profile example 1
- Editable one page profile example 2
- Editable one page profile example 3



If you have any further queries about any of the resources, please contact the Neurodevelopmental Liaison Project Team at Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust:

AdultNeurodevelopmental.Team@covwarkpt.nhs.uk.

