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The National
Autistic Society

harc HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Supporting autism - across age – across spectrum – across Hertfordshire

June 2008 Newsletter

Hertfordshire launch 'I Exist' - 12th June 2008

On Thursday 12th June harc - the Hertfordshire branch of the NAS held their local launch of 'I Exist'. The event held in Welwyn Garden City was well attended by members, county councillors, service managers and adults with Asperger syndrome/High Functioning Autism. Robert Pritchett, NAS Regional Director for South East England opened the event and spoke about some of the key changes 'I Exist' called for that have been achieved (further information attached to this newsletter).

An adult with Asperger syndrome spoke eloquently about the difference the St Albans Social Group has made to her life and the other members of the group. She quoted from Henry Thoreau "If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer". She explained that the social group enabled her to "reset her clock", that the help and support she has received and continues to receive has made her feel that she has a lot to offer and she has been helped to find a job. Quoting from the Cambridge Lifespan Asperger Syndrome Service leaflet on some of the diagnostic criteria for AS,

- "I find it hard to make friends, - not in my group,
- I find social situations confusing - not in my group,
- I have always had difficulty in making friends - not in my group"

She highlighted better than any report could have done the value of early, low level intervention such as social groups.

Lisa James, Campaigns Officer for the NAS updated the meeting on what has been achieved so far but clearly stated that there is still more to do and urged people to send their postcards to their Local Authority and to add their story to the 'Be Counted' wall. *The postcards are making a difference so if you haven't done yours yet please do.*

Dr Mark Hughes, School of Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics at the University of Hertfordshire, spoke about how he became involved in working with and understanding Asperger syndrome when working with a student with AS some six years ago. Mark explained that the university used a multi team approach to support their students. They have a support worker with a degree in psychology looking after the students living needs, for instance, helping

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of **harc** or the NAS

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them with their shopping, linking socially with other students or advocating for them with the lecturers. They work closely with the Student Disability Support. They found that this way of working was successful and this has led them to apply successfully for funding to undertake a project looking at support for AS students within other universities and to produce a resource pack with help cards for all staff working with students with AS.

A parent who cares for her adult son spoke about the transition from parent to carer, when it occurs and the impact that has on her life and that of her husband. She spoke about a second bereavement, the first being when you receive the diagnosis for your child and your aspirations for them change, the second is that point at which you realise that your aspirations for the rest of your life change when you realise you are a carer. She urged service providers to work with carers to provide the best possible support for the adults they care for.

There was also an update on the 'Imagine Thinking Differently' project. People were urged to tell their story and there was a recognition that if they were at this launch then they must have an interest and therefore their story would be relevant.

Robert Pritchett summarised the campaign for adults and spoke about an exciting initiative that is due to take place in Hertfordshire in the next few months. (post meeting note: There will be a briefing on this project in the near future). Robert again urged people to send their postcards and to get involved in the campaign.

The meeting was closed with **harc** thanking the NAS for organising the launch and thanked everyone for attending and in particular the speakers for giving such positive messages about working with adults with autism.

Work Solutions came with information about their Stop Gap Project and **harc** had a general

support stand together with one each for the Social Group, Siblings Group and 'Imagine Thinking Differently'.

People attending were able to network with people they probably wouldn't normally come into contact with.

Department of Health announce Audit for Adults with Autism

Care Services Minister Ivan Lewis has announced £500,000 for Government research into the numbers of adults with autism and their specific transitions needs. This prevalence study will inform the first ever Government strategy on adults with autism and Asperger's syndrome, due to be published next year.

The number of children with autism is as high as 1 in 100 (according to Prof. Baird's 2006 study) and this prevalence study will give us a more accurate picture of how many adults have the condition. Part of the new research will focus on the period of transition to adult life and will inform service planning for adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs). This will be led by Prof. Baird and it will examine the lessons and challenges in the transition process and focus on areas such as mental health, social care, housing and further education needs.

"Adults with autism and Asperger's syndrome are too often abandoned by services with their families left to struggle alone. Equally, people are frequently missappropriately referred to either mental health or learning disability services.

This study will inform the development of a national strategy designed to ensure that adults with autism and Asperger's syndrome are supported to have full lives."

Ivan Lewis - Care Services Minister

For full transcript of this announcement please see attached appendix.

harc member interviewed by BBC

Peter Griffin, a 28 year old with Asperger syndrome and ADHD was interviewed by the BBC's Sue Littlemore. The interview was shown on BBC news on the day the Government announced an audit of adults with autism was to take place. Peter was also heard on Radio 4 and Radio five live talking about his social blindness and the difficulty he faces in living independently.

If you missed this interview and would like to see it is available on www.bbc.co.uk/news (search for autism.)

Ten Minute Rule Bill

Angela Browning, MP for Tiverton and Honiton, herself the parent of a severely autistic child has introduced a bill under the 'Ten Minute Rule'. One of the supporters of this bill is Anne Main, MP for St Albans. A full transcript of the bill is attached. It has a second reading on 17th October 2008. This bill asks for many of the things that we have been asking for for some time, namely:

- ⇒ Clear route for assessment and diagnosis
- ⇒ Autism should be included in strategic planning
- ⇒ Responsibility for autism must be taken at a senior level
- ⇒ People with autism must stop falling into the gap between Learning Disabilities and Mental Health

We would ask you to urge your own MP to support this bill on its second reading.

What is a tinyURL

Throughout this Newsletter you will find web links that will lead you to more information about the article you are reading or to a book that you are interested in. Normally, these

would consist of a long string of characters which you would have to carefully type in. What we have done is converted these long strings into something shorter using the web site <http://tinyurl.com/> for example: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084597 would become: <http://tinyurl.com/3gb9nm> which is much easier to type. Each tinyURL link has been checked by us before it was put in the newsletter.

Carers Week: 9th to 16th June 2008

Last week was Carers week and the Government announced they were putting more funding into services for carers. The following statement was made by the NAS:

Whilst The National Autistic Society (NAS) welcomes increased funding for vital support services, such as shortbreak schemes, much more needs to be done to tackle the financial hardship faced by thousands of carers.

Autism is a serious and lifelong condition and caring for someone with the disability is often a full time job. Carer's Allowance is currently woefully inadequate at £50.55 for a 35 hour week that's £1.44 an hour, well under both the minimum wage and Job Seeker's Allowance. At the NAS we hear from many carers of people with autism who struggle to access even this meagre amount. A lack of understanding of the complexities of autism often means people with the condition fail to qualify for the rate of Disability Living Allowance on which Carer's Allowance depends and so individuals and carers often receive nothing at all.

If the Government is serious about giving carers the recognition and support that they need and deserve, it must make the reform of benefits available to carers a priority. The right support at the right time could transform lives.

Amanda Batten
Head of Policy and Campaigns
The National Autistic Society

You can view the Government's announcement at: <http://tinyurl.com/4dwugl>

Listen & Learn - article from Communications Magazine feature on Ed Balls Secretary of State for CSF

The latest copy of Communications magazine features a very interesting article by Ed Balls. Of particular interest is the following:

"SEN Statements

Parents at the APPGA (All Party Parliamentary Group on Autism) had experienced in getting SEN statements for their children, saying that LAs (Local Authorities) are rigidly applying restrictive criteria. Let me make it absolutely clear that, while it is acceptable for LAs to have criteria to guide them in taking decisions on which children should get statements, it is illegal for LAs to apply criteria rigidly - each case must be considered on its merits. If parents have evidence that their LAs are applying blanket policies in relation to statementing, my Department is very willing to investigate. I have the power to intervene to stop such practices taking place and, if necessary, I am very willing to do so.

Clearly, it is better if these issues can be sorted out without needing my intervention. Following concerns raised at the APPGA meeting by parents from Essex, my officials met parents from Supporting Aspergers Families in Essex, the Essex Autistic Society, the NAS and the Children's Legal Centre and my Department has taken up those concerns with the LA.

There is a mistaken belief that the Government is forcing LAs to reduce the number of statements. That is not the case. Between 2004 and 2007, the number of children with statements for an ASD rose from nearly 24,000 to 31,900. We have not made any changes to the law which states that, where necessary, LAs must assess children's SEN and draw up statements. Where a child needs a statement that is what they should get. However, we are

promoting improved provision in mainstream schools for Children with SEN so that any decline in the number of statements is because more parents are satisfied that their children's needs are being met without requiring one. That means that there is no reduction in entitlement for those parents and their children but that the money which might have been spent on the bureaucracy of drawing up statements can be used for improving provision.

However, I know that some parents do lack confidence in the assessment system for statements and I have asked Brian Lamb, the chair of the Special Education Consortium, to lead an inquiry, looking at ways in which parental confidence in the statutory assessment process might be increased."

He goes on to say "Schools need to know that parents are an important resource in understanding individual needs"

The whole article is very interesting, if you are unable to source it via the NAS let us know at the usual contact details and we will scan/copy it for you.

Awareness Raising Sessions in Schools

harc have now delivered three sessions to primary schools in Harpenden, St Albans and Hertford Heath. We have arrangements in place for a secondary school in St Albans this month and a further primary school, secondary school and special school in the new term.

The feedback we have had from the schools has been extremely positive. One Headteacher asking if we would mind being recommended to other schools - we would be delighted for that to happen! Another school wrote to say that they wished "all staff meetings were so interesting and informative!" They went on to say "You gave us all a much greater insight into the world of a child with ASD. It was also very

important for us to hear the perspective of a parent. You certainly raised our awareness of autism in our school".

We are happy to go into any school, anywhere in Hertfordshire to raise awareness and hopefully, to continue to give an insight into the world of ASD. If you think your child's school would be receptive, please let us know and we will make the arrangements.

Books about Autism

We have been sent items on different books available that members may be interested in.

Constructive Campaigning for Autism Services - The PACE Parents' Handbook

<http://tinyurl.com/43ozdm>

Surviving the Special Educational Needs System How to be a 'Velvet Bulldozer'

<http://tinyurl.com/4hhzaz>

◆ Books on Employment

Employment is an important part of a healthy, balanced and fulfilling life but less than 20 per cent of people with Asperger Syndrome (AS) are in work at any one time. The adults with AS in this book explore the issues surrounding employment, providing advice and insights for others with AS, as well as their employers and colleagues.

Drawing on personal experience and lessons learned, *Asperger Syndrome and Employment* looks at:

- * the transition from education to employment,
- * the importance of matching skills to career choices,
- * practical coping strategies for employees with AS in the workplace,
- * advice for employers, including the need to make 'reasonable adjustments' to avoid discrimination,
- * ways in which employment services ought to work for people with AS.

This is essential reading for adults with AS,

their family and friends, employment services and career advisers, and companies needing to know how, in practical terms, to accommodate employees with AS.

Praise for the book: 'This is the book we need for guidance on employment for people with Asperger's syndrome. The contributors describe their employment experiences and offer sound advice. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the success stories and took note of the words of warning of what not to do.'

- Professor Tony Attwood

◆ Book details:

Asperger Syndrome and Employment. Adults Speak Out about Asperger Syndrome.
Edited by Genevieve Edmonds and Luke Beardon.
Adults Speak Out about Asperger Syndrome series.
2008, Paperback, 176 pages.
ISBN 978 1 84310 648 7.
£12.99/US\$19.95.

Find out more and buy this book:

<http://tinyurl.com/4wf96z>

Find out more about the series:

<http://tinyurl.com/46ebe3>

Asperger Syndrome and Social Relationships: Adults Speak Out about Asperger Syndrome.
Edited by Genevieve Edmonds and Luke Beardon.
<http://tinyurl.com/4gcjr6>

Employment for Individuals with Asperger Syndrome or Non-Verbal Learning Disability: Stories and Strategies.
Yvona Fast and others.
<http://tinyurl.com/4vvsj3>

How to Find Work that Works for People with Asperger Syndrome: The Ultimate Guide for Getting People with Asperger Syndrome into the Workplace (and keeping them there!).
Gail Hawkins.
<http://tinyurl.com/4ow5qp>

Asperger Syndrome and Employment: A Personal Guide to Succeeding at Work.

Nick Dubin.

<http://tinyurl.com/4x3hry>

Managing with Asperger Syndrome.

Malcolm Johnson.

<http://tinyurl.com/4kk3jz>

Order offline:

Jessica Kingsley Publishers,

116 Pentonville Road,

London, N1 9JB, UK

Tel: (+44) 020 7833 2307

Fax: (+44) 020 7837 2917

email: post@jkp.com

harc are not promoting any of these books but highlighting them for your information.

Creativity Competition launched

The NAS have launched a Creativity Competition for adults with autism. There are three categories: poetry or prose, 2D art and photography. The entries will be judged by a panel of judges which will include people with autism and celebrities and first, second and third prizes will be awarded in each category. The winners along with those shortlisted will be exhibited in a gallery in London early next year.

The closing date for entries is Tuesday 30th September. Entries must be submitted with a completed official entry form which you can download below. This can be photocopied.

harc have copies of the competition entry form, if you would like us to send you one please either email to support@harc-online.org.uk or phone the office and leave a message with your name and address and how many copies of the competition entry forms you would like.

Alternatively you may email:

thinkdifferently@nas.org.uk or telephone

020 7923 5723 to have one sent to you.

NAS news in brief

◆ NAS and LEGO launch two-year partnership

The NAS are pleased to announce our two-year partnership with LEGO UK, which will help them to upgrade the playground at Radlett Lodge School in Hertfordshire. Other schools and services won't be forgotten either - they'll be receiving LEGO construction sets, which encourage problem solving skills and team work.

◆ World Autism Awareness Day

The first ever World Autism Awareness Day took place last month. The NAS marked the occasion in several ways: they presented a petition calling on the Government to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, opened a new sensory room at their Manchester Service, and took part in a week-long autism feature on MySpace.

◆ Raise a Grand for people affected by autism

Grand Intentions is a new, fresh and fun fundraising initiative which is all about raising one thousand pounds to support the NAS. Their supporters have signed up to raise a 'grand' in all sorts of ways - from going on fundraising walks to being sponsored to give up sugar for a year. Why not join in the fun?

◆ New awareness pack for criminal justice professionals

Working in partnership with the Co-operative Bank, the NAS launched a new information pack for criminal justice professionals who may come into contact with people with autism. They are also running the 'Keeping Safe' programme for young people with Asperger syndrome, which promotes awareness of crime and personal safety.

For more information about any of the above please go to: www.autism.org.uk

NAS Helpline text service

The NAS Autism Helpline is piloting a text service, following funding from the Financial Service Authority's National Strategy for Financial Capability. Enquirers can text their name, address and age of person with ASD to the helpline on 07903 200 200 to request an information pack on benefits and finance.

Mental Health Code of Practice

The NAS have been actively involved in working on the Mental Health Act, namely, Mia Rosenblatt. Information below is from an email that Mia sent out on her last day with NAS!

"The Mental Health Code of Practice has been published and as a result of our work on the Mental Health Act, there is now a chapter on ASD in the Code- Chapter 34: People with learning disabilities or autistic spectrum disorder. Aside from this chapter, there is only one other condition specific chapter in the Code, so this is a significant achievement. We also commented a number of times on the wording of the chapter to help to strengthen and improve it.

We're very pleased that there are a number of particularly welcome statements in the chapter that should help to improve the experiences of, and support received by, people with autism-including:"

While it is possible for someone on the autistic spectrum to meet the conditions for treatment under the Act without having any other form of mental disorder, even if it is not associated with abnormally aggressive or seriously irresponsible behaviour, this is likely to happen only very rarely. Compulsory treatment in a hospital setting is rarely likely to be helpful for a person with autism, who may be very distressed by even minor changes in routine and is likely to find detention in hospital anxiety provoking.

Sensitive, person-centred support in a familiar setting will usually be more helpful. Wherever possible, less restrictive alternative ways of providing the treatment or support a person needs should be found.'

A person with an autistic spectrum disorder is likely to behave in ways that seem odd to other people. But mere eccentricity, in anyone, is not in itself a reason for compulsory measures under the Act.

The examination or assessment of someone with an autistic spectrum disorder requires special consideration of how to communicate effectively with the person being assessed.

Where appropriate, someone who knows the person with an autistic spectrum disorder should be present at an initial examination and assessment (subject to the normal considerations of patient confidentiality).

If people with autistic spectrum disorders do need to be detained under the Act, it is important that they are treated in a setting that can accommodate their social and communication needs as well as being able to treat their mental disorder.

Here is a link to the Code of Practice:
<http://tinyurl.com/3gb9nm>

Parentline Plus

A member sent us a link for the following organisation that you may find useful:

Parentline Plus is a national charity that works for, and with, parents.

We're here because you are the most important person in your child's life. We know that family life can be challenging and difficult. We support you, so that you can do your best. To learn more about Parentline Plus:
<http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk/>

Parents course using EFT and NLP

Please find below some more details of the course designed for a parent and child with a diagnosis of Asperger syndrome that one of our members has forwarded to us, using Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) and Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP). The details are now available on the following web page:

<http://tinyurl.com/4yldsh>

to book a place:

phone: 07 903 314 361

or: 02 071 939 545

email: coachingforchoice@gmail.com

Research

◇ Reducing stress in families

We have been approached by Shivani Sharma who is a doctoral research student at the University of Hertfordshire, working with Professor B Fletcher (head of psychology) and Professor K Pine (developmental psychologist).

"My research is about reducing stress in families coping with ASD's. I am now within the final year of my research which is also supported by the National Autistic Society and am developing a very simple intervention that will target mothers of children with an ASD.

The intervention is based on FIT Science and works on breaking habits and increasing individuals control over how they choose to behave. Over 6 years of research has shown that by increasing behavioural flexibility, individuals feel less stressed, experience less depression related symptoms and are happier.

The intervention will involve two groups, one who will act as a control for the study and be expected to nothing but complete a questionnaire at the beginning of a month, and one again at the end, and a second group who will take part in a Do Something Different Task (DSD).

The DSD group will be asked to try a new behaviour every day, for one month. This will be things such as listening to a different radio station, reading a different newspaper, eating something different for breakfast etc. This group will also complete the questionnaire pack at the beginning and end of the study.

The National Autistic Society has been great in helping us recruit participants over the last two years however for the intervention, I would like to use mothers in Herts. I have several volunteers from having attended various support group meetings but was hoping that perhaps you could help advertise this research to parents too? If so, could you suggest how this might be achieved and the University will be happy to incur all costs.

I aim to have the intervention going for September and would ideally like 10 mothers in each group of which 5 would have a child with low-moderate functioning and 5 would have a child with high functioning Autism.

This research has been approved by the Universities Ethics Committee and all data collected is of course confidential and participation is voluntary.

If you would like more information, please do give me a call either at work on my mobile (07940 492 768).

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.c

◇ Identifying splinter skills

We have also been approached by Emily Bennett from Goldsmiths University of London with the following request:

"As a part of my taught Masters degree in research in Psychology, I am undertaking a dissertation on autism with Dr. Pamela Heaton, a well-established researcher in this field. We have developed a screening questionnaire for identifying the nature of splinter skills in

children with autism spectrum disorders. Following previous mail-outs and email contacts, to date we have a total of 60 questionnaire responses back from parents of autism spectrum children. These responses are greatly appreciated. As we progress it is becoming clear to us that the newly developed questionnaire will prove highly useful for identifying the behavioural and diagnostic features that may co-exist in autism spectrum children with splinter skills. However, in order to run the analysis for identifying which factors correlate with the skills I will need at least 120 completed questionnaires.

I am writing to you to request any assistance you may be able to offer me in recruiting parents of children (aged 3 - 18 years) affected by autism spectrum disorders (e.g., autism, autism spectrum disorder, Asperger syndrome, PDD, PDDnos). If you are kindly able to help, I can send you the questionnaire with pre-paid envelopes for the return of the questionnaires.

Participation in the project is entirely voluntary where completion of the measure takes no longer than 10 minutes. All information gathered is held in the strictest confidence for the purposes of the research only.

I am interested in hearing from any parent regardless of whether their child may or may not have a skill. Please feel free to call me directly on 07725 891 021 should you wish to discuss anything. Alternatively, if you are willing to help please reply to this email to confirm the name and postal address of whom I should send questionnaires and prepaid envelopes to and the approximate number that you would like.

Emily Bennett
Goldsmith's, University of London"
Email: ps702eb@gold.ac.uk

It's not just boys who are autistic

When it was first discovered more than 60 years ago, Asperger's syndrome was thought to

be a male-only condition. But now that more and more girls are being diagnosed with it, why do we hear so little about them, wonders Joanna Moorhead .

Wednesday June 4, 2008
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

Ten years ago, when she was 11, Robyn Steward was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism that made that already challenging time particularly difficult. While other girls were forming tight friendships, hanging out with each other for hours after school, Steward had trouble fitting in with her contemporaries - more so, she suspects, than if she had been a teenage boy with the syndrome. "At that age," she says, "boys aren't connecting with one another so much, but for girls it's so cliquy. Also, the stuff I was interested in seemed even more weird in a girl than a boy. It was mostly computers and music with me - boys can get away with being a bit obsessive, but it seems more strange in a girl."

To read the rest of this article please go the Guardian on-line site.

Article sent in by Lesley Zorlakki

1 in 5 people in the UK has literacy difficulties.

'Seeing Spells Achieving' proudly launch their "Schools and the Community Program"

◆ Seeing Spells Achieving

From its foundation, Seeing Spells Achieving has been actively focused in helping those with literacy and numeracy challenges to overcome these and get on with enjoying their lives; regardless of age, language or background. Seeing Spells Achieving has 3 driving principles:

1. To involve and support parents, as well as their children and teachers.
2. To improve and overcome numeracy, literacy and attention challenges.

3. To support the drive to put schools at the heart of their communities.

◆ **Extended Schools**

The government initiative to really establish the Extended Schools Programme recently asked,

"What is an extended school?"

"An extended school is one that provides a range of services and activities often beyond the school day to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community"

The 5 core areas on which Extended Schools Co-Ordinators (ESCOs) focus are:

1. Wraparound care
2. Varied menu of activities
3. Parenting Support
4. Wider Community
5. Swift and easy referral

Following our collaboration with ESCOs and Schools they have identified to Seeing Spells Achieving that we can offer support in each of these areas 5 core areas.

Today we proudly announce the Seeing Spells Achieving 'Schools and the Community Program'. The 6 week program does take account of all the great work that is currently being done and integrates with the latest learnings in this tailored and flexible 6 week program, to overcome literacy and numeracy difficulties.

And yes, it also supports those with dyslexia, ADD, ADHD, Asperger syndrome, autism and other conditions.

The program incorporates training for all teaching and support staff and a community event involving parents and local interested parties selected by the ESCO. But more than this, it supports children and parents throughout the 6 week period as they conquer their difficulties. It supports schools and ESCO's in the simple program of training and delivery. The

net result is an ongoing process of success supported by the 'School and the Community'. A special awards event to celebrate children's success is held on the 6th week to which parents are also invited.

"This is fun, fast and very effective."

Please do contact Seeing Spells Achieving for further information.

email: andrew@seeingspellsachieving.com

or: olive@seeingspellsachieving.com

or read the review in the British Dyslexia Association magazine.

Websites

◆ **Teacher's TV** - <http://tinyurl.com/3ojap3>

Teacher's TV has some very good information with regard to different environments for children with SEN. You may want to signpost your child's teacher to this site if they are not already using it.

Sent in by Lesley Zorlakk

◆ **ICAN** - <http://www.autismnetwork.org/>

The Interactive Collaborative Autism Network (ICAN) is a project supported by a U.S. Department of Education Grant.

The site is for anyone who lives with, teaches, or otherwise supports children and youth with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), including parents, teachers, and individuals with ASD. No background knowledge about ASD is necessary to use the site. ICAN has been developed for anyone who wants to learn information related to individuals with ASD and made the site as accessible as possible.

(Editor's note: This site is designed for an American audience, you will need to determine if it is or value to you).

◇ **Website for the social skills videos**

www.modelmekids.com

The music maker is on: <http://tinyurl.com/5hyo5w>
Super Duper Music Looper software is the fun, easy way for kids to make their own music on the computer. Using big buttons, simple tools, and musical building blocks called loops; anyone can create catchy tunes in minutes! It includes hundreds of instrument sounds and sound effects - for Ages 6-9.

◇ **Transition Information Network**

Please let your members know that they can register with the Transition Information Network.

I found the "Getting A Life" policy e-newsletter that comes with confirmation of registration very helpful and am looking forward to receiving the Newsletter "My Future Choices". This may be useful to many of your members.

<http://tinyurl.com/67snos>

Sent in by Pamela Reitemeier

Canal Boat Project

Take a cruise through the beautiful Essex and Hertfordshire countryside with the Canal Boat Project. From half a day to a week or more, the fleet of accessible boats is perfect for day trips, weekend breaks and holidays. Book with The Canal Boat Project for group outings, family gatherings, special occasions, a change of scenery, or just respite from your normal routine. Become the captain for the day, or let one of their qualified skippers take the helm.

The Canal Boat Project is a registered charity established in 1989 to provide affordable opportunities for anyone with a disability or their carers, charities, and community groups, to experience the joy of cruising the inland waterways. Regular users include residential homes, day centres, disability charities, community groups, youth organisations, schools and colleges, hospices, carers groups and the

families of disabled individuals. The boats are based at our mooring on the River Stort in Harlow, which is easily accessed by road or rail. You will be welcomed aboard by their team of trained volunteers, who will assist you and answer any questions you may have.

For your day trips, they offer a choice of two boats, including the latest addition to their fleet. Stort Daybreak was launched in 2007 and provides state-of-the-art facilities for up to 12 people. Dawn Treader is an ever-popular smaller boat, ideal for a summer cruise. The short break and holiday boats operate under the banner of Lock View Canal Holidays. Both Stort Challenger and Red Watch are equipped for overnight stays, allowing you to adventure further afield. The local towns of Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Waltham Abbey are all within reach on a weekend cruise. For a longer journey, why not venture into the heart of London and back?

If this appeals to you, contact them now for further information. Visit the websites at www.canalboat.org.uk (day trips) and www.lockviewcanalholidays.org.uk (short breaks and holidays) or telephone 01279 424444 or email: admin@canalboat.org.uk for a brochure, then arrange a visit to view the boats and meet the team to discuss your individual requirements.

Received from NAS South Eastern Regional Office

Autism Education Trust News

◇ **AET is guaranteed DCSF funding for second year plans**

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has confirmed this month that additional funding will be granted to the Autism Education Trust to secure plans for a second year. AET second year plans will be published soon on the AET website so please keep visiting www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk for further information and updates.

◇ AET wants help engaging hard-to-reach groups

In addition to the current series of road shows, the AET has funding for a piece of work to ensure that people from BME (Black, Minority Ethnic) communities and other hard to reach groups across England contribute to the development of the AET and ensure that it reflects their interests. We are particularly keen to ensure that children and young people from a wide range of backgrounds contribute their ideas and concerns to AET. We are looking for help in undertaking this outreach work, so if you or your organisation are interested in delivering, or helping to deliver, this piece of work please email: info@autismeducationtrust.org.uk

◇ The Lamb Inquiry calls for local authority expressions of interest for innovative projects

The Lamb Inquiry was set up as part of the Government's response to the House of Commons Education and Skills Committee Report *Special Educational Needs: Assessment and Funding*. The Inquiry is being led by Brian Lamb, the Chair of the Special Educational Consortium, and will advise on the most effective ways of increasing parental confidence in the SEN assessment process. Brian Lamb has brought together a group of experts to advise him and he will report in September 2009.

The Inquiry has been asked to commission and evaluate innovative projects to examine a range of ways in which parental confidence in the SEN assessment process might be increased. The Inquiry is seeking expressions of interest from local authorities, working with partners, in running projects in the following areas:

- ⇒ making the provision of educational psychology advice "arm's length" from a local authority;
- ⇒ sharing best practice in developing good relationships between the authority and parents, through effective parent partnership services and other local mechanisms;

- ⇒ effective practice by schools and local authorities in meeting the needs of children at School Action Plus;
- ⇒ developing the 'team around the child' approach in the school stages;
- ⇒ other activities.

<http://tinyurl.com/6zjgm3>

The final report will be published September 2009

◇ World Autism Day 2008

The first World Autism Day, designated as such by the United Nations, took place on 2 April 2008. Autism organisations across the UK came together to join the worldwide awareness campaign for better recognition of autism and improved resources for the estimated 60 million people with autism around the world. Speaking at an event to mark the day, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said,

"Let us pay tribute to the courage of children with autism and their families, as they strive every day to confront the disability with a powerful combination of determination, creativity and hope. Let us empower them and respond to their needs today, so as to make our societies more accessible, enabling and empowering for all our children tomorrow."

For more information about the day visit www.worldautismawarenessday.org

◇ Preparing for the summer with a haircut?

With warmer weather on its way, you might be thinking about having your child's hair cut. However, many parents of children with autism find that taking their child to the hairdressers can be a very difficult experience for all involved. It can be very distressing for any child to have their hair cut, but for a child with autism the visit to a hairdresser may be particularly upsetting due to a number of sensory factors.

The National Autistic Society offers practical advice for parents, and hairdressers, to try to alleviate some of the anxiety a child might experience. Read the fact sheet on the NAS website at: <http://tinyurl.com/6zpt9t> or call the NAS helpline on 0845 070 4004 for a printed copy.

◆ **Have Your Say**

AET are always keen to hear your thoughts and suggestions. Please visit the AET website and fill in the online form to tell us about your experiences of autism education. We want to hear from parents, young people with autism and professionals working in the autism education field.

Perhaps you know of a really good outreach team you would like to tell us about? Perhaps your school is very supportive and provides a range of pupil-centred initiatives to support learners with autism. Or perhaps your experience is not as positive? Have you struggled to access appropriate education for your child? Have you experienced bullying at school as a result of your autism?

Whatever your experiences, we would like to hear from you. You can provide us with useful first hand information to ensure our work is relevant and targeted.

Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/5qa6ar> to fill in a form.

For any further information and feedback contact us at:

Autism Education Trust

393 City Road

London

EC1V 1NG

07795 667749

website: www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk

email: info@autismeducationtrust.org.uk

ASC Group - University of Hertfordshire

The University of Hertfordshire has hosted three meetings of this group during the last academic year. The last of the meetings was with Ben Robins who gave a presentation of the work he is doing on the interaction of children with robots (see forthcoming meetings).

Lyn Bhanja, who hosts the meetings, is already planning for the next meeting in the Autumn.

She suggests we look at the issue of Inclusion at our next meeting. Are the pupils needs being met - mainstream vs special school - how do we know what is working well and why?

She is hoping to get another researcher to talk about their work on using narrative and ICT for children with ASC and then move on to discuss inclusion and how we might explore it in more detail as a group.

Lyn thinks that as a multi professional group we could enquire into the education we offer our children with ASC from a range of perspectives - not just as academics doing research, but as people who daily live and work with ASC in a variety of ways. Building a learning community of experts like us to share our practice and find out what works well and why sounds like a really exciting project - so come along to the next session to find out more !!

If you would like to be put on the list to receive information about these meetings email Lisa Garner at the University - l.a.garner@herts.ac.uk and put in the subject 'ASC Group' or telephone Lisa on 01707 284000 (switchboard).

***Report from C4A Meeting
May 2008***

◆ **LINKs (Local Involvement Networks)**

About seven or eight months ago C4A wrote in the newsletter about the LINKs Transition

Board that was being put in place to help to bring health and social care together. We were looking for people to sit on that board and represent those with autism. Sue McCann did volunteer and has now been elected to the board.

LINKs aim to make it easier for people to say what they want from health and social care services, to talk with the people who run them and to hold them to account. More can be found about LINKs on: <http://tinyurl.com/3rdxbu>

Sue has been elected an individual member of the interim Board which will be finalised by the end of the current year. The rest of the Board consists of 10 voluntary organisations and 10 individual members. Carers In Hertfordshire also have a post on the board. It is possible to raise issues and areas of concern via the hertsdirect webpages that will be considered by the LINK Board, so Sue would be grateful if other carers could enter some of their concerns or experiences, mentioning the word 'autism' so that the profile of autism is raised and considered by the Board. It is not a complaint forum but somewhere that suggestions for improvements in services can be considered and backed if agreed to.

◆ **Rachel Loveday, Hate Crime Officer, Welwyn/ Hatfield Police**

Rachel introduced herself and gave a quick résumé of her police career to show how she became the Hate Crime Officer in Welwyn-Hatfield. Hate Crime covers any crime against someone because of a difference that the perpetrator perceives - race, disability or gender. So any crime against someone with a disability will be referred to the Hate Crime Officer as will crimes committed by someone with a disability. (They may not be hate crimes as such but this will always be a consideration).

There are 7 Hate Crime Officers in Hertfordshire (a list is at the end of the notes). Hertfordshire Constabulary is divided into three - the Central Area has Hate Crime officers at

St Albans, Hertsmere and Welwyn-Hatfield. The East Area has them at Stevenage and Hertford; and Watford and Hemel Hempsted. West Area have two officers in the Vulnerable Persons Unit. All of these officers have chosen to be in these roles and want to work with those who are more vulnerable in society. Rachel mentioned the PIP pack - People in Partnership which is a training pack to help people with Learning Disabilities know more about the Police and how to report crimes that they may witness or be on the receiving end. Some of the trainers with LD are used to help train new police officers to understand more about learning disability and some of the associated issues. If a hate crime is reported, it is investigated and then the papers are presented to the Crime Prosecution Service (CPS) who decide whether anyone will be prosecuted and taken to court. This will be based on how likely it is that there will be a conviction, what the wishes of the victim are and also the victims ability to give evidence in a court of law. In order to secure a conviction, pressure may be applied to have statements made and evidence given, but this should be done in a sympathetic and timely manner. This is a change from a few years ago when slightly intimidatory pressure may have been used, but now more time should be given to the victim of the crime so that they have a better understanding of why they are being asked to tell their story and support given to deal with being a victim.

Rachel told us about a drop-in support group called Herts Crisis Support who offer advocacy and help free of charge. In particular they will give time to vulnerable victims of crime to talk through their experiences. Meeting details are as follows:

WGC Salvation Army,
Heronswood Road,
Monday 10am - 2pm.

Drop in sessions for Advice, Advocacy, Benefits, Guidance, Disabilities, Your rights, Counselling

WGC, Woodhall Community Centre,
Mill Green Road
Thursday 10 - 2pm
Drop in sessions for Housing/homelessness
advice, advocacy
Wednesday 10 am - 2pm
phone line assistance - 07932 492775

Stella and Penny run it and they are very approachable and will see people with or without parents, whatever the client wishes.

If it is felt that Hertfordshire Constabulary should improve their services to someone with a disability or that they are not being treated fairly, this can be taken up with the Diversity Unit:

email: deborah.hood@herts.pnn.police.uk

phone: 0845 3300 222.

It is also possible to join an Independent Advisory Group in different areas around the county - again Deborah Hood is the person to contact in the first instance.

These IAGs advise the police force how different minority or vulnerable groups should be treated to ensure fairness - to provide constructive criticism to improve the service provided.

harc have offered their services in raising awareness to the police and have also obtained the latest leaflet 'Autism: an at a glance guide for criminal justice professionals' and these will be distributed to the different police areas and the IAG.

Support Group Meetings

In May we held a workshop on Social Stories led by Pamela Reitemeier. The feedback from that session was very positive and if we have a demand we will ask Pamela to put this on again, perhaps in a different part of the county. Tell us what you would like and where.

We have run 'Imagine Thinking Differently' sessions, these have not been as well attended

as we would have hoped, however, there are more opportunities to give your story and we have done these by telephone. Thank you to everyone taking part, your voice makes a difference no matter the age of the person you care for, if they have Asperger syndrome/High Functioning Autism we want to hear from you. Email think.differently@harc-online.org.uk or ring the office and leave your details.

◇ Asperger syndrome ... so what!

1st July 2008 - Pioneer Youth Club St Albans

We were disappointed to have to postpone this workshop for parents/carers of adults with AS/HFA on 14th May due to Sarah Hendrickx being taken into hospital, however, the really good news is that we can now offer you a place on the course on 1st July if you are able to attend. Flyer is attached with information on how to register.

◇ Robots & autism with Dr Ben Robins

16th July 2008 - Southfield School

The next support group meeting is 16th July at Southfield School. Flyer with map is attached. Dr Ben Robins will be talking about the work he is doing with robots and the interaction of children with autism. A fascinating presentation!

Open Day Invitation

Kingsley Court is a new residential care home in Potters Bar run by Brookdale and provides specialist care, treatment and management for adults with ASD.

Ayshea Mussel is the home manager and invites you to attend an open day on Thursday 3rd July between 3.00 and 7.30 pm. Please contact Wendy Whyte by phone 01707 646 646 email infor@brookdalecare.co.uk or visit their website at www.brookdalecare.co.uk.

Training day on Exclusions through Network 81 - 5th July 2008

This training day will take place at the Ramada Hotel in Peterborough. If you have ever been asked to collect your child early to allow them to "cool off", or been asked to take your child home at lunchtime or your child has been 'suspended' or 'excluded' for not doing homework or for reasons related to their disability then you may be interested in attending this training. Cost to parents is £30.

Email val.network81@btconnect.com or telephone their admin line 0870 770 3262. Places are likely to go quickly so if you are interested contact them straight away.

Newsletter articles

As usual we are asking you for your articles for your newsletter. Have you attended training that you think someone may be interested in hearing about, if so, write it up and send it to us, we will be happy to print it. Do you have a simple strategy that helps your child? For instance, when my youngest son was at primary school the SENCO purchased a motor racing encyclopaedia (his obsession) and encouraged and rewarded his work with ten minutes with the book. It worked really well, kept him calm and focussed. She never set him targets that he

couldn't achieve so it might have been simply to sit still and quiet with the other children for ten minutes or to write three sentences in joined up writing. Simple and effective. What do you know about that we can share with other parents or schools?

You can send your articles to:
Newsletter@harc-online.org.uk ,

Comments on this newsletter including balance of content can be made to the same email address. As we say every edition, this is your newsletter, it should reflect what you want to see. If we are not getting the right balance of articles we need you to tell us.

A Break in the Family

Carers in Hertfordshire were commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council's Children, Schools and Families (CSF) in October 2007 to consult with parents caring for children with disabilities about the provision of short breaks services in the county.

Their report on that consultation is now available from Carers in Hertfordshire. You can telephone 01992 586969 or email contact@carersinherts.org.uk and request your copy.



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Support Group Meeting

Autistic Children and their interaction with robots

When: Wednesday 16th July
Time: 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm
Where: Southfield School,
See map below

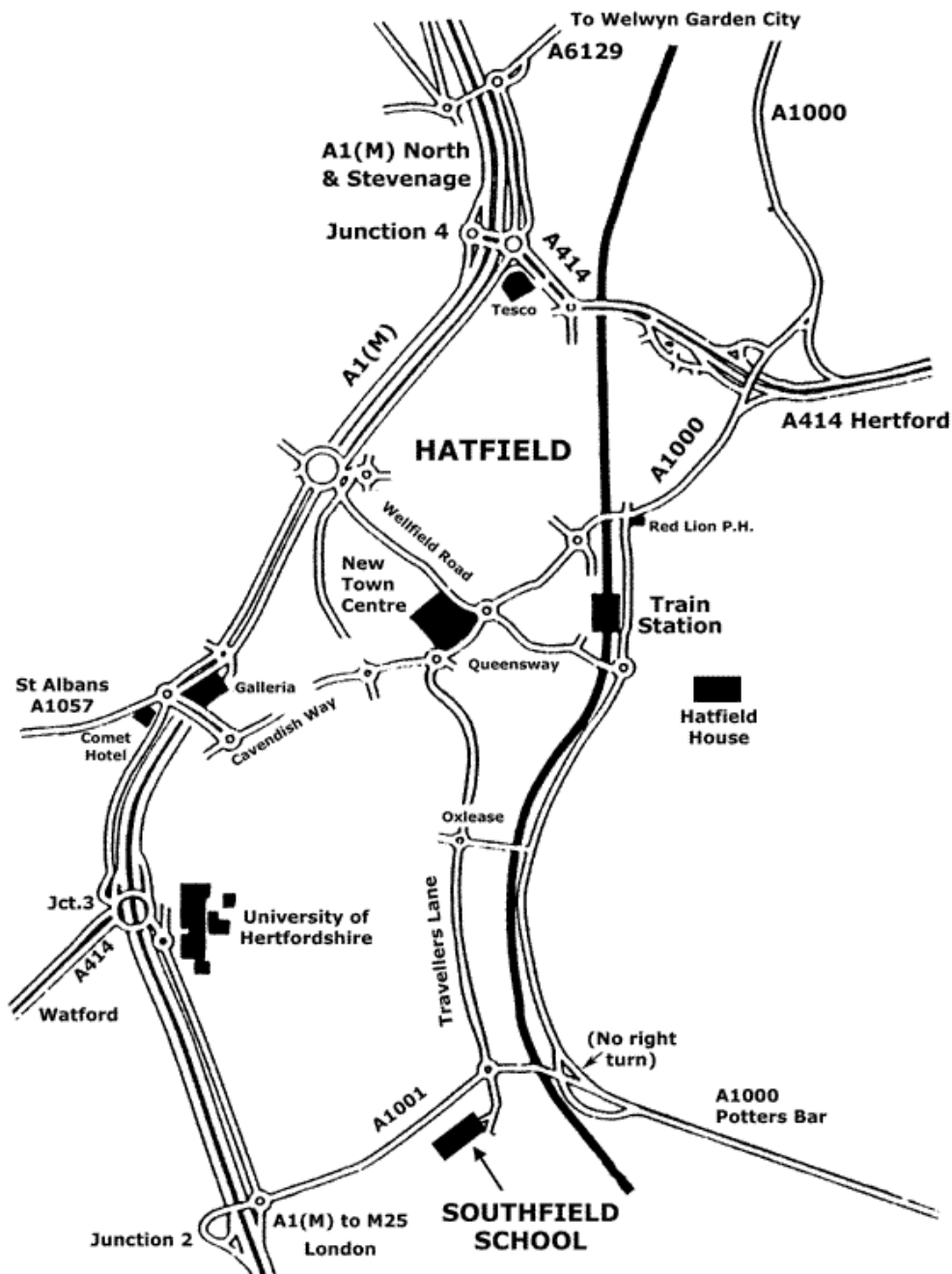
Presenter: Dr Ben Robins - University of Hertfordshire

Ben Robins' research started in the [Aurora Project](#), investigating the potential use of robots as therapeutic or educational 'toys' specifically for use by children with autism. The research focused on ways that robotic systems engaged autistic children in simple interactive activities, with the aim of encouraging basic communication and social interaction skills.

Ben is currently working on the European [IROMEC project](#), which acknowledges the important role of *play* in child development as a crucial vehicle for learning about the physical and social environment, the self, and for developing social relationships. IROMEC targets children who are prevented from playing, either due to cognitive, developmental or physical impairments which affect their playing skills, and is investigating how robotic toys can empower children with disabilities to discover the range of play styles from solitary to social and cooperative play.

Please let us know if you wish to attend: support@harc-online.org.uk or phone 01707 259701 and leave a message on the answerphone.

Southfield School Travellers Lane Hatfield HERTS AL10 8TJ



Health warning: the postcode for Southfield School is not recognised in most 'sat nav' systems

Department of Health announces Adult Autism Strategy

- Research will look at numbers of adults with autism and transitions challenges for young people -

Care services Minister Ivan Lewis today announced £500,000 for Government research into the numbers of adults with autism and their specific transitions needs. This prevalence study will inform the first ever Government strategy on adults with autism and Asperger's syndrome, due to be published next year.

The number of children with autism is as high as 1 in 100 (according to Prof. Baird's 2006 study) and this prevalence study will give us a more accurate picture of how many adults have the condition. Part of the new research will focus on the period of transition to adult life and will inform service planning for adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs). This will be led by Prof. Baird and it will examine the lessons and challenges in the transition process and focus on areas such as mental health, social care, housing and further education needs.

Ivan Lewis said:

"Adults with autism and Asperger's syndrome are too often abandoned by services with their families left to struggle alone. Equally, people are frequently missappropriately referred to either mental health or learning disability services

"This study will inform the development of a national strategy designed to ensure that adults with autism and Asperger's syndrome are supported to have full lives."

"We still don't know enough about autism, but we do know that left unsupported, it can have a devastating impact on those who have the condition and their families. One of the key gaps in our knowledge is simple - we don't know how many people have the condition in any given area. That is why I am ordering a study to address this. "

The prevalence study will interrogate existing data to record the number of adults with Asperger's syndrome and high functioning autism. There will also be an additional part to the study on the number of people with autism who have more complex needs and learning disabilities. The research will provide good epidemiological information in terms of prevalence and the characteristics and problems of this group. It will be taken forward by Prof. Brugha at the University of Leicester, in conjunction with a team of research experts including Research Autism and Prof Baron-Cohen of the Autism Research Centre, and will report in 2009.

This work, including research into transitions, is being commissioned and funded jointly with the Department for Children, Schools and Families. An autism expert will be appointed within the Department of Health to take both studies forward.

The National Autistic Society recently called for a prevalence study into the numbers of adults with the condition, as their recent survey found that 63% of adults with autism feel they don't get enough support. This study will address this problem by informing service providers who can find it hard to plan to meet the needs of adults when they do not have access to good information on the number of people in their area and their needs.

Mark Lever, chief executive of The National Autistic Society said;

"We warmly welcome today's announcement from the Department of Health. Through our I Exist report, adults with autism told us they feel isolated and ignored, we are therefore delighted that the government has listened and is taking action . The Government has committed to establishing an autism specialist post and to undertake research into the number of adults with autism. We hope this will mark a turning point in the way that the needs of people with autism are recognised and met."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The transitions research will focus on young peoples' experiences, including their mental health needs, their social care and housing needs, further education needs, opportunities for leisure and access to transport, and the ease of access to services. Transition planning was highlighted in the Children and Maternities National Service Framework and we wish to identify good practice as well as barriers experienced in accessing provision.

2. For both parts of this research, the teams to bring together a number of researchers and practitioners who are highly eminent in the field of autism and who have already made a substantial contribution to our understanding and treatment of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs).

Adults with Autism

3.34 pm

Angela Browning (Tiverton and Honiton) (Con): I beg to move,

That leave be given to bring in a Bill to impose duties upon the Secretary of State and certain organisations involved in health and social care in respect of support for people aged 18 and over with autism; and for connected purposes.

I declare an unremunerated interest as a vice-president of the National Autistic Society.

Autism is a lifelong condition, yet from the lack of support available to adults with autism and the lack of knowledge of their needs, people could be forgiven for believing that that is not the case. I am using the term “autism” now and in the Bill to refer to all adults on the autism spectrum, including those with Asperger’s syndrome and high-functioning autism.

At this point, however, I should like to deviate from what I intended to say to welcome strongly the Government’s announcement on 8 May in which they set out a number of actions in relation to adults with autism. Those actions include increasing the Department of Health’s capacity to work on the issue by employing a full-time autism specialist and by having one of the Department’s officials working specifically on autism, as well as undertaking research into the number of adults with autism. I believe that that is a real step forward and that those measures have the potential to make a real difference to the lives of people living with autism.

I am introducing the Bill, though, as there is still an imbalance between the increasing recognition of the need to provide support to people with autism and the action taken to meet that need. That discrepancy is highlighted in the recent National Autistic Society’s report “I Exist”, which details the experiences of adults with autism and the action taken by local authorities and primary care trusts in relation to autism. The report reveals that almost two thirds of adults with autism do not have enough support to meet their needs and that more than nine in 10 parents are worried about their adult son’s or daughter’s future when they are no longer able to support them.

I will come back to more of the findings of that report as I discuss the clauses of the Bill, but first I should like to read out a quote from the mother of an adult with autism, which I found particularly moving. She said:

“My daughter has quite calmly said that when we die, she plans to kill herself because she knows she will be completely alone and unable to care for herself. She weeps on a daily basis because she is so scared of the future. There is nobody to help her manage her daily life, and more importantly, who will love her when we’re gone?”

I believe that the duties in the Bill would be instrumental in transforming the experiences of such adults and enabling them to achieve fulfilled and independent lives.

I should like to make it clear that, when I refer to independent living, I am using the definition that the Disability Rights Commission used:

“all disabled people having the same choice, control and freedom as any other citizen—at home, at work and as members of the community. This does not necessarily mean disabled people

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doing everything for themselves, but it does mean that any practical assistance people need should be based on their own choices and aspirations”.

So what change is required? Well, we still do not know how many adults there are with autism in the UK, and that lack of information has a negative impact on the planning of services. More than three quarters of primary care trusts do not keep a record of how many adults with autism there are in their areas and 86 per cent. of local authorities say that if they had more information about the number of adults with autism in their areas, it would help them with their long-term planning.

The Government now intend to support a study of the number of adults with autism. That is why I am not calling for that today, but it is important that action for adults does not wait for that study to report and that that research is reinforced by action locally. Therefore, the Bill would also require local authorities and NHS bodies to identify people with autism in their areas and maintain a register of the numbers, which should also include carers.

In addition, the Bill proposes placing additional duties on local authorities and NHS bodies, because despite recent Government guidance to tackle the inaction by local services it is apparent that not nearly enough is being done to support people.

There is a lack of clear responsibility for autism at a local level, and that needs to be addressed. First, there is currently no responsibility for autism at a senior level. The director of adult social services guidance published by the Department of Health in 2006 attempted to tackle that, in part by stating:

“Local authorities shall ensure that the DASS draws up clear lines of responsibility, within his or her staff team for managing the needs of all adult client groups,”

with autism defined as one of those client groups, yet only 39 per cent. of local authorities say that the requirement has been met. A duty on local authorities and NHS bodies to appoint a senior-level person or team with responsibility for autism is essential if the situation is to improve.

Secondly—this is closely linked to the previous point—in the majority of local authorities there is uncertainty about which team provides support for people with autism. As autism is a developmental disorder, not a learning disability or a mental health problem, many adults with autism, particularly those with Asperger’s syndrome or high-functioning autism, are passed over by both teams, receiving no proper help from either. More than 60 per cent. of adults with Asperger’s syndrome or high-functioning autism say that they have experienced problems when trying to receive support from their local authority or health services. Of those, 52 per cent. were told that they did not fit easily into mental health or learning disability services.

That is perhaps unsurprising, given that nearly half of local authorities say that they do not have a process in place to manage how people with autism who do not fulfil the learning disability or mental health criteria receive support. As one local authority said,

“service silos means ASD doesn't fit. ASD falls between service areas”.

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The structural disadvantage that adults with autism frequently experience is a major factor in poor outcomes, and many adults' problems go unaddressed. The Bill therefore requires local authorities and NHS bodies to establish and publish a route by which all persons with an autism spectrum disorder may access assessments and any resulting care.

Thirdly, there is a worrying absence of references to autism in many strategic planning and commissioning documents produced by local bodies. Commissioning strategies should include the requirements of people with autism. To enable that, it is essential that local authorities and partner NHS bodies have regard to the requirements of people with autism in their area when undertaking joint strategic needs assessments. Many areas are still to publish their joint strategic needs assessments, but it is clear from those that have done so that many assessments do not cover adults with autism. That is not acceptable.

Fourthly, the Bill would require local authorities and NHS bodies to secure sufficient training about autism for staff who are in regular contact with people on the autistic spectrum, and those involved in assessment. It is of great concern that more than 70 per cent. of local authorities do not believe that care managers receive sufficient training about autism either in their initial professional training or as part of their ongoing professional development. That is perhaps unsurprising, given that more than three quarters of local authorities do not have an autism training strategy at all.

Some 98 per cent. of local authorities and 100 per cent. of primary care trusts say that the Government could provide them with more guidance and assistance to support adults with autism, so there is near-universal demand for more support. From that it can be concluded that there is a recognition that existing work and initiatives have not gone far enough. The Bill therefore calls on the Secretary of State to ensure that there is regional support to assist local authorities and NHS bodies in taking forward good autism practice. The Bill intends to address the inactivity in relation to autism, particularly locally. It is time to recognise that it is unacceptable for adults with autism to continue to be socially excluded. We know what change is required; we now need action from local services to make that change happen.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Angela Browning, John Barrett, Roger Berry, Mr. Tom Clarke, Mr. Geoffrey Cox, Michael Fabricant, Mrs. Janet Dean, Mr. Frank Field, Mr. Bernard Jenkin, Anne Main and Mr. Andrew Turner.

Adults with Autism

Angela Browning accordingly presented a Bill to impose duties upon the Secretary of State and certain organisations involved in health and social care in respect of support for people aged 18 and over with autism; and for connected purposes: And the same was read the First time; and ordered to be read a Second time on Friday 17 October, and to be printed [Bill 111].