

Autism Action Plan: Let's Talk Autism

2026/27 Priorities

P1: IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF AUTISM IN NEWHAM.

Co-deliver autism training for the Council's operational Adult Social Care Teams, Housing Teams, and in-borough commissioned Care Providers to develop a consistent baseline of understanding and approach.

Establish a local Community Leaders Group to identify the most effective ways to educate and inform Newham's diverse global communities about autism.

P2: IMPROVE AUTISTIC CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO EDUCATION - AND SUPPORT POSITIVE TRANSITIONS INTO ADULTHOOD

Embed autism-inclusive early identification and support within Best Start in Life (BSIL) and Family Hub delivery, ensuring children aged 0–5 and their families can access timely, joined-up support.

Strengthen inclusive practice across mainstream education settings by embedding an "Experts at Hand" model, enabling earlier identification and support for autistic children and young people without reliance on statutory assessment.

Develop a coordinated 0–25 transition pathway for autistic young people, ensuring multi-agency planning and earlier preparation for adulthood in line with the local SEND Reform Plan.

These actions support the [SEND Reform: Putting Children and Young People First](#) priorities and will be progressed and monitored in line with the [Newham SEND and Inclusion Strategy](#) and [SEND Strategic Improvement Plan](#).

P3: SUPPORTING MORE AUTISTIC PEOPLE INTO EMPLOYMENT

Improve job retention outcomes for autistic residents by providing targeted support to both resident and employer, ensuring appropriate workplace adjustments and increasing employer awareness of autism.

In partnership with local businesses, create Insight Days for autistic young people aged 14+, enabling them to experience 'real-world' work environments – to build confidence, develop workplace understanding, and support smoother transition into future employment.

In partnership with the DWP, in-borough secondary schools and colleges, deliver on-campus roadshows, talks, and advice surgeries that familiarise autistic students with employment support services available in Newham.

P4: TACKLE HEALTH AND CARE INEQUALITIES FOR AUTISTIC PEOPLE

Revive the "Train the Trainer" programme (that was in place around three years ago), and establish an ongoing peer network to maintain engagement and shared learning in autism.

P5: BUILD THE RIGHT SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT PEOPLE IN INPATIENT CARE

Better understand the reasons preventing discharges from in-patient settings and put in place plans to address these.

Confirm commissioning intentions and timelines for delivering community-based services that will prevent admission and support discharge (e.g. floating support, supported accommodation for residents with complex needs and behaviours).

P6: IMPROVE SUPPORT WITHIN THE CRIMINAL AND YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Work in partnership with the Council-commissioned [Appropriate Adult Service](#) to obtain data on the number of autistic people supported, broken down by their protected characteristics.

Arrange autism awareness and neuro-affirming training for employees working across the Family Hubs and Leaving Care Team, so they are better equipped to understand and support young autistic residents. Recognising that Care Leavers and children in need often face a range of life challenges and systemic barriers that may increase the likelihood of them encountering the Youth Justice Service, as either a victim or perpetrator of crime.