



Buckinghamshire  
Council

# Our autism plan

Tell us what you think



Easy  
Read

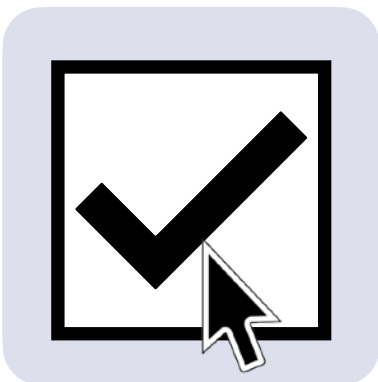
# How to use this survey on a computer



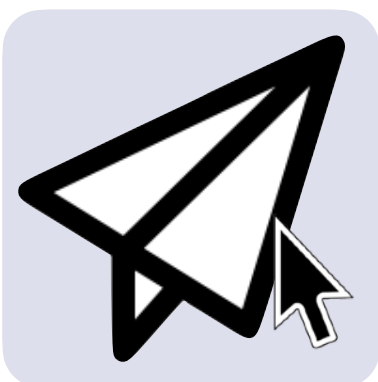
You can complete this survey on your computer. First you will need to download it.



This survey works best on a computer. To complete it on your phone, you may need to download a special app, like Adobe Fill & Sign.



When you open the survey on your computer, you will be able to click on the tick boxes and write in the text boxes.



When you have finished the survey, save it to your computer and email a copy to:

[autismstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:autismstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

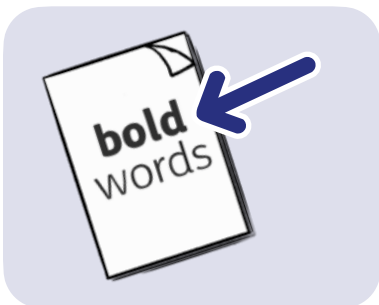
# Easy Read



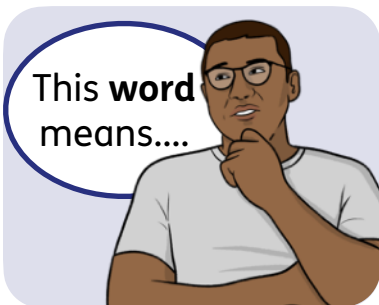
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



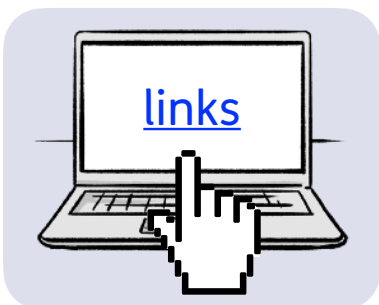
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker.



These are words that some people will find hard. When you see a bold word, we will explain it in the next sentence.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

# What is in this booklet

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# About this survey



This is a survey from Buckinghamshire Council.



We have written a plan to support autistic people in Buckinghamshire.

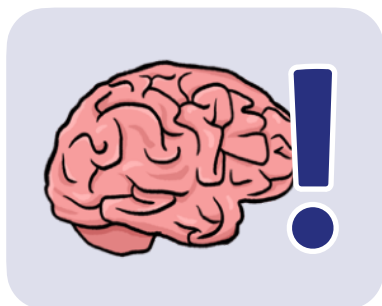


We would like to find out what you think of our plan.



Please read the information below and answer the questions.

# What autism is



Autism means your brain works differently from other people.



It may affect how you:

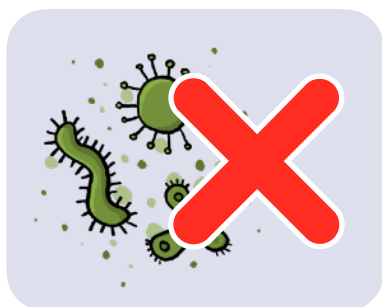
- Think about information.



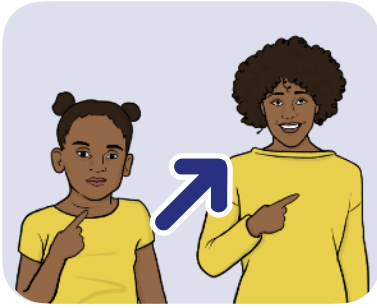
- Think about the world and see yourself in it.



- Talk and listen to other people.



Autism is not an illness or a disease.



If you are autistic, you will be autistic for your whole life.



There are about 5,400 autistic children and adults in Buckinghamshire.

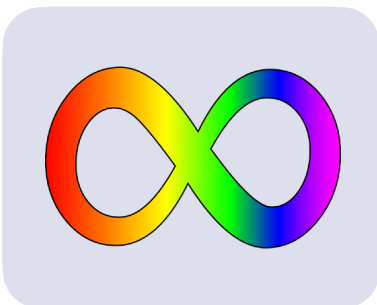


We asked autistic people what they want to be called.



Most people said they like to be called 'autistic people'.

So they are the words we have used in this booklet.



We use the rainbow symbol to show how people can think in different ways but are all still important.

# How we want to support autistic people

Autistic people told us they want to:



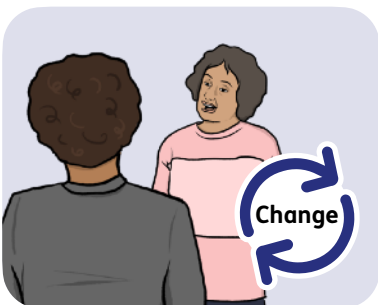
- Support themselves in their everyday lives as much as possible.



- Have the same chances in life as everyone else.



- Use the services they need when they need them.



- Work with us to change services that support them.



Making these things happen will mean:



- Autistic people will feel more welcome and listened to by our staff and people in their local area.



- Health and care services will treat autistic people more fairly and they will not have to wait as long for services.



- Autistic children and young people will have their needs supported better.



- More autistic people will be supported to find a job or do activities.



- More autistic adults will be able to support themselves in their daily life.

# Our autism plan



Before we wrote our plan, we listened to what autistic people, their families and supporters thought.



There are 5 **priorities** in our plan.

**Priorities** are the important things we need to work on first.



Our 5 priorities are:

1. Improving how much people understand autism.



2. Making sure that people from all backgrounds get good health and care services.



3. Looking at the needs of autistic children and young people so they can have a good start in life.



4. Setting up better support for autistic people to find jobs or do activities.



5. Making sure more autistic adults can support themselves in their everyday lives.

# Tell us what you think

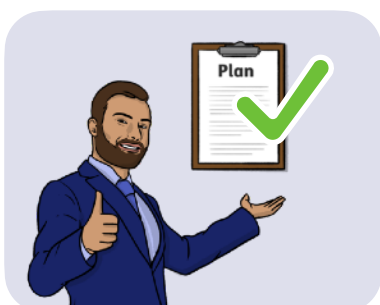


We would like to know what you think about our autism plan and our priorities.



We would like to find out:

- How you feel about each priority.



- What you think we could do to improve each priority.



We will use the answers to help us make the plan better.

# Priority 1

## Improving how much people understand autism

This priority is about making sure:



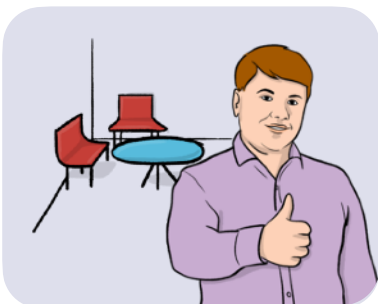
- Autistic people feel more welcome and listened to by our staff and people in Buckinghamshire.



- We improve what people know about autism.



- Our staff understand how autism affects people in different ways.



- Autistic people can use our spaces and services like everyone else.

To work on this we need to:



- Improve what we know about autism first.



- Have training from autistic people about autism for police officers and our staff.



- Support autistic young people if they break the law and when they come out of prison.

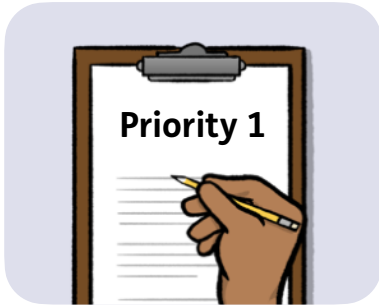


- Give training about autism to parents of teenagers and younger children.



- Look at our websites and information to make sure they are useful for autistic people and their families.

# Questions about priority 1



## Question 1:

Do you think these are the right plans to help people understand autism better?



Yes



No



I do not know

Please tell us about any other ideas you have to help people understand autism better:

# Priority 2

## Making sure that people from all backgrounds get good health and care services

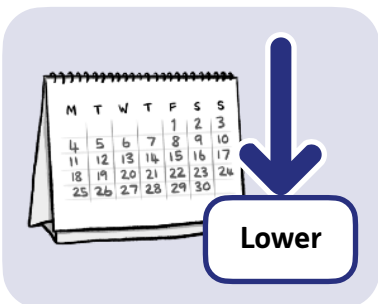


Autistic people have told us that they do not always get the same health and care support as people who are not autistic.



This priority is about making sure:

- We make health and care services fairer for autistic people.



- We lower the waiting times for people to be checked to see if they are autistic.



Priority 2 is also about making sure:



- We help people to stay well with services in their local area so they do not get ill and need health services.



- We look at people's housing needs so we have the right type of housing.

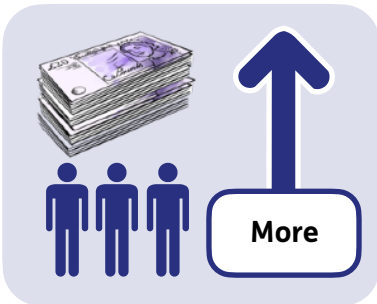


- People are given education, health and other support when they are told they are autistic.



- People can use services and get support even if they have not been officially told that they are autistic.

To work on this we need to:



- Put money and more staff into our services that check if people are autistic.



- Make sure hospitals are collecting information so we can make services better.



- Support health organisations in Berkshire West, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire to set up shared ways of checking if people are autistic.



- Support people's needs more, instead of waiting for them to be officially told they are autistic.

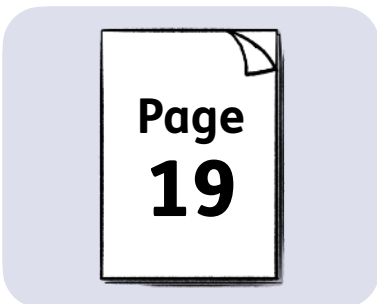
To work on this we also need to work with health organisations to give money to the services that are:



- Looking at people's needs.

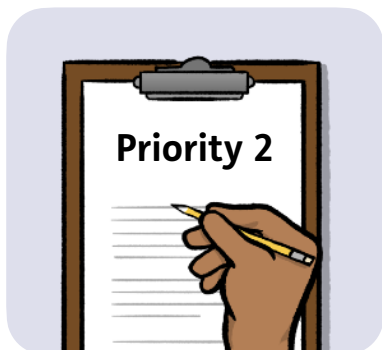


- Trying to support people to be healthy so they do not need health services.



Please go to the next page to answer some questions about these plans.

# Questions about priority 2



## Question 2:

Do you think these are the right plans to make sure autistic people are treated fairly by health and care services?



Yes



No



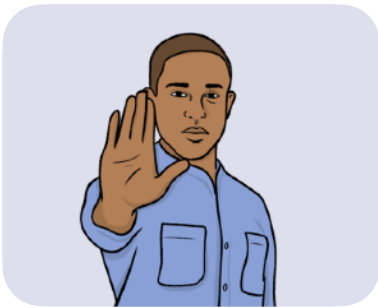
I do not know

Please tell us about any other ideas you have to make sure autistic people are treated fairly by health and care services:

# Priority 3

## Looking at the needs of autistic children and young people so they can have a good start in life

Not all autistic people:



- Want to be told they are autistic.



- Get officially told that they are autistic.



Looking at the needs of people means that services for autistic people can support anyone who needs them.

This priority is about making sure:



- Autistic people can get education support.



- Education and school staff have training about autism and how to support autistic people.

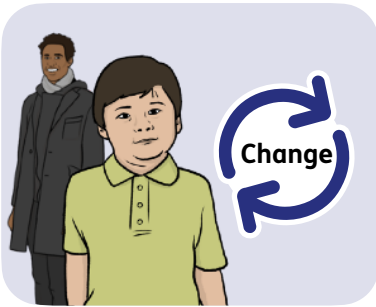


- Fewer autistic people stop going to school because it makes them feel bad.



- Autistic people and their families feel ready for them to be adults.

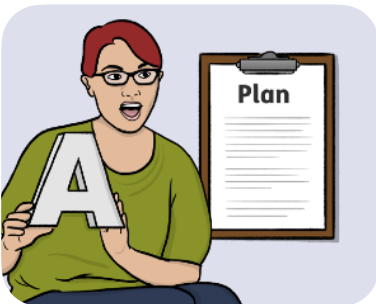
To work on this we need to:



- Change how autistic children get education support.



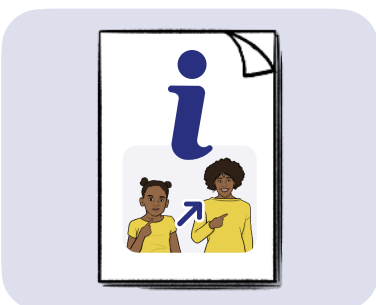
- Start autism training in all schools in Buckinghamshire.



- Share a new plan to support children and young people who need help with speaking and listening to others.



- Make changes to public spaces to meet the needs of autistic people.



- Make a new booklet of information about getting ready for adulthood for autistic children and young people.

# Questions about priority 3



## Question 3:

Do you think these are the right plans to help support the needs of autistic children and young people?



Yes



No



I do not know

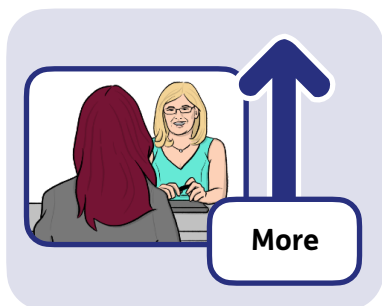
Please tell us about any other ideas you have to help support the needs of autistic children and young people:



# Priority 4

## Setting up better support for autistic people to find jobs or do activities

This priority is about making sure:



- Autistic people have more chances to work in jobs that suit the skills they have.



- Autistic people understand work, training and **volunteering** so they can make choices about their future.



**Volunteering** is when someone gives their time to do something without getting paid.

Priority 4 is also about making sure:

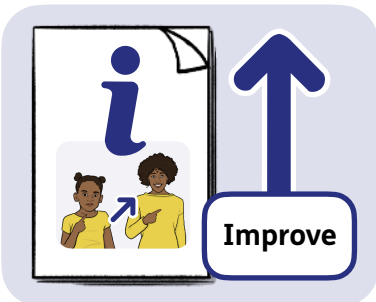


- People who give advice and support about jobs and training know about how employers can change things in their workplace to support autistic people.

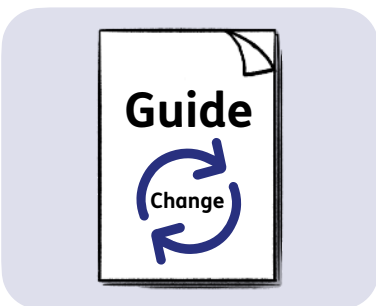


- More employers know what autistic people can do and give them chances to work or volunteer.

To work on this we need to:



- Improve the support we have about getting ready for adulthood.



- Set up a guide for our staff and health workers about how to change services to suit the needs of autistic people.



- Work with local job centres to help more employers feel confident about employing autistic people.



To work on this we also need to tell local businesses about autism training they can go to.



Please go to the next page to answer some questions about these plans.

# Questions about priority 4



## Question 4:

Do you think these are the right plans to support autistic people to have chances to find a job or do activities?



Yes



No



I do not know

Please tell us about any other ideas you have to support autistic people to have chances to find a job or do activities:

# Priority 5

## Making sure more autistic adults can support themselves in their everyday life



This priority is about making sure we work with autistic people and their supporters to find out where more support is needed.

To work on this we need to:



- Look at the problems that autistic adults have in using services that help them mix with others.



- Check the support that autistic people get, including online support and in-person support.

To work on this we also need to:

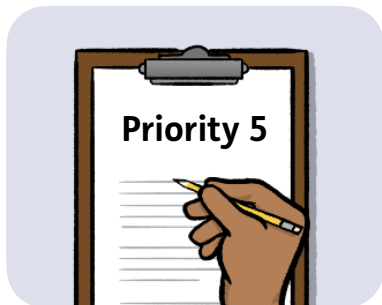


- Work with health services to change their services to suit autistic people's needs.



- Look at how we can improve housing for autistic people.

# Questions about priority 5



## Question 5:

Do you think these are the right plans to help autistic people to support themselves in their everyday lives?



Yes



No



I do not know

Please tell us about any other ideas you have to help autistic people to support themselves in their daily lives:

# Do you have any other comments?



## Question 6:

Please tell us if there is anything else we should be working on to support autistic people better:



## Question 7:

How easy was it to fill in this survey?

Please tick one box:

Very  
easy

Easy

Not very  
easy

Not at  
all easy

Don't  
know





Please tell us why you chose which box to tick about how easy it was to fill in this survey:

# About you



We will use this information to tell us about who has filled in the survey.



We will keep your information safe and will not share it with anyone.



You do not have to answer any of these questions if you do not want to.



**Question 8:**

Which of these words describes you?

Please tick as many boxes as you want:

I am an autistic person

I am filling in this survey for an autistic person

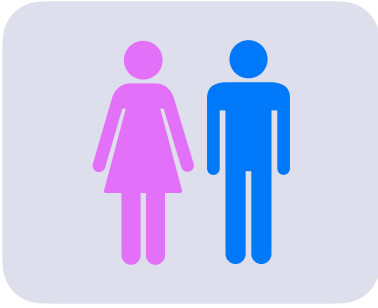
I am a family member or friend of an autistic person

I am none of these things



**Question 9:**

How old are you?



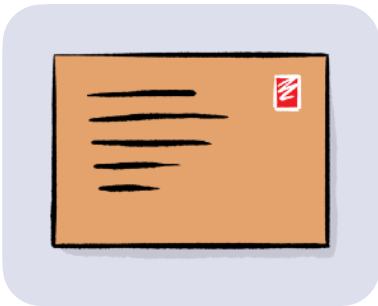
**Question 10:**

Are you:

Female

Male

I do not want to say



**Question 11:**

Where do you live?

Please tell us the name of your village or town:

# Find out more



You can look at our website here:  
[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

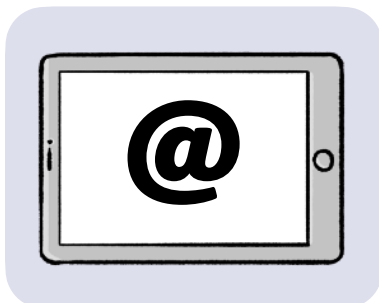
You can contact us by:



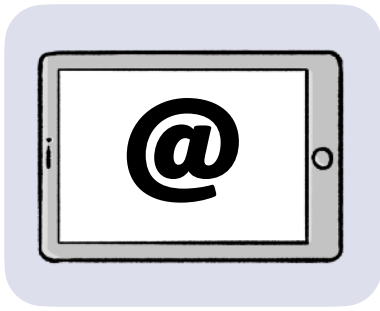
- Post:  
All Age Disability Team  
Integrated Commissioning  
5th Floor, Walton Street Offices  
Aylesbury  
HP20 1UA



- Phone:  
07971 981 992 (Tom Beaven)

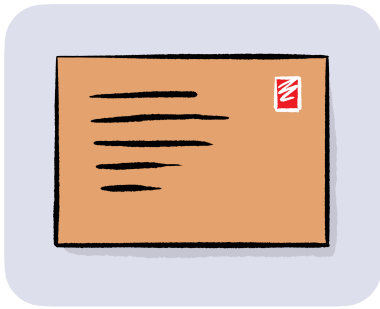


- Email:  
[autismstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:autismstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)



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If you would like to print out and complete the survey in writing, please post the filled in survey to us at:

All Age Disability Team  
Integrated Commissioning 5th Floor  
Walton Street Offices  
Aylesbury  
HP20 1UA



Let us know what you think by midnight on Sunday 24 September 2023.