



Autism Monthly News Round-up

September 2025

11th edition

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Social Media

- Instagram
- TV Show
- Apps
- Podcasts



If you have something autism related you would like to share, please email aisha.ahmed58@nhs.net

Sign up now!

If you would like to continue receiving an email alert to the monthly autism newsletter please email **Autism.Commissioning@newham.gov.uk** with subject Autism News and indicate if you would like the alert by WhatsApp or Email. (If you are an existing member of the ARAG you do not need to take any action)

Disclaimer:

The information in this communication is intended to support autistic people to find out what is happening locally and nationally that may be relevant to them. The NHS and Newham Council do not endorse any information in this communication and anyone accessing any of this information, including events or activities, should do so at their own discretion.





Local

1 World Suicide Prevention Day

A number of events will be taking place in Newham from 4-10 September, ahead of World Suicide Prevention Day on Sunday 10 September 2025. The events will be aimed at providing support and resources to individuals struggling with mental health issues – or anyone that has a loved one who may need some extra help.

To view more community events

What's On & Suicide Prevention Week 8-14 September 2025





Who can join	Activity	Organisation	Address
Men aged 18+	Woodworking projects, coffee and chat	Men in Sheds	The Resource Centre 200 Chargeable Lane, E13 8DW
Everyone	Positivity tree and refreshments	Forest Gate Library	Woodgrange Rd, London E7 0QH
Aged 18+	Community Hot Meal	The Renewal Programme	395 High St N, London E12 6PG
Aged 50+	Active Minds	East Ham Library	328 Barking Rd, London E6 2RT
Aged 18+	Share together: A safe space to talk about suicide	Newham Together Cafe	Stratford Advice Arcade, 107-109 The Grove, E15 1HP
Aged 7-15 years	Free boxing and refreshments	Fight for Peace Academy	Woodman St, London E16 2LS
Women aged 18+	Women's Coffee morning	The Renewal Programme	395 High St N, London E12 6PG
Aged 18+. Sign up required.	Play for tomorrow Friendly football game	West Ham United Foundation	60A Albatross CI, London E6 5NX
Aged 18+	Mental Health Workshop: Have your say	ASK User Led Group	East Ham Library, 328 Barking Rd, London E6 2RT
Everyone	Marketplace and nature activities	Ashok's Vision International	Woodgrange Market Place, E7 0NQ
	join Men aged 18+ Everyone Aged 18+ Aged 50+ Aged 7-15 years Women aged 18+ Aged 18+ Sign up required. Aged 18+	Men aged 18+	Men aged 18+ Community Hot Meal Programme Aged 18+ Share together: A safe space to talk about suicide Aged 7-15 years Women aged 18+ Play for tomorrow Sign up required. Aged 18+ Play for tomorrow Aged 18+ Priendly football required. Aged 18+ Men in Sheds Forest Gate Library The Renewal Programme East Ham Library Newham Together: A Safe space to talk about suicide Fight for Peace Academy Women aged 18+ Women's Coffee morning Aged 18+ Sign up required. Mental Health Workshop: Have your say Marketplace and Ashok's Vision









Tune in to NU Sound Radio Station on Friday 26 September 12-1pm to hear about Autism and Suicide with guest speakers from Papyrus and a local autistic resident sharing their story.

If you can't tune in, don't worry, the recording can be found here: https://www.newham.gov.uk/health-adult-social-care/autism/10

For more information about suicide prevention or if you are struggling with how you are feeling, visit <u>our mental health support pages</u> or <u>Well Newham</u>. Alternatively, you can contact Samaritans on 116 123/jo@samaritans.org.

2 Newham peer support groups

a Autism, Work and Anxiety Peer Support Group



Volunteers are welcome to join this group

Topic: Autism and Mental Health (online Teams)

Date: Tuesday 23rd September 2025

Time: 5pm-6pm

To join please email: Aisha.ahmed58@nhs.net





b Carers Peer Support Group



Starting Monday 1st September at our new venue. Drop In, **First Monday every month 11 am to 12:30**, Central Park Café, inside the Park, near Bartle Avenue E6.



Join our WhatsApp group to chat and ask questions. Find out about events near you and have the opportunity to take part in research projects, to change lives of autistic people for the better.

To join the group, please complete this form https://form.jotform.com/241775426752362

For information on the next group meeting, please contact: carersautisticresidentsnewham@gmail.com

c Open Adults Autism Peer Support Group

This group meets quarterly on **Monday 12-1pm**. (can go on to 5pm depending on group dynamics, individual needs, venue & Chair availability) All welcome to drop in. See date below:



If you have any questions, please email Christina on: AutismOutreachNewham@gmail.com



d Mental Health Peer Support Group VoiceAbility

A peer support group hosted by VoiceAbility for autistic residents to offer support to each other around mental health. It will be a safe space to share, receive tips, obtain informal support in times of loneliness.

Second Monday of every month

12:30pm – 2pm

The resource centre, 200 chargeable lane, E13 8DW SpeakOutNewham@voiceability.org



Unfortunately, the autistic men peer support group is no longer running. Due to poor attendance the group wasn't sustainable to continue. We are working towards creating support groups in the future that people find useful. If you are interested in setting up your own group or have any ideas about groups you would like to engage with please email Autism.Commissioning@newham.gov.uk

We are aiming to create a supportive autistic community and so would love to hear from you to work towards building this together.





e Resident views

We have included quotes below from residents who have attended previous support groups. If you haven't yet joined a support group and feeling anxious about joining, you may find these quotes helpful. You can also contact the relevant representative for the support group to be supported to access the group. Each rep will be able to advise what support they can offer.

How members have found the autism, work and anxiety peer support group:

"The anxiety and work group was very helpful for me. It was great to connect with other autistic people. We were able to share our experiences in a welcoming and safe space. I appreciated that it was online so I can fit it around work."

"I admit I have found the autism/anxiety group really helpful and it's been good to interact with other neurodiverse people with similar concerns. Aisha is a good facilitator. I like the group is a good relaxed environment and the presentations are very helpful."

"I've found my people"



"It was really nice to know I'm not alone & there are people who support me as I do them."

If you have a story/experience you would like to share or would like to give us your feedback about the support group/s or activities you have attended, please email Aisha.ahmed58@nhs.net

3 Advocacy and support surgeries

a Monthly Open Surgeries for Autistic Residents (Trial June-Nov 2025)

The next Open Surgery is **Thursday 25**th **September 2025** Please book to meet with any of the following professionals:

Tony Pape ASC Social Worker Team Manager

Jaspir University of East London

Jaspir from UEL will be present at this month's open surgery to support, guide and advise you to access higher education.

Autistic people may find it difficult to access further education due to the barriers they face. Book in a slot to discuss your difficulties and concerns. We hope this will lead you to looking into further education should you wish to which in turn will create more opportunities in the future for you to work towards.

To access a booking sheet please email: Autism.Commissioning@newham.gov.uk





If you would like to speak with a particular team or service at a future open surgery, please email Autism.Commissioning@newham.gov.uk and we will try our best to identify a representative from the relevant team.

b Advocacy Support VoiceAbility

Drop-in service with Trish

Second Monday of every month

The Resource Centre, 200 Chargeable Lane E18 8DW.

2:30pm-4pm: Autistic Adults Session

SpeakOutNewham@voiceability.org



4 Funding

a People Powered Places: 14 Sept Deadline – last chance!

Two weeks left to apply for People Powered Places funding!

Have you been dreaming about that idea to improve your neighbourhood all summer? There are only two weeks left to get your application in for People Powered Places funding.

You might want to run social activities for people with autism, improve your local green space or something else that would improve your community – People Powered Places funding is here to support your idea.



- Residents can apply for £5,000
- Youth-led projects can apply for £10,000
- Voluntary, Community and Faith sector organisations can apply for £20,000

Watch this short video for Top Tips on how to apply for funding.

Applications close on **Sunday 14 September, 11pm**.

Visit Newham CoCreate to apply.

For more information, please contact peoplepoweredplaces@newham.gov.uk





b Local Newham Autism Grants £1K - Last chance!

To apply for funding of up to £1000 please use the links below: newham-autism-small-grants-guidance-2025

Newham Autism Small Grants Funding Application 2025.docx

For more information about this grant, please see the July newsletter: https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/9014/autism-newsletter-july-2025

5 Employment Support

a DWP: Jobcentre Plus

For a disability employment advisor you can go to Jobcentre Plus and speak to them directly or ask your work coach to make a referral.



Please check out the website for more information. https://www.jobcentreguide.co.uk/about-disability-employment-advisors

b Scope: Support to Work

Support to Work is a free online and telephone support programme for disabled people and autistic people who are looking for paid work in England.

For more info, eligibility and to sign up https://www.scope.org.uk/employment-services/support-to-work



Contact details:

0300 222 5742

supporttowork@scope.org.uk

c Access to Work

Access to Work can help you get or stay in work if you have a physical or mental health condition or disability.



The support you get will depend on your needs. Through Access to Work, you can apply for:

- a grant to help pay for practical support with your work
- support with managing your mental health at work
- money to pay for communication support at job interviews

For more info, eligibility and to apply https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work





FREE Courses 6

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Our Newham: Learning and Skills

Our Newham learning and skills will be offering independent cooking classes to autistic residents. This is a great opportunity to learn new skills and to meet like-minded people in a safe and fun environment.

If you are interested, please email Maysie Maysie.Brown@newham.gov.uk

Please register your interest by **Tuesday** 30th September 2025

For more information:

https://www.onls.ac.uk/index.php

OUR NEWHAM

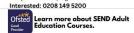


ONLS Inclusive Learning Courses



We have a range of exciting and progressive courses for adults with learning difficulties to support personal well-being, develop social skills and encourage independent living.

Paper Modeling	Beginners Clay	Money Management	Eat well Bake well
Monday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
extiles Expressions	Exploring painting textures and material	Clay and hand building	Clay and hand building
Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday





Build Confidence for Work: 4-Week Training Course for Autistic Adults

Short Description

Are you getting ready for job interviews, or starting work and want more confidence?

This friendly 4-week course is designed by and for autistic learners. Each session is calm, supportive, and practical — no pressure.

What You'll Learn

- √ How to feel confident in job interviews
- ✓ Self-care and daily routines that work for you
- ✓ How to explain your needs to employers
- ✓ Mindfulness tools to stay calm and focused

Course Details

When: One session per week, 3 hours each

Where: 78 Albert Road North Woolwich E16 2DY

Who: Autistic learners preparing for work

Support: Visual aids, role-play, worksheets, calm environment

How to Join

👉 To book your place, contact: Maysie Brown, for short discussion Maysie.Brown@newham.gov.uk

Please register your interest by **Tuesday 30th September 2025**





b Recovery college

Visit their website to view the full programme:

https://newhamrecoverycollege.nhs.uk/



Don't miss out on these great courses and workshops during September

All **FREE** to people with a connection to Newham

Need Help Registering, Not sure which courses are for you?

We can arrange for a 1-2-1 session to;

- Help you register,
- Set recovery goals &
- Sign up for courses

Register here:

https://newhamrecoverycollege.nhs.uk/ms_signup.aspx

c The Brave Project Mentoring



For more information: 07862003544 info@thebraveproject.org.uk





7 Employment Opportunities

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Newham Autism Programme: Expert by Experience (EBE) paid roles

Newham Council are looking for **10 EBE's** to join them in delivering the Autism Programme in Newham. Applications to apply for these roles are now live and can be found on the website here:

Newham Autism Action Plan: Lets Talk Autism – Autism – Newham Council.

For more information about the roles, please see the July newsletter: https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/9014/autism-newsletter-july-2025

8 Volunteering Opportunities

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Dialogue express cafe

Join us in Stratford and help build bridges between Deaf and hearing communities — one door, one conversation, one coffee at a time.

- Location: 96 Gibbins Road, E15 2HU
- Time: Flexible (3–5 hrs/week)
- Start: Ongoing recruitment

As a volunteer, you'll:



- Connect with residents on the Carpenters Estate
- ➡ Share the story of our Deaf-led café
- Spread the word through flyers & friendly chats
- Advocate for inclusion & accessibility. No BSL experience needed just your energy, voice, and commitment to
- Perks: Training, snacks, free coffee, references & purpose-driven experience!
- Apply now: info@dialoguehub.co.uk Or pop in for a friendly chat!





9 On a Budget

Our community cares



More than 20 items for just £5

Register to become a member: £5.00 yearly

Thursday foodbank: St Luke Community Centre, 85 Tarling Road, Canning

Town, E16 1HN

Friday foodbank: 395, Barking Road, E13 8AL, opposite Plaistow Police

Station



FREE entry for residents
For more info please contact
info@ourcommunitycares.co.uk





10 Share your views

Healthwatch: South Asian Smoker а



Share your experiences to help shape the support available to help people quit smoking.

Have your say:

https://bit.ly/quitnewham

We want to hear from you!



Your feedback will help us understand smoking behaviours in the community and identify what support would help people guit



It only takes a few minutes

🧑 , and your input will directly shape local services 💙

To complete the smoking cessation survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TL3B2WV

b Newham neighbourhoods and your health

Tell us where you go for health and leisure services in your neighbourhood and what you'd like to see to help your community be healthier. Share your views for a chance to win a £30 shopping voucher and sign up to neighbourhood advisory groups.

Complete the survey by **14 September**:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Newham Neighbourhoods

11 **Local Things to do or Activities**

Dialogue Cafe а

Dialogue Cafe are an east London based CIC working to supporting people who are deaf and hard of hearing by empowering through employment and skills!

https://dialoguehub.co.uk/

Community Jazz Festival

Date: Sunday 14th September

Time: 12pm-8pm

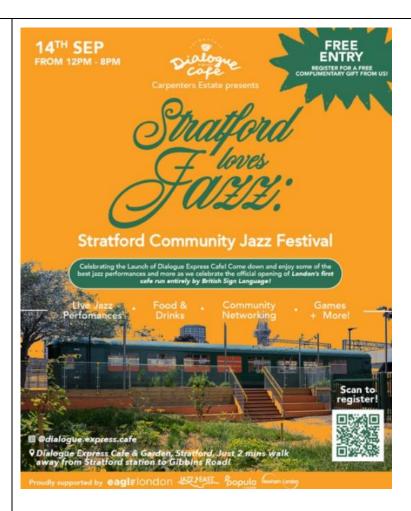
Location: Dialogue express café Stratford

To register: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stratford-community-jazz-festival-

tickets-1590574403859?aff=oddtdtcreator







b Friendship Club



To attend email shamilla.kumari@newham.gov.uk

Social disability group Beckton Globe Library 1 Kingsford Way, London E6 5JQ Second Saturday of the month.

c Newham Heritage Month: Annual Heritage Festival

Take part in a wide variety of online and in-person events happening throughout September as part of Newham Heritage Month 2025.



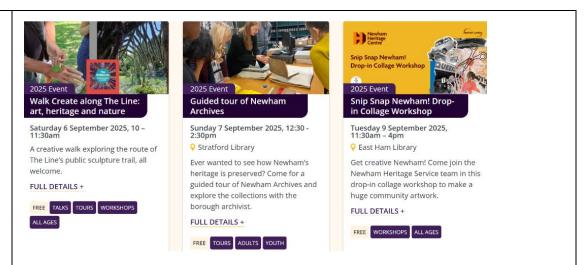
Newham Heritage Month Theme: **2025 – Newham at 60**

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11th edition September 2025







For more info and full list of events:

https://www.newhamheritagemonth.org/events/

d Royal Docks Festival

Royal Docks Originals (RDO) isn't just a moment, it's a movement...

The festival is showcasing culture made here, by and with the community, inspired by and rooted in the Royal Docks.

Over 50 free festival events respond to the theme of Metamorphosis: a celebration of transformation and journeys. Expect show-stopping art, dazzling installations, world-premieres and much more...

All taking place in the London Borough of Newham, the beating heart of our city's culture and home to ambitious and dynamic cultural regeneration.

Time & date:

15 September - 4 October 2025

Location:

Across the Royal Docks

Tickets: Free

For more info

To view the brochure







National

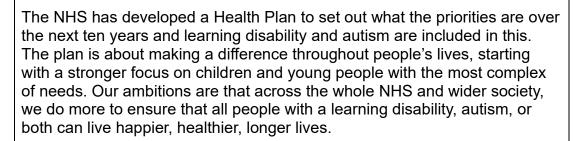
1 10 Year Health Plan for England: Fit for the Future

The 10 Year Health Plan is part of the government's health mission to build a health service fit for the future.

It sets out how the government will reinvent the NHS through 3 radical shifts:

- hospital to community
- analogue to digital
- sickness to prevention

To read the full Health Plan



To read more: https://www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/projects/

2 FREE Courses

a <u>Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy and Seizure Safety Programme</u> - <u>Awareness Training</u>

Since 2019, Epilepsy Foundation has successfully led, planned and collaborated on multiple epilepsy related ECHOs nationwide to achieve our goals of reducing seizures and side effects, and improving quality of life for people with epilepsy. Over 1,400 participants have already joined one of our epilepsy ECHOs.

https://stlukes.accessplanit.com/accessplan/checkout/Login

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3 Webinar

a PDA Summit

Want free access to 25+ PDA webinars that leave you feeling validated, believed and supported?





The Global PDA Summit brings together lived experience, practical strategies, and deep understanding—all in one supportive, online space. Every webinar is free to watch across the summit weekend. You can access insight that truly resonates, in your own time.



Friday 26th to Sunday 28th September 2025

To attend the PDA webinars

Autism and Special Interest Group

b

The MacIntyre Autism Special Interest Group is an online meeting that we run two to three times a year. It is a three-hour-long event where we get together to learn from and ask questions to experts in autism, including those who are experts by experience, experts through profession and work or both!

The MacIntyre Autism Special Interest Group is accessible to everyone and is free to attend!

At our next meeting, we will be discussing **Mental Health and its intersection with Autism**. Two incredible speakers will be in attendance to share their knowledge – more news to come!

Event details

- **>** 30 September 2025
- Tuesday
- > 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
- > RSVP form below

For more info and to Sign Up

c Autism Central

Talk to people who share similar experiences to yours by joining a group workshop, drop-in session, coffee morning or virtual meeting.



Events are for parents, carers and personal assistants of autistic children, young people and adults. Sessions are run by our hubs across England and delivered by peer educators.

For more info and to join events





d Autism Hub

Our aim is to improve the quality of life for autistic adults by connecting people to resources, services and organisations from a central point, "The Hub". We provide expert advice, information, support, and signposting to service users, their families and carers, and other professionals.



For more info and to join their events

e Attwood and Garnett – Understanding Autism



attwoodgarnett Join Professor Tony Attwood and Dr Michelle Garnett as they share insights into autistic burnout, interoception, trauma, and the hidden struggles that increase stress and reduce quality of life. Learn how these challenges impact wellbeing and daily functioning.

Tuesday 16th September Click here to register

4 Neurodiverse resources

a Autistic Girls Network - Reasons for Difficulty with Personal Hygiene

Handling any difficulty with personal hygiene can vary with age, but the cause is usually to do with sensory needs, executive functioning and how much energy you can give to a task.

If water on your skin isn't a nice feeling, then showers are going to be a struggle. The taste of toothpaste might be too strong. Clothes become complicated when they're all different textures, leading to an autistic person wearing the same thing over and over.

To read the full article

b AANE: Association for Autism and Neurodiversity

Here at the Association for Autism and Neurodiversity (AANE), our mission is to help Autistic and similarly Neurodivergent people build meaningful, connected lives. We provide individuals, families, and professionals with education, community and support, in an inclusive atmosphere of validation and respect.

For more info https://aane.org/

ASSOCIATION FOR AUTISM AND NEURODIVERSITY**

girls network





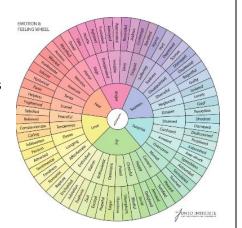
C

Emotion and Feeling Wheel

If you're looking for a quick overview of the major emotions and their corresponding feelings then you might find these resources useful.

To view please click here





d

Mind: Managing Stress and Building Resilience

There are some things you can do to help manage your stress and cope when you're under pressure.

Some of us may refer to our ability to manage stress as our resilience. But there are things that might make it harder to be resilient. These include experiencing discrimination or lacking support.

To read the full resource

5 Neurodiverse LGBTQ+ resources

a LGBT Foundation: Autistic and Neurodivergent Programme

LGBT Foundation is excited to announce the launch of a brandnew Community Programme focusing on the needs of LGBTQ+ autistic and neurodivergent people!



We are working with our colleagues at the National Autistic Society (https://www.autism.org.uk/) to develop this new programme, and GMCVO (https://www.gmcvo.org.uk) will be funding the programme as part of their Inclusion Grant to Support Deaf and Disabled People. It will fund a fixed term, part time coordinator role to develop and run the programme, with the added aim of further proving the need for this work in the longer term.

For more info





b

BBC: What is Auti-Gender?

1800 Seconds on Autism
We ask if autistic people are more gender fluid

To listen



C

Neurodiversity & Gender-Diverse Youth

Increasingly, clinicians and researchers are seeing a correlation between gender diversity and neurodiversity among adolescents and young adults.



To support these youth, providers can offer an affirming clinical approach that validates the patient's gender identity narrative, while guiding the patient to explore their gender identity in more depth and connecting them with peer groups.

Gender identity exploration may involve helping the patient become more comfortable with fluidity in gender identities and roles, as well as placing gender identity development within the context of other aspects of adolescent development.

To read the full resource

Further reads:

https://www.rixwiki.org/9041/?from=%2Fcamden

6 On a budget

a Trussel: Find a food bank

What we do: Ending hunger together We exist so everyone can be free from hunger. We're an anti-poverty charity and community of food banks.



We work together to ensure no one in the UK needs a food bank to survive, while providing food and practical support to people left without enough money to live on.

https://www.trussell.org.uk/emergency-food/find-a-foodbank





b

Community Fridge

Community Fridges are public, accessible spaces that offer free, surplus food to anyone in the community, helping to reduce food waste and connect people. They work on an "honesty" system, where anyone can take food and also donate good quality, unused food from households, businesses, or gardens.



Run by local community groups, these fridges are often housed in community centres, shops, or schools and are managed with health and safety guidelines to ensure food quality.

The Community Fridge Network, coordinated by Hubbub, provides support and guidance for those wanting to set up or run a fridge.

https://communityfridgemap.org.uk/

C

Too Good To Go

Too Good To Go is a social impact company on a mission to inspire and empower everyone to fight food waste together.

Our app is the world's largest marketplace for surplus food. We help users rescue good food from going to waste, offering great value for money at local stores, cafes and restaurants.

https://www.toogoodtogo.com/en-us



d

Olio

Share more, waste less

Beat waste with Olio: the app for finding what you need and sharing what you don't with local people.

https://olioapp.com/en/







7 Share your Views

a **EDGI: Eating Disorders Study**

Take part in the Eating Disorders Genetics
Initiative UK (EDGI UK)
Join our major research study to better
understand the genetic and environmental links
to eating disorders and help develop better treatments.

Am I Eligible?

To take part in the Eating Disorders Genetics Initiative, part of the NIHR BioResource, you must:

- Have experienced, or have been diagnosed with an eating disorder
- Be aged 16 and above
- Live in England

b Beat Eating disorders: ARFID Study

Are you an adult with ARFID experience (no diagnosis needed)? If so, you have the opportunity to be a part of a new study, to help others affected by ARFID!



ARFID-Connect is an 8 year long project, at Cardiff University, is looking into the causes of ARFID and risk factors to help spot and support those with ARFID early. We're looking for 10 people over 18 years old in the UK to help advise what risk factors to look into, shaped by your own lived experience.

If you're interested in taking part: Email our co-production team at coproduction@beateatingdisorders.org.uk

c GLAD: Anxiety and Depression Study

Join the world's largest ever study of anxiety & depression



Am I Eligible?

To take part in the GLAD Study you must either:

- Have ever experienced anxiety or depressive disorders (with or without a medical diagnosis)
- Have never experienced any mental health disorder.

AND you must:

- Be aged 16 or over
- Live in the United Kingdom

For more info and to register: https://gladstudy.org.uk/



b



8 Things to do or Activities

a BFI: Relaxed Screenings

Relaxed screenings

Screenings for neurodivergent audiences, with their companions and assistants.



BFI Southbank has been awarded the National Autistic Society's Autism Friendly Award.





For more info and to book tickets

Picturehouse: Relaxed Screening

Relaxed Screenings



Designed to make cinema-going easier for those needing additional support, including neurodivergent audiences and those living with dementia. Lights are left on low, volume is reduced, and the audience is free to move around.

https://www.picturehouses.com/event-details/000000151/relaxed-screenings/139



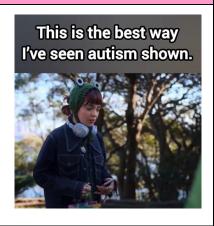


Social Media

<u>Instagram</u>

Autism Representation

autismnote: To watch this reel on instagram



Emotional Burnout

diploma.duck: To watch this reel on instagram

Emotional Burnout



(Explained by ducks)

TV Show

BBC: Austin

When author Julian's offensive post goes viral, his career seems over until his neurodivergent son Austin suddenly arrives. Embracing Austin may be Julian's path to redemption if he and wife Ingrid can move past his mistakes.

To watch the show:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m0029kqv/austin



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Apps

Better Points



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For more info https://newham.betterpoints.uk/



To download the app on google play

Podcasts

Podcast Episode: Explaining AuDHD

Dr Khurram Sadiq - renowned psychiatrist and AuDHDer - joins us to help explain AuDHD. In this powerful first half of our conversation, we unpack his own diagnostic journey, what it means to live between ADHD and autism, and why this combination deserves more recognition. We explore how gender, culture, and systemic pressures influence diagnosis, and why many of us are missed or misunderstood for decades. Dr Sadiq also shares his perspective on whether ADHD and autism exist on a shared spectrum - and how we can begin to differentiate between similar traits. Part two of our chat is out next week!





To listen to the podcast