

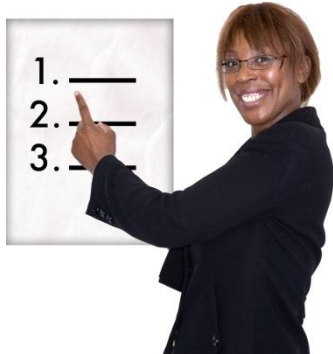
AUTISM

SPECTRUM





The Surrey Autism Project started in 2003.



The Partnership Board agreed that we needed to get better at understanding and supporting people with autism in Surrey.



We used £25,000 of Learning Disability Development fund money to fund the Autism Project.



Tom Moore began work on the Autism project



Tom met with people with autism and their families to find out their needs. A lot of services in Surrey agreed they needed to get better at supporting people with autism.

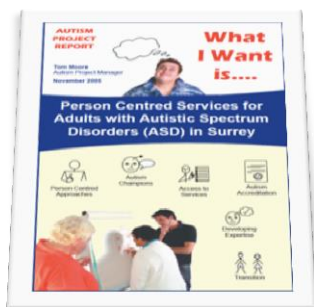


Services nominated staff members to become Autism Champions. The first Autism Champion training programme started.

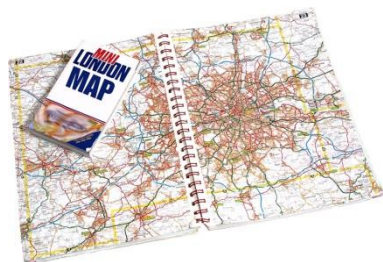


2005

We found out that there were more people with autism in Surrey than we thought.



Tom published his report called 'Person Centred Services for Adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in Surrey'.



The report found that 41% of adults with autism placed in residential care were placed in homes outside of Surrey. We wanted this to change.



Six services in Surrey started working to get Autism Accreditation.



The Partnership Board gave another £37,000 of Learning Disability Development Fund money to the Autism Project.



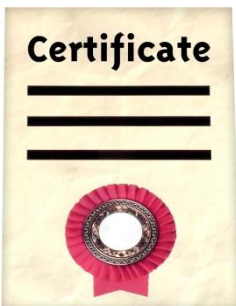
The first 23 people completed their training to become Autism Champions.



We started planning housing and support for the increased numbers of people with autism



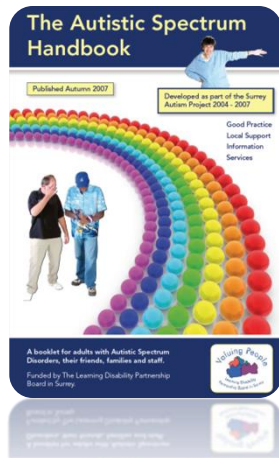
We needed to plan services because the number of adults with autism known to services in Surrey would rise from 600 in 2003 to 1200 by 2016.



Lockwood Day Service was the first service in Surrey to achieve Autism Accreditation.



People were now able to use our Autism Spectrum Handbook.



The handbook explained autism in easy words and was downloaded by lots of people from our website.



We gave Learning Disability Development Fund money to the National Autistic Society to set up the Assist – Asperger Support, Signposting and Information Services team.



Employment was a big issues for people with autism in Surrey



We gave £71,000 of Learning Disability Development Fund money to fund an employment project for people with autism.



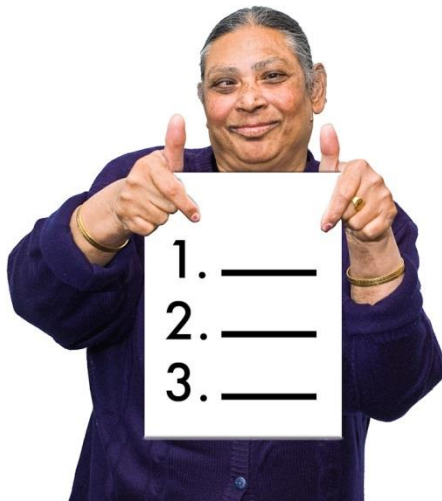
A new housing and support service was developed for 13 young people with autism.

We also funded a research project about further education for people with autism.



The Government's autism strategy 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' was launched.

We continued with our work in Surrey:



- Round 4 of our Autism Champion training started.
- Employability gained Autism Accreditation.
- Since 2008 new supported living services for 42 people had been set up.
- We began to look at setting up a autism diagnosis services for adults.



We launched the Autism Partnership Board in 2011.



The Autism Partnership Board would meet four times a year.



National guidance on diagnosis would be launched in 2012 and we needed to have a plan for Surrey.

It was important that social care staff in Surrey understood autism and people could get services if they qualified.



The Autism Partnership Board continues to oversee our work on autism in Surrey. There have been many new developments including:

- We now have a diagnosis services run by Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Surrey Police have now launched an Autism alert card to make it easier for people when they contact them.





We completed our self assessment in 2013 and were mentioned in the National Autism Strategy.



More housing options are being developed and we continue to work with schools and colleges to support young people in Transition

2014

We are designing a new series of Autism factsheets this year.



Surrey Autism Partnership Board Factsheet 1

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Introduction

An ASD is a Developmental Disorder where people think and process information differently, leading to difficulties in social interaction and thinking and behaving flexibly.

Experiencing the world differently

This factsheet aims to give you a basic understanding about people with an ASD. Every person is different, but there are common experiences that many people with autism share.

- People may have a small range of interests that they are very passionate about. People may have routines they rely on.
- People often find it hard to work out what others are thinking and feeling. People often find the way other people talk and behave confusing.
- The world can seem like a mass of people, places & events which is hard to make sense of. People may get anxious quite often.



Surrey Autism Partnership Board Factsheet 5

Diagnosis

Why ask for a diagnosis?

Many people say a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has helped them understand why they have difficulties with some things and are good at other things.

Judy was diagnosed with an ASD in 2013



The diagnosis took a lot of gull off of my shoulders as I understood why I can't do certain things. It made my self expectation a lot clearer which made me feel less of a failure.

Having a diagnosis of ASD can make it easier to get support from other support services. A diagnosis does not necessarily lead to services being provided.

How to ask for a diagnosis if you are an adult

There are different ways to get a diagnosis for people who have a learning disability and for people who do not have a learning disability. We will explain about these in this factsheet.

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