

# About the Wiltshire Autism Information Pack

Following a series of local consultation events, the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council, in partnership with Wiltshire Council, have been working to address a common issue raised by parents and carers who look after someone with a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Condition (here on referred to as ASC), including Asperger's Syndrome.



As well as being able to access information which is available for all children and young people with a range of Special Educational Needs or a Disability (here on referred to as 'SEND'), parents and carers told us they also wanted to have information which **relates specifically to the needs of those with an ASC in Wiltshire.**



In response to common questions following a diagnosis like, "What do I do now?", "Where can I get some information?" and "Who can help me?" this pack has been developed to signpost you to particular agencies, services and resources in Wiltshire which can help you with your concerns, questions and offer support.

The pack also includes a useful booklet from the National Autistic Society called 'After Diagnosis' which you can find in the back pocket of the pack. Other helpful information, along with website links to national organisations, support services and resources, so these can be found in the last section of the pack, along with other useful information.



Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy at the time of going to print, should you have **difficulty contacting any of the services** listed, please get in touch with the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council.  
Telephone 01225 764 647 | Email [admin@wiltspcc.co.uk](mailto:admin@wiltspcc.co.uk)

# Contents

## **What's in the Wiltshire Autism Information Pack ..... page 1**

- Wiltshire Local Offer - page 2
- Wiltshire Parent Carer Council - page 3
- National Autistic Society 'NAS' - page 4

## **Support for all ..... pages 5 to 12**

- NAS West Wiltshire - page 5
- NAS North Wiltshire - page 6
- Carer Support Wiltshire - page 7
- Wiltshire Independent Support and Advice - pages 8/9
- Spurgeons Young Carers in Wiltshire - page 10
- Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living - page 11
- Scope - page 12

## **Services for all ..... pages 13 to 20**

- Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Service - page 13
- Social Care - page 14
- Speech & Language Therapy - page 15
- Learning Disability Nursing Service - page 16
- Occupational Therapy - page 17
- Special Care Dental Service - page 18
- Continence Service - page 19
- National Youth Advocacy - page 20

## **0 to 5 years ..... pages 21 to 26**

- Autism Parent Programme 1 - page 21
- Children's Centres - page 22
- District Specialist Centres - page 23
- Wiltshire Portage Service - page 24
- Wiltshire Short Breaks Scheme - page 25
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health—page 26

**6 to 11 years ..... pages 27 to 29**

Autism Parent Programme 2 - page 27

Wiltshire Short Breaks Scheme - page 28

Child & Adolescent Mental Health - page 29

**12 to 18 years ..... pages 30 to 35**

Autism Parent Programmes 3 & 4 - page 30

Wiltshire Short Breaks Scheme - page 31

Wiltshire Employment Support Team - page 32

Community Connecting - page 33

Child & Adolescent Mental Health - page 34

**18 to 25 years ..... pages 35 to 46**

Introduction to Support and Services - page 35

Post Diagnosis Support for Young People - page 35

Diagnosis for Adults - page 36

Diagnostic Service for Young People WADS - page 37

Diagnostic Service for Adults - pages 38 to 40

Care & Support Accreditation - page 41

AS we are (social club) - page 42

Adult Autism Forum - page 43

Advocacy Services - pages 44 to 45

Lift Psychology—page 46

**Resources ..... pages 47 to 60**

Accessing Support - page 47 to 49

Specialist Educational Provision in Wiltshire - pages 50 to 51

Support in Wiltshire for Autism : School Strategies - page 52

Legislation & Guidelines - pages 53 to 54

Autism Alert Card - page 55

Professionals—who they are and what they do - pages 56 to 57

Understand Autism video, libraries - page 58

Books - page 59

Websites - pages 60 to 61

**Need further help? ..... page 62**

**Appreciations ..... page 62**

# What's in the Wiltshire Autism Information Pack?

All sections have been colour coded to help you find what you're looking for more easily.

Support and services which are relevant whatever the age of your child, can be found in the first 2 sections of the pack.



**Support for all ages**

**Services for all ages**

All the information within these sections relates specifically to services and support available to those living in Wiltshire

Further support and services relevant to specific age ranges have been grouped together so that you can easily find information relevant to your current needs, like so:

**0–5 years**

**6–11 years**

**12–18 years**

**18–25 years**

All the information within the age range sections relates specifically to services and support available to those living in Wiltshire

specialist education in Wiltshire, the Autism Act 2009, the Strategy for Adults with Autism, the

**Resources**

The 'resources' section at the end of the pack offers information on accessing support, the Wiltshire Autism Partnership, Autism Alert Card, a list of professionals you may come into contact with (who they are and what they do), national websites, books and tools you may find helpful.

In addition and where appropriate, we have clearly signposted throughout the pack, links to relevant pages on the following websites:

## Wiltshire Local Offer

The 'Wiltshire Local Offer' provides **information and guidance** on local services for all children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities aged 0-25.



One of the most significant features of this service is that young people with SEND can now be supported from birth to around the age of 25 years or 'stability', ie the age when their path to adulthood is more established. This is intended to ease the transition from Children and Families Services, to those provided by Adult services.

In a person-centred way, young people can receive support with access to college, or other further education; support in the community and help into employment.



The Local Offer website outlines a range of services and support available and also offers ideas on 'Pathways' which those preparing for adulthood may be considering – for example Pathway to Employment, Pathway to Independent Living, Pathway to Community etc. These also provide links to other services you may find useful.

[www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk)

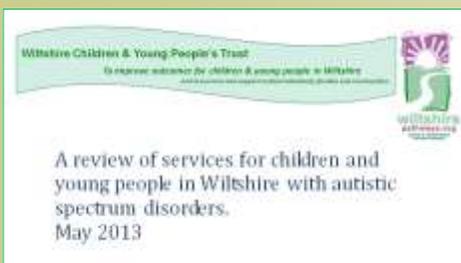
## Wiltshire Parent Carer Council

The Wiltshire Parent Carer Council or 'WPCC' provides a **specialist consultation and participation service**, which enables parents and carers to give feedback on services and support their children, young people (with a range of SEND) and families receive. This feedback is important as it helps to influence future provision.



In relation to the needs of those families whose children and young people have an ASC, WPCC Parent Representatives have been working closely with Wiltshire Council commissioners and practitioners over the last 4 years to represent their views. WPCC was fully involved in the county-wide "Review of services for children and young people in Wiltshire with autistic spectrum disorders" (2012-2013) and held 3 workshops around the county where parents and carers and professionals together reviewed all services for those with an ASC.

Following publication of the Review's findings in May 2013, an 'Autism Multi-agency Strategy Group' was set up to develop a plan to address and implement key recommendations made in the Review. A WPCC Lead Parent Representative sits on this group, as well as on the Adult Autism Partnership Board which oversees Wiltshire's adult autism strategy and plan.



Go to [www.wiltshirepathways.org](http://www.wiltshirepathways.org) for the full report. You'll find it under the 'Commissioning' and then 'Published Strategies' tabs.

Furthermore, feedback received from parents and carers directly led to the development of this booklet! The Review states: "Families felt they could have received more information and better signposting after diagnosis" and families said "you shouldn't need to wait for a diagnosis to access help as delays have a negative impact on the child and the family". This booklet will also be available on the WPCC website and therefore available to all.

The WPCCC also provides the **Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Information Service** or 'SENDIS'. Via the helpline, parents and carers can get advice and information about agencies and services in Wiltshire.



Telephone | 01225 764 647

Email | [admin@wiltspcc.co.uk](mailto:admin@wiltspcc.co.uk)

[www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk](http://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk)

## National Autistic Society or 'NAS'



The National Autistic Society is the leading UK charity for people with ASC's (including Asperger Syndrome) and their families. It provides support, information, pioneering services and campaigns for a better world for people with autism.

Their website is full of useful information and, when you are ready, we recommend you spend some time browsing through the many different sections it has to offer. For example they have sections on the effect of diagnosis on the family, which also includes information on how to tell your child about their diagnosis, supporting siblings and how to explain the condition to grandparents.

[www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

For local sibling support you may also find Spurgeons Young Carers in Wiltshire a useful resource. For further information go to page 10.



**Support  
for all**

## National Autistic Society : Wiltshire support groups

### NAS West Wiltshire

**Areas covered**

The West Wiltshire Area  
Trowbridge, Melksham, Westbury,  
Warminster, Bradford on Avon and surrounding villages.

**What it does**

We meet on the first Thursday of every month 7-9pm at The Lopes Arms in Westbury.

We are a friendly relaxed group of parent /carers of children and young people aged approximately 0-18yrs.

Come along and unwind with people who understand and won't judge. We share lots of information and sometimes have guest speakers who come along and offer advice on their specialist subject.

When possible and funding permitting we organise trips out too.

**Facebook**

NAS West Wilts

**Email**

westwiltshire@nas.org.uk



My notes

## National Autistic Society : Wiltshire support groups

### NAS North Wiltshire

<b>Areas covered</b>	Malmesbury, Devizes, Chippenham and anywhere in between.
<b>What it does</b>	<p>We welcome families with children on the autistic spectrum, although many parents do not have a formal diagnosis for their child. We also welcome parents that are having difficulties with their child and may feel or suspect their child may have Autism, AS, ASD, ASC. We have regular meetings, a monthly support coffee morning at the Mill House in Chippenham, a pub evening, and a bowling event for the children.</p> <p>We also fund a drama social skills group, 'Bright Sparks' which runs on a Saturday. You may like to contact them directly, if you feel this is something your young person could be included in. Their main website is <a href="http://www.brightlightsdrama.co.uk">www.brightlightsdrama.co.uk</a></p>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.northwiltsasd.org.uk">www.northwiltsasd.org.uk</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	North Wilts NAS
<b>Twitter</b>	@northwiltsnas Note this is a closed group, although new members can join
<b>Telephone</b>	07827 661655
<b>Email</b>	northwiltshire@nas.org.uk



My notes

## Carer Support Wiltshire



**Areas covered** All of Wiltshire, main office is St George's Road, Semington, Near Trowbridge, BA14 6JQ

**What it does** Provides support and services to parents or grandparents who are caring for a child or young person up to the age of 25 with an additional need, illness, or disability.

Support can be in the form of providing someone to talk to and also signposting to relevant organisations which can give further specialist support. There are regular peer support meetings at venues across Wiltshire which are facilitated by a parent carer support worker and often feature relevant speakers.

**How to access** Parents can self-refer by phone or email.

**Website** [www.carersinwiltshire.co.uk](http://www.carersinwiltshire.co.uk)

**Email** [info@carersinwiltshire.co.uk](mailto:info@carersinwiltshire.co.uk)

**Telephone** 0800 1814118

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/carerswiltshire](http://www.facebook.com/carerswiltshire)

**Twitter** @carerswiltshire



My notes

## Wiltshire Independent Support and Advice or 'WISA'

Wiltshire Independent Support and Advice Service is run by Action for Children to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families. The service is part of the national Information Support and Advice Service (IASS).

WISA, also a free, independent, and confidential service, work alongside the Independent Supporters, but provide more generalised Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Support.

The team provide written and online information and support for parents, children and young people. They offer practical help and a listening ear. They can attend meetings with families or support young people through mediation and tribunals. They can also signpost families to other agencies that may be able to provide support and can assist with form, letter and report writing.

WISA can help parents, children and young people to understand their rights in relation to SEND law, including information and support on school exclusions. The team work with other professionals on SEN issues and work in partnership with schools and the Local Authority. They work closely with the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council to ensure parents and young people are given the opportunity to raise concerns and influence developments.

**Website** [www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk/](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk/)  
[Go to the 'Guidance' section](#)

**Telephone** 01380 813393

**Email** [wisa@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:wisa@actionforchildren.org.uk)



My notes

## Independent Support Service

The Independent Support service at Wiltshire's Action for Children is a free, independent, confidential service, to assist young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families through the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities reforms and the new Education Health and Care plans, or 'My Plans' in Wiltshire.

The main role of the Independent Supporter is to support families through a 'My Plan' request, needs assessment, or annual review process or through a transfer review from a Statement of Special Educational Need. We can help you to gather information for meetings and attend meetings with you.

Support is available for your child or young person to think about their aspirations and long or short term goals in preparation for a 'My Plan' meeting and we can help you to review your draft 'My Plan.'

Independent Supporters can provide information to parents on the Local Offer and Personal Budgets and we can signpost you to other organisations that may be able to help you. We work alongside the WISA team and can provide one to one support over the phone, via emails, and through home visits where necessary.

**Telephone** Jo Hiller-Culley on 01380 813393

**Email** [iswiltshire@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:iswiltshire@actionforchildren.org.uk)



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## Spurgeons Young Carers in Wiltshire



### Areas covered

Wiltshire-wide

### What it does

Provides support for young carers up to the age of 18, who are involved in the practical and/or emotional care of parents, siblings or other family members.

A wide range of support is available to siblings, including advice, information, 1-2-1 help (if caring responsibilities are having a particular impact on a siblings life), after school youth clubs and holiday activities.

There are also opportunities for siblings to gain new skills through a variety of training workshops and to make new friends with others who share similar experiences.

### How to access

Parents and siblings can self refer

### Website

[www.spurgeons.org](http://www.spurgeons.org)

### Email

sycwadmin@spurgeons.org

### Telephone

01225 701820



My notes

## Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living or 'Wilts CIL'

**Areas covered** Wiltshire-wide

**What it does** A registered charity, Wiltshire Independent living is an organisation managed by disabled people and is committed to supporting all disabled people to achieve choice, control, and equal rights by campaigning for rights, advising, informing, training, advocacy and peer support.



They have friendly helpful staff who can support you with a range of services and an informative website outlining who they are, how they link in with the wider national and international Independent Living Movement, how to join and get involved.

Their Support Services are designed to give you easy access to information about all the different services they provide to help people with independent living, and particularly with regard to accessing, handling and using Direct Payments. They will also help you with preparing a support plan for yourself or the person you care for.

**How to access** You can contact them directly

**Website** [www.wiltshirecil.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirecil.org.uk)

**Email** [info@wiltshirecil.org.uk](mailto:info@wiltshirecil.org.uk)

**Telephone** 01380 725400

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/WiltshireCIL](http://www.facebook.com/WiltshireCIL)

**Twitter** [twitter.com/WILTSCIL](https://twitter.com/WILTSCIL)



My notes

## Scope : Face to Face



**Areas covered**

Schemes operate across the UK. In Wiltshire there is a service in the North and West areas.

**How to access**

Parents can self refer

**What it does**

Free befriending services that matches parents and carers of disabled children with trained befrienders who give 1-1 emotional support.

Scope befrienders are trained listeners, there for you if you want to laugh, cry or just let off steam! All befrienders are parents and carers of disabled children themselves, so they know better than most where you're coming from.

This service also offers befriending via email and telephone.

**Website**

[www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk)

**Email**

via the website

**Telephone**

0844 800 9189



My notes

**Services  
for all**

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Service 'SEND'

**Areas covered** All of Wiltshire

**What it does** The SEND Service provides information, assessment and support for children and young people from 0-25 years who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.



who have special educational

SEN and sensory advisory teachers and educational psychologists (inclusion support staff) offer advice to schools and settings for children and young people who are not making progress towards outcomes, or who require ongoing support because of their physical, visual or hearing impairment. In this case most children and young people will have a 'My Support Plan' which explores barriers to progress in a holistic way closely involving families, setting staff and other professionals.

Children and young people who meet the criteria for further or more complex assessment of their education, health and care needs will be assigned a SEND Lead Worker who will co-ordinate the assessment process, working with schools and settings for children and young people which may lead to an Education, Health and Care Plan, known as a 'My Plan' in Wiltshire.

Further information on 'My Support Plans' 'My Plans', the post-16 process and annual reviews can be found on the Wiltshire Local Offer website, under the 'Our Process' tab under 'SEND Service'.

**How to access** Initial contact is through the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) on telephone number 01225 757985.

For further information go to [www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk) Click on 'SEND Service' in the menu bar across the top of the page which, if you scroll down, will take you to information on what to do if your child has been newly diagnosed.

**Website** [www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk)

**Telephone** 01225 757985



My notes

## Social Care

**Areas covered** All of Wiltshire

**What it does** Where a young person and the family meet the eligibility criteria, a Social Worker will carry out an assessment of needs. There are many different kinds of support which could then be offered to meet identified needs, including the use of direct payments, day care or overnight respite, packages of home support, personal care support.

**How to access** Families can self-refer or be referred by a professional eg GP either through the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Service (SEND) or through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Families are eligible for support if the main need of the young person and their family arises out of the young person's disability or intrinsic condition and this condition is having a **substantial or critical impact** on the quality of the young person's and their family's lives and also if their needs cannot be met by universal or targeted services.

**Website** [www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk)  
Click on Social Care in the menu bar

**Email** [mash@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:mash@wiltshire.gov.uk)

**Telephone** MASH : 0300 4560108 / out of hours 0845 6070888  
SPOC : 01225 757985



My notes

## Speech & Language Therapy (often abbreviated to 'SLT or SALT')

<b>Areas covered</b>	Wiltshire
<b>What it does</b>	<p>A team of speech and language therapists and support workers, who have a range of skills and experiences, provide assessment and support for children and young people with speech and language impairments or feeding difficulties.</p> <p>They work with a wide range of children who have many different needs including those who have an ASC.</p>
<b>How to access</b>	Parents can self refer their children by calling the single point of contact advice line number below, or children maybe referred by their GP, health visitor, early years inclusion officer or educational setting.
<b>Telephone</b>	<p>The advice line is available for service users to speak directly to a speech and language specialist, between 4pm and 5pm Monday-Thursday.</p> <p>01225 761 126</p> <p>The service is provided as part of the Wiltshire Local Offer.</p>
<b>Website</b>	For further information go to <a href="http://www.getwiltshiretalking.org">www.getwiltshiretalking.org</a>



My notes

## Learning Disability Nursing Service



**Areas covered** Wiltshire

**What it does** Assesses the needs of children and young people with a learning disability and works with them and their families to develop, deliver and monitor programmes of care and support to meet their needs.

They work with children and young people when universal services, ie. services any young person can access like health visitors, school nurses or GPs, cannot meet their needs.

The role of the service is to focus on early intervention and health prevention. Everything they do relies on working in collaboration with other services, including social services, education professionals and other health services. They are a specialist team who work to improve:

- ◆ Behaviour—assessment and management advice and support
- ◆ Continence and toileting, focussing and supporting behaviour management approaches
- ◆ Diet, nutrition, exercise and mealtime regimes
- ◆ Sleep—advice, assessment and management strategies

Clinics/drop in sessions are held at:

- ◆ Exeter House School, Salisbury
- ◆ Larkrise School, Trowbridge
- ◆ St Nicholas School, Chippenham

**How to access** Parents can self-refer their child or young person, alternatively they can ask a professional supporting their child/young person to complete the referral request form. Children and young people can also be referred to the service by any health professional (eg GP), social worker, pre-school or educational professional.

**Telephone** 01793 60 40 20 (Great Western Hospital)

**Website** For further information go to [www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk) Click on 'Health', 'Health Services', scroll down to and click on 'targeted' and then the 'Learning Disability Nurses' tab.

# Occupational Therapy (often abbreviated to 'OT')

## Areas covered

This service is provided by teams based in 3 hospitals across Wiltshire, namely

- 1) Salisbury District
- 2) Great Western (Swindon)
- 3) Royal Bath

you live.

Which one you will receive a service from (if eligible) will depend upon where



## What it does

The role of the OT service is to focus on helping children and young people with physical, sensory or cognitive disabilities or impairments to be as independent as possible in all areas of their lives.

## How to access

Most referrals are made via your GP.

## Website

[www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk)

go to section heading Health which will then show you a drop box with different sections click on the Health services, you will now be on a page which shows you icons for universal services. Underneath these icons you will see two further sections marked Targeted and Specialist click on the targeted. Again you will be on a page with icons where you will find the Occupational Therapy icon in the centre Click on this and you will be on the OT page where you can find out more about the service they offer.



My notes

## Special Care Dental Service

The Special Care Dental Service provides a service for people with complex needs who are unable to access care at high street dentists. This is a referral-only service and is staffed by a dedicated team of Dentists and Dental Care Professionals (DCPs) who have a special interest in treating patients with additional needs.



Access to this service is by referral to a single point of access to ensure that an equitable, accessible service is provided throughout Wiltshire and Swindon.

Patients who attend the Special Care Dental Service can expect to be treated in a clinic that has been adapted to suit their particular needs for example specially adapted dental chairs and hoists to aid with transfer from wheelchair to dental chair. Domiciliary care can be provided for patients who are housebound which prevents them from attending the clinic.

For more information visit

[www.gwh.nhs.uk/wards-and-services-a-z/a-to-z/dental-services/community-dental-service/special-care-dental-service](http://www.gwh.nhs.uk/wards-and-services-a-z/a-to-z/dental-services/community-dental-service/special-care-dental-service)

### **Referral to the Special Care Dental Service**

#### **Single Point of Access**

The Special Care Dental Service provides comprehensive treatment for children and adults with disabilities who need special care.

Referrals are accepted from:

- General Dental Practitioners
- General Medical Practitioners

Any other health or social care professional

For more information please call Dental Headquarters on 01672 517419.

My notes

## Continence Service



### Areas covered

Wiltshire wide with clinics held in

- 1) Trowbridge
- 2) Warminster
- 3) Chippenham
- 4) Marlborough
- 5) Salisbury
- 5) Devizes

The Continence Service also runs drop-in clinics at Exeter House School (Salisbury) and Larkrise School (Trowbridge) on a half termly.

### What it does

Works with children and young people aged 4-25 with SEND and their families, where there are continence problems. The aim is to promote continence and manage incontinence, supporting young people to gain as much independence as possible.

A Continence Nurse manages the assessment for, and supply of, incontinence products where there is an assessed need. The Continence Nurse will explain what is involved if this is appropriate for your child.

### How to access

Children and young people can be referred to the service by any health professional (eg a Wiltshire GP, Health Visitor or School Nurse) and they can be seen for assessment in a clinic, school, respite facility or their own home.

### Website

[www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk)

Click on 'Health' in the menu bar, 'Health Services' and 'targeted'



My notes

## National Youth Advocacy Service or 'NYAS'



<b>Areas covered</b>	Wiltshire wide
<b>What it does</b>	Provides advocacy services for children and young people, including those with SEND
<b>How to access</b>	Self referral (if made by parents or carers, they must have consent from the child or young person before a referral can be made)
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org">www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org</a> <a href="http://www.nyas.net">www.nyas.net</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	0808 808 1001—NYAS central helpline



My notes

**0 - 5 years**

## Support in Wiltshire : Autism Parent Programme 1 or 'SWAPP 1'

<b>Areas covered</b>	Held in different locations across Wiltshire usually in a children's centre or council building.
<b>What it does</b>	<p>It is a partnership programme between parents of children with autism in early years settings and reception classes and their child's setting or school. It aims to build understanding of autism and related issues including communication , sensory issues and behaviour.</p> <p>The programme, which uses the National Autistic Society's Early Bird Programme, includes an introductory session, informal and interactive group sessions and home visits over a period of 12 weeks. Sessions are conducted by two professionals who have training and experience in support ing children and young people with autism. A member of staff from the child's school is encouraged to attend if possible to ensure a consistent approach around the child.</p>
<b>How to access</b>	The child must have a formal written diagnosis of autism or a working diagnosis (statements in writing from two professionals that the child may be on the autistic spectrum). A parent can request an application form by telephone or email . Each family will be offered two places for family members and a third place for the child's school or setting.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/swapp.htm">www.wiltshire.gov.uk/swapp.htm</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	01225 718095
<b>Email</b>	TSLS.OperationalOffice@wiltshire.gov.uk
<b>Facebook</b>	www.facebook.com/WiltshireCouncil
<b>Twitter</b>	@wiltscouncil



My notes

## Children's Centres



**Areas covered** Across Wiltshire

**What it does** Children's Centres provide support for parents, carers and their children. They are primarily aimed at children under 5 but also work with children up to 11.

Children's Centres offer advice and information as well as being able to direct you to other services that may be able to help.

Children's Centres offer a range of services which include activities, group and individual support as well as advice on family health, parenting, money, training and employment.

Some Centres also have sensory rooms and equipment which can be accessed by parents and carers.

**How to access** Parents are welcome to contact directly.

**Website** To find your nearest Children's Centre please go to [www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk) Click on the heading 'education' which will then show you a drop box with different sections click on the 0-5 section, this will take you to early years support page click on number 7 children's centres.



My notes

## District Specialist Centres

### What it does

Wiltshire has four District Specialist Centres, also known as opportunity groups. They provide setting based sessions for young children (aged 0-5) with special education needs and/or disability and support for parents/carers.

Each service has specially trained staff and equipment to ensure they can meet the needs of all children including those with the most profound and complex needs, including complex health needs.

The District Specialist Centre is also a local hub for specialist services for young disabled children so families can access health professional's such as speech and language (these services can also be accessed through professional referral).

District Specialist Centres use a team around the child approach so work closely with other services, including the SEND service to ensure the holistic needs of the child and their family are met.

### How to access

Parents are welcome to contact directly, but most children need to be referred by a Paediatrician, Health Visitor or other professional.

### Website

To find the nearest District Specialist Centre, please go to [www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk), click on 'Education' and then the tab headed 'District Specialist Centres'.



My notes

## Wiltshire Portage Service

**Areas covered** All of Wiltshire, however South Wiltshire is covered by 'Salisbury Portage' and the rest of the county is covered by 'Wiltshire Portage'

**What it does** Portage is a home visiting, home education service that works with young disabled children (aged 0-5) and their families.



Portage Home Visitors are specially trained and follow a programme specifically designed for the child, who will learn early developmental skills. Goals are identified by the parent and Home Visitor and are broken down into small achievable steps. Parents work on these goals each day, ensuring that the child is able to experience realistic success each week. Supported by the Home Visitors, parents are empowered to help their child to learn.

**How to access** Wiltshire Portage Service has an open referral system, so parents may either refer themselves or, with their permission, be referred by a professional (eg. paediatrician, health visitor)

**Website** [www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk)  
Under the 'Education' tab, click on '0-5' and you'll see Portage listed there

**Telephone/Email** Salisbury Portage 01722 336262 ext 2495  
gill.bonner@salisbury.nhs.uk

Wiltshire Portage 07780 653888  
AileenA.Murphy@wiltshire.gov.uk



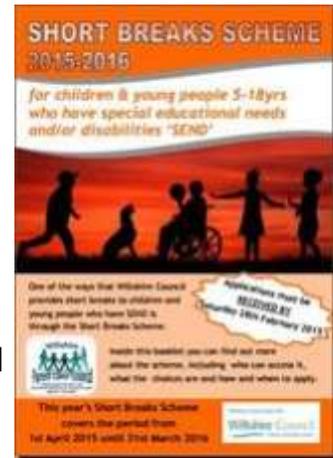
My notes

# Wiltshire Short Breaks Scheme

**Areas covered** All of Wiltshire

**What it does** One of the ways that Wiltshire Council provides short breaks to children and young people who have SEND is through the Short Breaks Scheme (SBS).

The SBS was designed to meet the individual needs and interests of children and young people who require additional support to access or engage in leisure activities and offers families choice through a menu of options. This means that children and young people with their parents or carers, can think about to spend their leisure time and choose what they prefer.



people, together how they prefer works best for

**How to access** The SBS is open to all eligible children and young people aged 5-18 years, who are resident in Wiltshire (this excludes Swindon). Parents and carers can complete a simple on-line application at the beginning of each year and during a given timeframe.

**Website** [www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk](http://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk)  
For further information about the SBS, including eligibility, options available and how and when to apply. The 'What's On' page also has lots of information on other activities and clubs available in Wiltshire.

**Telephone** 01225 764647

**Email** [admin@wiltspcc.co.uk](mailto:admin@wiltspcc.co.uk)



My notes

## Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Learning Disability) Service Also referred to as 'CAMHS'



**Areas covered** All of Wiltshire

**What it does** Provides support to children and young people up to the age of 18 with an ASC, who are experiencing mental health difficulties. This service includes both primary CAMHS (PCAMHS) and specialist CAMHS; the difference between these relates to the level of support children and young people need and the length of time that support is offered for. It also includes an Outreach Service for Children and Adolescents (OSCA), which provides crisis and 'wrap around' support when needed, as well as offering an outreach service for those who are finding engaging with CAMHS more challenging.

Each specialist CAMHS team has a Neurodevelopmental Assessment Clinic (NDC) which provides assessment for children and young people with previously identified complex mental health needs who may also be presenting with a possible ASC. Referrals to the Clinic are made internally, following assessment.

**How to access** Children and young people who meet the eligibility criteria for this service can only be referred by a professional who knows the child/young person or family eg. GP, nurse, teacher or SENco, health visitor, social worker or youth worker.

**Website** [www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk)  
Click on 'Health', then 'Health Services', scroll down to 'Specialist', then 'Specialist Mental Health Service' for further information, including eligibility criteria



My notes

**6 - 11 years**

## Support in Wiltshire : Autism Parent Programme 2 or 'SWAPP 2'

**Areas covered** All of Wiltshire

**What it does** SWAPP is a partnership programme between parents of children with autism in school years 1 to 4 and their child's setting or school, which aims to build an understanding of autism and the challenges and delights it can present.

The programme aims to empower families and staff who are closely involved in supporting a child or young person with autism.

Sessions cover all aspects of autism including communication, sensory issues and behaviour. Children and young people themselves do not attend sessions. SWAPP 2 involves six group sessions, usually one each week, for 6 weeks.

**How to access** The child must have a formal written diagnosis of autism or a working diagnosis (statements in writing from two professionals that the child may be on the autistic spectrum). A parent can request an application form by telephone or email. Each family will be offered two places for family members and a third place for the child's school or setting.

**Website** [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

**Email** TSLs.OperationalOffice@wiltshire.gov.uk

**Telephone** 01225 718095



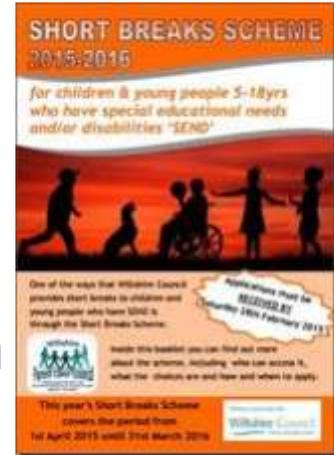
My notes

## Wiltshire Short Breaks Scheme

**Areas covered** All of Wiltshire

**What it does** One of the ways that Wiltshire Council provides short breaks to children and young people who have SEND is through the Short Breaks Scheme (SBS).

The SBS was designed to meet the individual needs and interests of children and young people who require additional support to access or engage in leisure activities and offers families choice through a menu of options. This means that children and young people with their parents or carers, can think about to spend their leisure time and choose what they.



people, together how they prefer works best for

**How to access** The SBS is open to all eligible children and young people aged 5-18 years, who are resident in Wiltshire (this excludes Swindon). Parents and carers can complete a simple on-line application at the beginning of each year and during a given timeframe.

**Website** [www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk](http://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk)  
For further information about the SBS, including eligibility and options available. Their 'What's On' page also has information on other activities and clubs available in Wiltshire.

**Telephone** 01225 764647

**Email** admin@wiltspcc.co.uk



My notes

## Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Learning Disability) Service Also referred to as 'CAMHS'

**Areas covered** All of Wiltshire

**What it does** Provides support to children and young people up to the age of 18 with an ASC, who are experiencing mental health difficulties. This service includes both primary CAMHS (PCAMHS) and specialist CAMHS; the difference between these relates to the level of support children and young people need and the length of time that support is offered for. It also includes an Outreach Service for Children and Adolescents (OSCA), which provides crisis and 'wrap around' support when needed, as well as offering an outreach service for those who are finding engaging with CAMHS more challenging.



Each specialist CAMHS team has a Neurodevelopmental Assessment Clinic (NDC) which provides assessment for children and young people with previously identified complex mental health needs who may also be presenting with a possible ASC. Referrals to the Clinic are made internally, following assessment.

**How to access** Children and young people who meet the eligibility criteria for this service can only be referred by a professional who knows the child/young person or family eg. GP, nurse, teacher or SENco, health visitor, social worker or youth worker.

**Website** [www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk)  
Click on 'Health', then 'Health Services', scroll down to 'Specialist', then 'Specialist Mental Health Service' for further information, including eligibility criteria



My notes

**12 - 18 years**

## Support in Wiltshire : Autism Parent Programmes 3 and 4 'SWAPP 3 and SWAPP 4'

<b>Areas covered</b>	All of Wiltshire It is held in different locations across Wiltshire usually in a children's centre or council building.
<b>What it does</b>	It is a partnership programme between parents of children with autism in school years 5-8 (for SWAPP 3) and children with autism in school years 9-13 (for SWAPP 4) and their child's setting or school. It aims to build understanding of autism and related issues including communication, sensory issues and behaviour. The programme involves six group sessions usually one a week for 6 weeks. Each session lasts approximately 2 and a half hours. Sessions are conducted by two professionals who have training and experience in supporting children and young people with autism. A member of the child's school staff is encouraged to attend if possible to ensure a consistent approach around the child.
<b>How to access</b>	The child must have a formal written diagnosis of autism or a working diagnosis (statements in writing from two professionals that the child may be on the autistic spectrum). A parent can request an application form by telephone or email. Each family will be offered two places for family members and a third place for the child's school or setting.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/swapp.htm">www.wiltshire.gov.uk/swapp.htm</a>
<b>Email</b>	TSLs.OperationalOffice@wiltshire.gov.uk
<b>Telephone</b>	01225 718095
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/WiltshireCouncil">www.facebook.com/WiltshireCouncil</a>
<b>Twitter</b>	@wiltscouncil



My notes

# Wiltshire Short Breaks Scheme

**Areas covered** All of Wiltshire

**What it does** One of the ways that Wiltshire Council provides short breaks to children and young people who have SEND is through the Short Breaks Scheme (SBS).

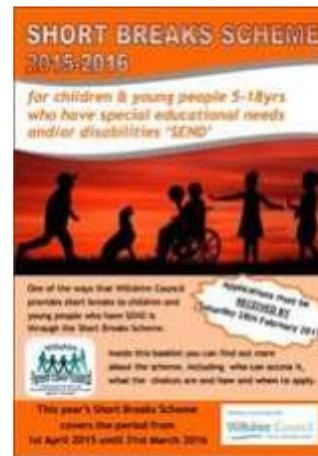
The SBS was designed to meet the individual needs and interests of children and young people who require additional support to access or engage in leisure activities and offers families choice through a menu of options. This means that children and young people, together with their parents or carers, can think about how they prefer to spend their leisure time and choose what works best for them.

**How to access** The SBS is open to all eligible children and young people aged 5-18 years, who are resident in Wiltshire (this excludes Swindon). Parents and carers can complete a simple on-line application at the beginning of each year and during a given timeframe.

**Website** [www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk](http://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk)  
For further information about the SBS, including eligibility, options available and how and when to apply. The 'What's On' page also has lots of information on other activities and clubs available in Wiltshire.

**Telephone** 01225 764647

**Email** [admin@wiltspcc.co.uk](mailto:admin@wiltspcc.co.uk)



My notes

## Wiltshire Employment Support Team 'WEST'

<b>Areas covered</b>	All of Wiltshire
<b>What it does</b>	Wiltshire Employment Support and Training (WEST) provided by Wiltshire Council helps young people with SEND find and sustain appropriate paid employment with local employers. It also runs a supported internship scheme
<b>How to access</b>	It is available to young people aged 14-25 who have a My Plan or Statement of SEN. <b>It is also open to young people with ASC aged 16-25 who are resident in Wiltshire but do not have a My Plan or Statement of SEN.</b>  Referrals are made by professionals including Social Worker, Teacher or SEND Lead Worker
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk">www.wiltshire.gov.uk</a>  Full details of the scheme and the referral process can also be found at <a href="http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.gov.uk">www.wiltshirelocaloffer.gov.uk</a> . Click on Send Service at the top of the home page then on Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Support Services
<b>Email</b>	west.cc@wiltshire.gov.uk
<b>Telephone</b>	01225 718004



My notes

## Community Connecting

<b>Areas covered</b>	All of Wiltshire
<b>What it does</b>	It offers sessions delivered over 4 weeks to students with disabilities within Wiltshire schools and colleges to help them to prepare to play as full a part as possible in their community. Sessions include hobbies, travel, volunteering and friendships.
<b>How to access</b>	It is available to young people attending Wiltshire schools or colleges aged 14-25 who have a My Plan or Statement of SEN. <b>It is also open to young people with ASC aged 16-25 who are resident in Wiltshire but do not have a My Plan or Statement of SEN.</b> Referrals are made by professionals including Social Worker, SEND Lead Worker or Teacher.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk">www.wiltshire.gov.uk</a>  Full details of the scheme and the referral process can also be found at <a href="http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.gov.uk">www.wiltshirelocaloffer.gov.uk</a> . Click on Send Service at the top of the home page then on Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Support Services
<b>Email</b>	west.cc@wiltshire.gov.uk
<b>Telephone</b>	01225 718004



My notes

## Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Learning Disability) Service Also referred to as 'CAMHS'

**Areas covered** All of Wiltshire

**What it does** Provides support to children and young people up to the age of 18 with an ASC, who are experiencing mental health difficulties. This service includes both primary CAMHS (PCAMHS) and specialist CAMHS; the difference between these relates to the level of support children and young people need and the length of time that support is offered for. It also includes an Outreach Service for Children and Adolescents (OSCA), which provides crisis and 'wrap around' support when needed, as well as offering an outreach service for those who are finding engaging with CAMHS more challenging.



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**How to access** Children and young people who meet the eligibility criteria for this service can only be referred by a professional who knows the child/young person or family eg. GP, nurse, teacher or SENco, health visitor, social worker or youth worker.

**Website** [www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk)  
Click on 'Health', then 'Health Services', scroll down to 'Specialist', then 'Specialist Mental Health Service' for further information, including eligibility criteria



My notes

**18 - 25 years**

## Introduction to Support and Services for those aged 18-25

Once the young person in your care is over 18, finding information about and access to relevant services and support can become a little more complicated!

From 18 years old, your Health needs are dealt with by Adult Health services (including Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, and Psychology services). If you reached your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, you will probably have been referred to Adult Care services for any Social Care assessments, or community support.



However, in September 2014, Wiltshire Council changed the way in which education and social care services had been delivered in the past, creating a more holistic approach through the Special Educational Needs and Disability service (known as 'SEND' Service) For more information, go to pages 3 and 15.

### Post Diagnosis Support for Young People

A young person who received a diagnosis of an ASC at a younger age may want to find out more about what having an ASC means to them as they get older and what their particular skills and needs are.

There are several website and online forums which can be very helpful, giving informal support and peer group feedback. Some key ones are listed on the following pages as well as in the resources section.

It is also possible simply to access the post-diagnostic sessions offered by the Wiltshire Autism Diagnostic Service (overleaf), which are offered as part of their Adult Diagnostic Service.

## Diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Conditions for Adults

If you feel you may have an Autistic Spectrum Condition which has not yet been diagnosed, and would like to have a diagnostic assessment, you may now be referred by your GP or secondary care mental health services to one of three preferred services using the 'choose and book' system. Those three diagnostic services are listed on the following pages.



The aims of adult diagnosis are varied, but are not about trying to attach a 'label' to someone. Generally, the aims are to enable people with social, communication, and social imagination difficulties to have a better understanding of their own strengths and needs, sometimes to help those close to them understand them better, and mostly focus on helping them towards services in the community that may be able to help them. Sometimes the diagnostic assessment may reveal that you actually don't have an ASC.

Most GPs in Wiltshire should know about these diagnostic services and that they are available free with a referral from them. However, some people have found that their GP was not yet aware that these services have been commissioned in Wiltshire, so the information we have provided might help you in requesting a referral from your GP.



My notes

## Wiltshire Autism Diagnostic Service or 'WADS'

### Post Diagnosis Support for Young People

**Areas covered** Wiltshire-wide, a range of locations.

**What it does** WADS is a small multi-disciplinary team providing a diagnostic assessment service and limited post diagnosis support. This support is generally offered in the form of group sessions, although some 1-1 may be offered in particular circumstances. It covers coping strategies, signposting to other useful services, and learning more about living with an ASC.

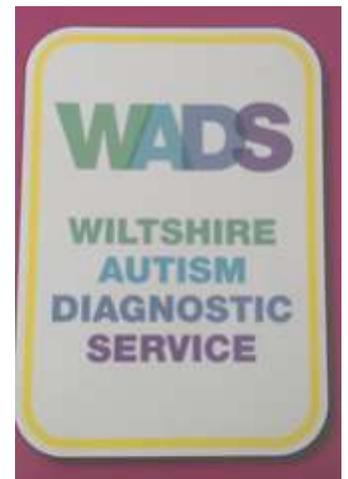
The support is primarily offered to those who have been diagnosed by the team, as post-diagnosis support. However, a young person who has previously received a diagnosis of ASC (even at a younger age), may want to find out more about what having ASC means to them as they get older, and what their particular skills and needs are. Attendees may also bring a carer or supporter with them to the sessions. The sessions are led by trained staff and assisted by an 'expert by experience' who has autism.

**How to access** You can contact [WADS](#) directly for more information and to request a place.

**Address** WADS, Heathwood, Fountain Way, Salisbury, SP2 7FD

**Phone** 01722 820371

**Email** awp.wads@nhs.net



My notes

## Diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Conditions for Adults

### Areas covered

A range of locations across Wiltshire

Avon and Wiltshire   
Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

### What it does

The WADS team offers a diagnostic service to people with suspected ASC, using an initial assessment process and post-diagnostic support sessions covering psycho-education, coping strategies and signposting.

### How to access

By direct referral from your GP via the 'choose and book' online service or by referral letter to the team base. Or, by secondary mental health care practitioners working in Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, who can complete a referral form found on 'Ourspace' and sent to WADS at their team base address

### Address

[WADS](#), Heathwood, Fountain Way, Salisbury, SP2 7FD

### Email

[awp.wads@nhs.net](mailto:awp.wads@nhs.net)

### Phone

01722 820371



My notes

## SEQOL—Adult Autism Diagnosis Service



<b>Areas covered</b>	Wiltshire (based in Swindon)
<b>What it does</b>	The Seqol diagnostic team carries out an in-depth assessment to provide a diagnosis of an ASC (or not), feedback in a supported environment with the provision of information and signposting towards relevant support agencies, and a follow-up session which is primarily 'Solution-focussed', for those who are diagnosed, in terms of where to go next, and how to disclose the diagnosis to others using a 'self-advocacy' book.
<b>How to access</b>	Request a referral from your GP
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.seqol.org">www.seqol.org</a>
<b>Email</b>	Contact Sue Smith, Professional Lead for Autism Sue.smith@seqol.org
<b>Phone</b>	01793 466712



My notes

## Autism Diagnostic Research Centre or 'ADRC'



**Areas covered** Wiltshire  
(assessments held in Salisbury)

**What it does** Pre-diagnostic questionnaires are sent out to you to fill in and send back before an initial appointment. Once you have been given an appointment, a full diagnostic assessment service is carried out and a personalised written report produced that belongs to the individual being assessed. This will give the results of the assessment, together with recommendations for strategies and other possible avenues of support.

**How to access** Request a referral from your GP

**Website** [www.adrc.co.uk](http://www.adrc.co.uk)

**Email** info@adrc.co.uk

**Phone** 023 8020 2631



My notes

## Care and Support Accreditation



<b>Areas covered</b>	All of Wiltshire
<b>What it does</b>	<p>It is a list of accredited providers that Wiltshire Council have checked to ensure they provide good support of different levels, according to need. This can range from full-time, live-in care to regular visiting or on-call support service. The aim is to support people in their own home (their family home or a property over which they, either alone or with others, have a tenancy) and to promote independent living.</p>
<b>How to access</b>	<p>It is for people aged 18 and above (or 16 and above for people with additional difficulties and a range of support needs) including those with a learning disability and/or mental health needs and/or an ASC.</p> <p>A Care Manager from Adult Social Care will carry out a holistic assessment of need to determine whether a specialist service is required. This will be deemed not necessary if a person's needs can be met by universal services or by Wiltshire Council's 'Help to Live at Home' scheme.</p>
<b>Email</b>	For more information, contact the Specialist Disability Contracts and Commissioning Team at Wiltshire Council <a href="mailto:dcsdisabilities@wiltshire.gov.uk">dcsdisabilities@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	01225 713000



My notes

## AS we are

### Areas covered

At present, Salisbury though there are plans to expand to other areas

### What it does

It is a NAS-run social club which meets twice a month and organises a wide range of activities from ghost walks to bingo.



It caters for young adults with high-functioning ASC and attendees usually come unaccompanied after their first session.

### How to access

Parents can self-refer by phone or email.

### Website

[www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

### Email

mark.jackson@nas.org.uk

### Telephone

07946889371



My notes

## Adult Autism Forum

If you are 18 or older and would like the **opportunity to give your views** to Wiltshire Council come and join others who wish to share their views on how policy makers can help those with Autism Spectrum Conditions.



A Forum meets every two to three months at different places in Wiltshire and is specifically for people with an Autism Spectrum Condition.

The group is facilitated by Jo Clay from the National Autistic Society, and after each meeting there is an opportunity to share your views with the Wiltshire Autism Partnership Board.

To book a place, or find out more about the forum, please contact Jo Clay at

**Telephone**                      077 6767 8984

**Email**                              [jo.clay@nas.org.uk](mailto:jo.clay@nas.org.uk)



My notes

## Advocacy Services

we can  
help

Advocacy is a process of supporting and enabling people to express their own views, access information and services, to find out about options and make decisions and to secure their rights. Independent advocacy organisations provide various forms of advocacy using both paid staff and volunteers. All should offer support that is clearly independent from other service providers.

### Who can use advocacy services?

In this section we are particularly focussing on young adults themselves. However, the advocacy services we refer to can also be accessed by anyone on behalf of the young person, ie parents/carers or others acting in the best interests of the young person.

### How are advocacy services useful for people with ASC's?

All people with an ASC have impairments in social communication, social interaction and social imagination. They therefore need help to express their aspirations, interpret and process information regarding their rights and to request relevant services. People with Asperger Syndrome, because of their fluent language and average or above average IQ level may not appear to need access to advocacy services. This can be misleading and it is important that advocacy services are available for all people with an ASC.

### When might advocacy support be needed?

- ◆ Transition to adulthood and adult services
- ◆ Access to housing
- ◆ Access to employment, or further education
- ◆ Assistance with social integration and life planning
- ◆ Access to health, social care and voluntary sector services
- ◆ Help with filling in forms and understanding documents

### Further information about advocacy

The above information has been taken from the National Autistic Society website. For more details contact: [www.autism.org.uk/advocacyandautism](http://www.autism.org.uk/advocacyandautism). You can also find a useful downloadable self-advocacy resource booklet compiled by people with ASC on: [www.autism.org.uk/selfadvocacy](http://www.autism.org.uk/selfadvocacy)

- What it does** This a free and confidential service. An advocate patiently listens to you, helps you understand and explains your options and choices. The advocate ensures you have the support to make an informed choice and get the help and support you need.
- How to access** You can contact the service directly for independent support.
- Website** [www.swanadvocacy.org.uk](http://www.swanadvocacy.org.uk)
- Email** mail@swanadvocacy.org.uk
- Phone** Salisbury office | 01722-341851  
Devizes office | 01380-732680



My notes

## Lift Psychology



**Areas covered** Single sessions are usually held at your own surgery; group workshop sessions are held in towns around Wiltshire.

**What it does** The practitioners are trained to help people understand more about difficulties they are experiencing such as stress, anxiety/panic, depression, anger, low self-esteem etc.

The support offered is focused on helping you move forward. A range of options are available which may include single one-to-one sessions, or a short series of workshops or an interactive computer programme.

**How to access** You can contact the service directly or ask your GP to make a referral for you.

This service is offered free to people who are registered with a GP in Wiltshire.

**Website** [www.lift.awp.nhs.uk](http://www.lift.awp.nhs.uk)

**Email** lift@awp.nhs.uk

**Phone** 01722-820267



My notes

# Resources

## Accessing Support

*The information in this section has been taken from 'Special educational needs and disability. A guide for parents and carers', published by the Department for Education in August 2014.*



This section looks at:

- **SEN support:** It aims to describe what it means and what the law requires. It tells you what you can expect and where you can go for help.
- **Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment and plans:** It aims to describe who EHC plans are for and the process of an EHC needs assessment. It also covers how and when children, young people and parents are involved, what you can expect, and where you can get help.

### SEN support

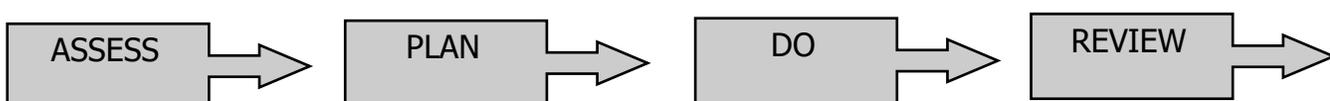
Any support your child gets from their school or other setting should meet their needs. If your child has SEN, they will be able to access help, called SEN support, from their early years settings, such as nurseries or childminders, schools and further education institutions such as colleges and 16-19 academies. SEN support replaces school action/school action plus (in schools) and early years action/early years action plus (in early years settings).

Children and young people with more complex needs might instead need an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan. EHC plans replace statements of SEN and Learning Disability Assessments (LDAs).

SEN support is part of what is known as the 'graduated approach' and in general should work as follows. (This approach varies in how it works depending on the age of your child – for example, it may work differently in a nursery than it will in a school.)

You may be contacted – for example in schools, this will be by your child's teacher or SENCO – if your early years setting, school or college think your child needs SEN support. Or you can approach your child's school or other setting if you think your child might have SEN. You will be involved and your views will be needed throughout the process, and you will be kept up to date with the progress made. Young people aged 16 to 25 will be fully involved in designing their own SEN support and provision.

### The four stages of SEN support are



**Assess:** Your child's difficulties must be assessed so that the right support can be provided. This should include, for example, asking you what you think, talking to professionals who work with your child (such as their teacher), and looking at records and other information. This needs to be reviewed regularly so that the support provided continues to meet your child's needs. That might mean getting advice and further assessment from someone like an educational psychologist, a specialist teacher or a health professional.

**Plan:** Your school or other setting needs to agree, with your involvement, the outcomes that the SEN support is intended to achieve – in other words, how your child will benefit from any support they get – and you need to be involved with that. All those involved will need to have a say in deciding what kind of support will be provided, and decide a date by which they will review this so that they can check to see how well the support is working and whether the outcomes have been or are being achieved.

**Do:** The setting will put the planned support into place. The teacher remains responsible for working with your child on a daily basis, but the SENCO and any support staff or specialist teaching staff involved in providing support should work closely to track your child's progress and check that the support is being effective.

**Review:** The support your child receives should be reviewed at the time agreed in the plan. You can then decide together if the support is having a positive impact, whether the outcomes have been, or are being, achieved and if or how any changes should be made.

### **Education, Health and Care needs assessments and plans**

Your child's school or other setting will often be able to meet the needs of children through SEN support. But sometimes a child or young person needs a more intensive level of specialist help that cannot be met from the resources available to schools and other settings to provide SEN support. In these circumstances, you or your child's school or other setting could consider asking your local authority for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment for your child. This assessment could lead to your child getting an EHC plan (or 'My Plan').

Some children and young people will have needs that clearly require an EHC needs assessment and plan and once the local authority is aware of them it should start this process without delay.

An EHC plan brings your child's education, health and social care needs into a single, legal document. Your child must have special educational needs to be eligible for a plan. There are other ways children who don't have SEN can get help, and you can ask your local Information, advice and support service for more information about this.

#### **Requesting an EHC needs assessment**

You can ask your local authority for an EHC needs assessment if you think your child needs one. Anyone at your child's school (such as your child's teacher) can also ask for an assessment to be carried out. Others who work with your child can also tell the local authority if they think an assessment is needed (such as your doctor, health



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### **Deciding whether to conduct an EHC needs assessment**

Once your local authority identifies that your child has SEN or receives a request for an assessment, they have up to six weeks to decide whether to carry one out. During that time, they will ask you and others – such as your child's school or other setting – for information to help them make that decision. You may wish to gather together all the reports and letters from your child's school or other setting, doctors' and any other assessments that have been produced about your child. You may also want to write about your child's needs and how long they have had them.

If your local authority decides not to carry out an assessment, they need to let you know their decision within six weeks of receiving a request for an assessment. Your local authority is expected to help you find other ways that your child can be supported in their school or other setting.

### **Conducting an EHC needs assessment**

Local authorities need to make sure that you and your child are fully involved in the EHC needs assessment. They need to provide you with impartial information, advice and support to help you understand the process and make sure you are properly involved in decisions that affect your child.

### **What you can do if you disagree with your local authority's decisions**

If you disagree with your local authority's decisions on:

- not proceeding with an EHC needs assessment
- not producing an EHC plan, or
- the special educational support that is included in the EHC plan

you have the right to challenge it. Your local authority will tell you when and how you can challenge their decisions. There are a number of things you can do which are outlined in the 'Challenging or disagreeing with decisions' section of the Department for Education's guide for parents and carers. Also, your local information, advice and support service will be able to help you. Pages 8-9

## Specialist Educational Provision in Wiltshire

### Nurseries, Schools and Colleges

In Wiltshire, as in most counties, a significant amount of the support and help that is available is through Nurseries, Children's Centres, Schools and Colleges.



In 2014 the Children and Families Bill meant that all schools have to put on their website the support that they offer to children with Special Educational Needs including ASD. You can go on to any schools website to find this. All schools however will have broad training in meeting the needs of children/young people with ASD. They also have funding and access to a range of support services which help them gain extra skills in meeting the needs of children with ASD. The SENco will organise a bespoke curriculum that can happen in the classroom with other children. This may involve special sessions, classes or approaches to support particular needs linked to ASD to ensure that as many children and young people as possible can be educated in mainstream settings.

In Wiltshire we also have a number of Resource Bases (for primary age children), Enhanced Learning Provisions (for Secondary age children) and Special Schools which are for children who have an Education Health and Social Care Plan (EHCP My Plan) or Statement. This means that if your assessment shows that you need an EHCP and your needs cannot be best met in a mainstream Nursery, Children's Centre, School or College you can be considered for a place in a Resource Base/Enhanced Learning Provision or Special School.

### Resource Bases

There are currently six Resource Bases across Wiltshire offering an enhanced education for children and Young People with Communication and Interaction difficulties including needs related to ASD and a further 13 focused on complex SEN which can also include ASD. These Resource Bases are part of mainstream schools and offer a number of places to children and young people in the local area.

Teachers and support staff in these schools will have extra training, qualifications and experience in working with children and young people with ASD. Children will have opportunities to spend significant time in special classes as well as join their peers in mainstream classes.

## Enhanced Learning Provision

Enhanced learning provision is available in all Wiltshire's Secondary Schools. They offer a similar provision to Resource Bases for this older age group. Some young people can access this provision with a My Support Plan rather than an EHCP My Plan. The assessment process will determine if this is a good approach for your young person's education. Wiltshire also have Colleges which can support ASD needs in a similar way to Enhanced Learning Provision. When you are in year 11 your annual review will enable you to think through what opportunities are available to you and how you can access further education and transition into your adult life. If you have only recently had a diagnosis of ASD in years 10, 11 or further on you can still access this support through the assessment processes.

## Post 16 Education

All young people are now expected to be involved in education up to the age of 18. Through the assessment process you can also access support and further education up to the age of 25 through services linked with children and young people. However once you are over 18 you can also start to access support from adult services. There is no longer a solid cut off point between children and adult provision so that you have the right support as you transition into your adult life. As you get older you can choose to have a stronger focus on independent living skills and provision that can equip you for work. Please look at the Preparing for Adulthood section of the local offer for more information.

## Special Schools

Special schools offer education to children with ASD when it is clear that the child or young person needs a full time, comprehensive, long term specialist education. There are 6 special Schools in Wiltshire which support different elements of ASD and other complex Special Educational Needs.

If you live very close to the county border or your needs can not be met in one of the provisions described above you can also consider schools in other counties.



If you go on the Local Offer site <https://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk/> you can find further information about the assessment process, My Plan and My Support Plan and the way Nurseries, Children's Centres, Schools and Colleges can offer support and help. There is also a list of which schools have Resource Bases and the Special Schools in Wiltshire.

## Support in Wiltshire for Autism: School Strategies or 'SWASS'

### Support in Wiltshire for Autism: School Strategies March 2013



"Getting the strategies right"

Wiltshire Council  
What's local and what's on offer?

### Helping your child at school and at home

An extremely helpful Autism-specific resource has been produced by Wiltshire Council as a tool to offer schools strategies for supporting your child/young person in school. Although intended to be a school resource, many, if not most of the strategies **can be used or adapted for home life as well.**

It explains how ASCs can affect the child/young person's learning, communication, social interaction with others, sensory sensitivities, difficulties with change, the effect of environment, obsessions, rituals, and likely hot-spot situations during the day.

It offers a wide range of strategies to help with these, guided by pictures and supported with links to websites with downloadable materials.

The guide states the importance of working closely with parents/carers in order to ensure consistency of approach.

This resource has been sent to all schools in Wiltshire, and your school's SENCO should know about it, and have a copy. It can be helpful to refer to it when discussing your child/young person's My Support Plan or My Plan, and their Individual Education Plan and Reviews.



**The whole guide is downloadable from the Wiltshire Local Offer website**

[www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk)

click on 'Guidance', 'Useful documents' and '3.3 Support in Wiltshire for Autism: School Strategies'

Wiltshire  
Local  
OFFER  
What's local  
and  
What's on offer?

## Legislation and Guidelines

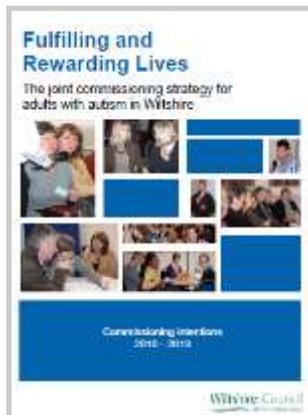
### Autism Act 2009

The Autism Act is an act passed by Parliament of the UK. It makes provision about the needs of Adults with Autism. It is the first ever disability-specific legislation to be passed in the UK.



### Adult Autism Strategy

Following the Act an Autism Strategy for England was published in 2010, called '**Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives**'. This strategy was reviewed and updated in April 2014, and the revised version is called '**Think Autism, Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives**'. It was the law for every Local Authority to respond to the strategy and create their own local versions.



You can find Wiltshire's Autism Strategy at

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/socialcareadults/disabilities/understandautism/autismstrategy](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/socialcareadults/disabilities/understandautism/autismstrategy)

### NICE Quality Standards

In January 2014, NICE produced a Quality Standard to support the above three Clinical Guidelines. Quality Standards describe high-priority areas for quality improvement in a defined care or service area. They draw on existing guidance which provides an underpinning, comprehensive set of recommendations and are designed to support the measurement of improvement.

The Autism Quality Standard is: **QS 51 (2014)**

### How is Wiltshire responding to these?

In Wiltshire there are two main multi-agency groups which meet several times a year to oversee Wiltshire's Autism Strategies and monitor progress against their Implementation Plans. The Adult (over 18) group is the **Wiltshire Autism Partnership Board**, and the group concerned with Children and Young People is the **Autism Multi-Agency Strategy Group**. Both groups have parent/carer representatives attending from WPCC, and the Adult group hosts an Autism Forum of people with ASC which feeds back into the multi-agency meeting.

## **'Fulfilling and rewarding lives: The strategy for adults with autism in England.'**

### **Introduction**

In March 2010, the first ever strategy for improving the lives of adults with autism in England was published. This is called 'Fulfilling and rewarding lives: The strategy for adults with autism in England.'

The strategy sets out a number of key actions and recommendations for central government as well as for local authorities, the NHS and Jobcentre Plus.

There are five key themes in the strategy which the government has decided are the most important:

- Making sure that more people understand about autism.
- Making it easier for adults to get a diagnosis of autism. A diagnosis is when a doctor tells someone that they have autism.
- Making it easier for adults with autism to choose how they live, and get the help that they need to do this.
- Helping adults with autism to find jobs.
- Helping local councils and health services to write plans so that the adults with autism who live in their area get the help that they need.

Find out more details about the strategy or see the easy read version at:  
[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/socialcareadults/disabilities/understandautism/autismstrategy](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/socialcareadults/disabilities/understandautism/autismstrategy).

The strategy is supported by an Implementation Plan which sets out how the strategy will be fulfilled.

### **The Wiltshire Autism Partnership**

To help Wiltshire plan how they are going to make these key priorities happen, a 'Wiltshire Autism Partnership' has been set up which includes members from a range of council services, plus parent/carers and voluntary sector services.

This Partnership has the responsibility for the Strategy and Implementation Plan, for making sure they are carried out and for keeping up to date with all Government guidelines following the passing of the Autism Act in 2009.

## Autism Alert Card

This card is available nationally from the National Autistic Society, and was launched locally in partnership with Wiltshire Police in 2011



### How to access

You need to fill in an application form giving proof of diagnosis or a GP letter before a card can be issued. The form can be obtained from either of the contacts listed below. Proof of a diagnosis can be a copy of any of these documents:

- ⇒ a diagnosis letter
- ⇒ Statement of Special Educational Needs/EHC Plan
- ⇒ Letter from a professional eg Social Worker
- ⇒ Medical report or assessment

### What it does

The Autism Alert Card will ensure that when you need help, the right people are called. It lets the authorities know that you have an Autism Spectrum Condition and enables them to help you in the correct manner.

It is the size of a credit-card so can be carried easily at all times and shown if you find yourself in a situation where you cannot easily give an explanation about the condition.

The card is supported by Wiltshire Police and it will help them and other emergency services to identify that they are dealing with someone who has autism. Often people with autism can become extremely anxious in unexpected or unfamiliar situations. Anyone with autism should have access to the support of an appropriate adult or intermediary when in contact with the police or emergency services.

The card is FREE for the first one, and £1.00 for any replacement cards.

**Website**      Autism Alert Wiltshire  
[www.autismalertwilts.com](http://www.autismalertwilts.com)

**Email**            [info@autismalertwilts.com](mailto:info@autismalertwilts.com)

Or contact the National Autistic Society for further information on 0845 070 4004 or go to [www.nas.org.uk](http://www.nas.org.uk)

## Professionals—who they are and what they do

Depending on your child or young person's needs, here is a list of professionals (in alphabetical order) you may have contact with.



### Community Paediatrician

Specialist children's doctors who have a particular expertise in looking after children with long term health problems which may have an impact on other areas of their life.

### Continence Nurse

A Continence Nurse runs clinics throughout Wiltshire (see page 18) and manages the assessment for, and supply of, incontinence products. The Continence Nurse also trains and works closely with other professionals in the community to help young people achieve some degree of continence. This training is intended to equip community health professionals, like school nurses or health visitors to carry out basic assessments and monitor need.

### Educational Psychologist

Tackle challenges such as learning difficulties, social and emotional problems, issues around disability as well as more complex developmental disorders in children and young people.

### Health Visitor

A trained nurse who visits families with very young children in their own home or at a local surgery, they aim to promote good health and can offer practical help and advice.

### Learning Disability Nurse

Often abbreviated to 'LD' nurse, supports people with learning disabilities and their families to maintain their health and wellbeing and to live their lives as fully and independently as possible.

### Learning Support Teacher

Can work in all educational settings and are employed to ensure that pupils with mild learning difficulties achieve their potential.

### Occupational Therapist

Provides support to people whose health prevents them from doing everyday tasks or prevents them from doing the activities that matter to them.

### Physiotherapist

Helps to restore movement and function when someone is affected by injury, illness or disability.

### **School based Assistants**

Sometimes known as Teaching Assistants who work alongside school/nursery teachers helping pupils get the most out of their learning by supporting individuals or groups within the education setting.

### **SEND Lead Workers**

When a child or young person has significant special educational needs and disabilities the SEND Lead Worker can support and advise the family. They will act as a single point of contact for the child/family keep practitioners focused on the child/family, co-ordinate actions agreed by the practitioners and the family and avoid potential duplication.

### **Social Worker**

Provides advice and support to individuals and their families, assisting them to live more successfully within their local communities by helping them find solutions to their support needs.

### **Special Educational Needs Coordinator**

Often referred to as 'SENCO', are responsible for the day to day implementation of the school's special educational needs policy. The SENCO will co-ordinate additional support for pupils with SEN (special educational needs) and liaise with parents, teachers and other professionals involved with the child.

### **Speech and Language Therapist**

Often referred to as 'SLT or SALT', provide treatment, support and care for children and adults who have difficulties with communication or with eating, drinking and swallowing (excluding sensory and behavioural).



My notes

## Understand Autism Video

The 'Understand Autism Video' is a short DVD in which a group of people of different ages who all live in Wiltshire and have autism speak honestly about what their lives are like and what matters most to them.

**It is available on the main Wiltshire Council website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)**

## Understand Autism



## Wiltshire Libraries

There are 31 libraries and 5 mobile library units across Wiltshire. They hold a good stock of books relating to autism which can be searched online at

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries)

If you are looking for a specific book it is possible to have a copy ordered from another public library anywhere in the country. There is a small charge for this. Also, if the book you want is not available to borrow, provided it was published not more than a year previously and is reasonably priced, you can request that a copy be purchased to go onto the shelves. A central panel decides which books will be bought.

Love  
Reading,  
Love  
Libraries

The leading Autism publisher is Jessica Kingsley publishers, they produce a booklet twice a year listing new titles, older titles, and most popular titles. You can join their mailing list by going online to their website.

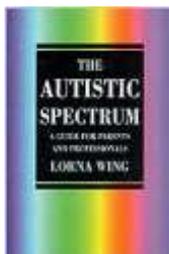
**Website:** [www.jkp.com](http://www.jkp.com)  
**Email** hello@jkp.com  
**Telephone** 0207 833 2307



Jessica Kingsley  
Publishers

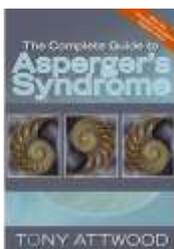
## Books

There are many good books on Autistic Spectrum condition. We have listed below a few recommended titles which give helpful initial information:



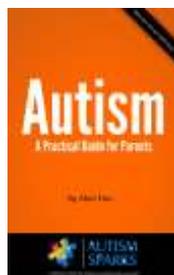
### **The Autistic Spectrum A Guide for Parents and Professionals** (published 2003)

by Lorna Wing



### **The complete guide to Aspergers Syndrome** (published 2008)

by Tony Attwood



### **Autism A practical guide for parents** (published 2012)

by Alan Yau



### **My Child has Autism, Now What?**

by Susan Larson Kidd



My notes

## Websites

[www.nas.org.uk](http://www.nas.org.uk)

Website for the National Autistic Society, has a huge range of information, advice, services and resources. The site is easy to navigate and covers everything from diagnosis, understanding autism spectrum conditions, communication and interaction, and behaviours to strategies for support.



[www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk](http://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk)

National charity for children and young people with ASC



**Ambitious  
about Autism**

[www.tonyattwood.com.au](http://www.tonyattwood.com.au)

A guide for parents, professionals people with Asperger's Syndrome and their partners/families. Also author of numerous books.



[www.learningdisabilities.org.uk](http://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk)

Website of the Foundation for people with learning disabilities – provides information and support.



foundation for  
people with  
learning disabilities

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

Website offering evidence-based information and resources on a wide range of medical and health topics to patients and professionals. Search 'autism' for a comprehensive section containing information and links to further useful websites.



[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

Information on Autistic Spectrum Conditions.

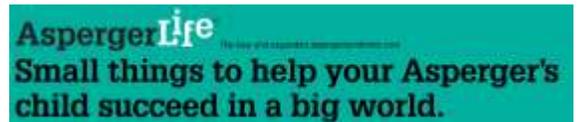


[www.aspergerlife.com](http://www.aspergerlife.com)

Information and resources on Asperger Syndrome

[www.neurodiversity.com](http://www.neurodiversity.com)

Information website about autism and other developmental conditions



## Websites

[www.wrongplanet.net](http://www.wrongplanet.net)

Discussion forum led by people with Asperger Syndrome



[www.asd-forum.org.uk/forum](http://www.asd-forum.org.uk/forum)

Discussion forum led by people with Asperger Syndrome



[www.aspievillage.org.uk](http://www.aspievillage.org.uk)

Discussion forum led by people with Asperger Syndrome



[www.aspergernauts.co.uk](http://www.aspergernauts.co.uk)

Website and forum written by a person with Asperger's syndrome giving information to parents/carers, professionals and to share with others with AS.



[www.autisticeye.co.uk](http://www.autisticeye.co.uk)

Website offering people on the Autistic spectrum to sell their artwork and share their creativity in a positive way.



[www.theautismdirectory.com](http://www.theautismdirectory.com)

A useful directory of national information, resources and services, with some local organisations listed as well. The site also has an online community sharing information and experiences.



[www.do2learn.com](http://www.do2learn.com)

Provides thousands of free pages with social skills and behaviour regulation activities and guidance, learning songs and games, communication cards and academic material.



## Need further help?

If you have read this pack and still feel unsure what to do next, please ask for help from your nursery, school, Children's Centre or college.

If your child isn't yet attending nursery, you are new to the county, your child or young person is educated at home or has finished school or college, you can contact



### Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Service

Telephone 01225 757985

[www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk)

**Wiltshire Council**  
Where everybody matters

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of information at the time of going to print, should you have **difficulty making contact with any of the services** listed, please get in touch with the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council who will be happy to help you.



Telephone 01225 764 647 | Email [admin@wiltspcc.co.uk](mailto:admin@wiltspcc.co.uk)  
[www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk](http://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk)

# Thank You

To all the parents and carers who participated in and contributed to the consultations on *'Better Support for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions'* (2012)

The invaluable feedback you shared about your own experiences influenced the development of this information pack and has enabled some services to improve the support they are able to offer your families and those who will follow in your footsteps