



Newsletter

Welcome to the June/July issue of Surrey News

In this issue:

Calendar of local meetings, talks, activities and events - pages 6 & 7

- Redhill Talk on Sleeping, Eating and Toileting – p3
- NAS Surrey Branch AGM and Talk on national 'TMI' Campaign in Woking – p3
- Places still available at Women & Girls information day in Leatherhead – p3
- A roundup of Summer holiday playschemes – p7
- Meeting report on the talk on changes to Surrey CAMHS - p9
- SEND2020 plan update – p10

News for Adults – p11 & 12

- Interested in a support group for spouses and partners of people with ASD? – p11
- Ambitious About Autism employment campaign – p 11

Sara Truman and I spent a Saturday in May at the NAS Branches Conference in London where we learned more about the new NAS '**Too Much Information**' Campaign, which was launched in April.

With awareness of autism now at an all-time high, the NAS is focusing its campaigning efforts on helping to improve the understanding of what it is like to have or live with autism.

The first part of the campaign is focused on the experiences of families who have children with an ASD. If you haven't already seen it, it is worth watching the film https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lr4_dOorquQ which shows what it is like when people judge the behaviour of a child or children on the spectrum. It's had 55million views so far, so hopefully the message is getting out there! There is also a campaign called **#JudgeyFace** running on Twitter, which is a light-hearted way of raising awareness of the misery of being judged for autistic 'behaviours'.

Our AGM on 13th July is around the theme of the campaign – see p3 for more details.

The next phase of the campaign will focus on the experiences of adults with autism – we will carry more information on this once it's available.

You'll have noticed that the layout of the newsletter has changed to single column as most copies are now read on-screen and people have told us it is easier for scrolling.

Emma

Emma Whitfield
Chair (volunteer)

NAS Surrey Branch

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General Email: info@nassurreybranch.org

Web site: www.nassurreybranch.org

Twitter: [@NASSurreyBranch](https://twitter.com/NASSurreyBranch)

Donations: www.justgiving.com/nassurreybranch

NAS Surrey Branch Contacts

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racheldpearson@gmail.com

Fundraising

Sarah Mason 07973 379131
slmason78@gmail.com

Fathers' Group:

Martin Trenaman 01737 360069
trenamans@talktalk.net

Parents of Adults' Group

Hilary Dyce 01276 66032
hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk

Other Useful Contacts

Unless clearly stated, organisations are not endorsed by NAS Surrey Branch or the NAS.

NAS web site: www.autism.org.uk

NAS Helpline: Tel: 0808 800 4104 (10am – 4pm), or email autismhelpline@nas.org.uk (replies within 14 working days)

NAS Parent-to-Parent line 0808 800 4106

NAS national membership: 020 7903 3563
Email membership@nas.org.uk

Education Support

NAS Education Rights: 0808 800 4102

SSIASS Parent Support: 01737 737300

<http://www.surreyparentpartnership.org.uk/>

SOS!SEN charity to support statementing, tel: 020 8538 3731, Web: www.sossen.org.uk

Family Support & Representation

NAS Family Support worker Surrey

Tessa Emery Tessa.emery@nas.org.uk

Tel: 01483 521 744 M: 07436 261 163

Portage – support for children with additional needs under 3.5 years 0300 200 1004

Family Voice Surrey parent representation
www.familyvoicesurrey.org

Local parent programmes

Early Bird (parents of under 5s) / **Cygnnet**

(parents of children aged 5 – 18). Vicky Jones
training@linden-bridge.surrey.sch.uk Tel:

07747 595 155

Redhill CAMHS group for parents of children with ASDs, tel: 01737-287002

Activities for children and young people

NAS Resource Centre, Godalming Tel: 01483 521743

SEResourceCentres@nas.org.uk

interAKtive, Epsom-based charity for children with ASDs and other communication difficulties 07876 762178,

www.interaktive.org.uk

Adult Services

Surrey Adult social svcs: 0300 200 1005

NAS Surrey Service Tel: 01483 861600, email: surrey.service@nas.org.uk

Employment Support

Employability for people with disabilities including ASDs tel: 01483-806806, email: employability@surreychoices.com

Benefits advice

Carers Support <https://www.carers.org/>

NAS Tips page – via www.autism.org.uk

Cerebra DLA guide: 0800 328 1159

Redhill talk on Eating, Sleeping and Toileting

Our talk in Redhill on 15th June is on eating, sleeping and issues around toilet training or toileting. The speakers are Jill Goulding, speech & language therapist and Jo Davis, an OT. They will take parents' questions and offer ideas for strategies to help children. If you can't make it along on the night, email emma@mugsy.org with 'Redhill Meeting' in the title with a question you'd like answered and we will report the answers in the August newsletter.

The meeting is at 7.45 for 8.00pm at the PNL Centre, St Joseph's Church, Ladbroke Road, Redhill RH1 1LF.

Talk on the NAS 'Too Much Information' Campaign - with Virtual Reality!

Our talk in Woking on 13th July will be by Tom Madders, Head of Campaigns and Community Engagement, from the NAS who will be talking about the 'Too Much Information' campaign and giving us a chance to try out the new virtual reality film that aims to help people who aren't on the spectrum to understand what being a child with autism feels like. We will be the first NAS branch in the country to have a go with this! Given that the whole point of the TMI campaign is to improve understanding, we are inviting people to bring along someone whom they would like to understand more about autism. This will be an informal evening with a chance to chat to other members as well as hopefully learning something new. The meeting will start with the NAS Surrey Branch AGM, but this only takes around 10 minutes. Start time is 7.30 for 8.00pm at Christ Church, (please enter via the night entrance at the back of the church), Church Street East, GU21 6HJ. Please email emma@mugsy.org if you are planning on coming along to give us an idea of numbers.

Emma Whitfield is standing for re-election as Branch Chair and Haywood Drake is standing for re-election as Branch Treasurer. If you would like to put your name forward for either of these roles, please email Sara Truman at nas@mugsy.org

Women and girls with ASD info day booking now open

We still have some places left for our information day on women and girls with ASDs on Saturday 1st October from 10.00am – 4.30pm at Leatherhead Leisure Centre.

Headline speakers are **Sarah Hendrickx**, who has Aspergers and will talk about developing social relationships, and **Dr Louise Connor**, Independent Chartered Consultant Clinical Psychologist, on diagnostic assessment for women & girls.

There will be workshops in the afternoon led by experts including **Bettina Stott**, manager of the NAS ASSIST service, on strategies and support for adult life, and **Sarah Wild**, Head teacher of Limpsfield Grange School, on educating girls with autism. We will also hear from other people who have autism, including **Marianne Scallon**, co-chair of Surrey's Autism Partnership Board. Lastly, there will be an open forum when those attending can ask questions on any topic that concerns them.

Parents/carers/people with autism: £30
Professionals (including care staff): £60
Prices include lunch and refreshments.

You can book online here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/women-and-girls-with-autism-tickets-22504324039> For more information contact Sara Truman at conference@mugsy.org tel: 07989 315609.

New NAS Surrey Branch Postal Library Service

We are delighted to announce that member Susan Salters has very kindly offered to run a postal library service for NAS Surrey Branch members, so we will not now have to close down our libraries and sell off our books as we had expected.

In early July, we will publish a list of the books from the merged East and West Surrey libraries on our website. There will be a specific list of books suitable for children.

In order to borrow a book/books, you will need to email Susan to request up to two books of your choice to be posted to you. We will ask for a donation of at least the cost of posting the books to you and the return postage via our Justgiving page www.justgiving.com/nassurreybranch. Once we have received your donation the book will be sent out to you and you can keep it for up to 6 weeks.

To return the book, you will just need to put it into the jiffy bag it arrived in and then into the pre-addressed plastic postal wrapper supplied which will already have the appropriate amount of postage. You can then just pop it into a postbox.

We will need to charge for any books that are not returned.

Autumn Cygnet Parent Programme

We know that there are long waiting lists for the Cygnet parent programme for families, provided by Linden Bridge School. Cygnet is a free, two-day programme designed for parents/ carers of children & young people aged 5 -18 with an autistic spectrum condition and is designed to help parents to:

- Increase their understanding of autistic spectrum conditions
- Develop their knowledge of how a child on the autistic spectrum experiences the world and what drives their behaviour
- Learn about practical strategies to use with children
- Find out about relevant ASD resources
- Meet with others to gain support and learn from each other.

Topics covered include autism & diagnosis; communication; sensory issues; understanding behaviour and managing behavior.

Whenever money and time permit, the NAS Surrey Branch hosts a course using experienced Cygnet trainer Liz Waters. Our July programme is full, but we will run another one in September or early October.

If you would like to attend a Cygnet programme, please let us know where in Surrey would be most convenient and we will aim to choose a location that suits the majority of people. Please email Sarah Mead Sarah_mead@hotmail.com with 'Cygnet', plus the town that would suit you, in the subject line.

Weybridge Pub Social 30th June

Our next pub social at the Oatlands Chaser, Oatlands Chase in Weybridge will be from 8.00pm on Thursday 30th June. This is a lovely informal meeting and is ideal for people who can't make it to daytime support groups. If you need more details or want to be added to the email list for future events, please email Fi Phippen

If you would like to organise a pub meeting in your area, please email emma@mugsy.org and we will be happy to publicise it in our network.

THANK YOUs!

We have had some fantastic donations lately – our thanks go to:

The Pusey family and everyone from St Mark's Westfield who contributed to the World Autism Awareness Day Fundraiser to raise £149.97 for the NAS Surrey Branch. Branch volunteer Sarah Mason and her son Connor went along to represent the branch and met the Mayor of Woking.

Hayley Willoughby and friends who raised £550 from a Onesie Wednesday Funday for autism awareness week in Walton-on-Thames.

Don't forget, there are several ways you can raise money for the branch WITHOUT IT COSTING YOU A PENNY. We receive no external funding, so we rely on donations from members and supporters to deliver our talks, meetings and activities.

Easyfundraising - if you shop online, you can donate to the branch at no cost to yourself if you shop via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nassurrey> You can use it to shop from 2,700 retailers including Amazon, Expedia, Asda, Argos, John Lewis, eBay, Viking and Next.

Waitrose – please nominate us as charity of the month in your local branch. All you need is the charity name and the registered charity number 269425.

Sainsbury's - please consider nominating the NAS Surrey Branch as your store or depot's charity of the year.

Raising money at Molesey Carnival

A new service in East Molesey for people with learning disabilities and/or Autism called MyLife Supported Living, is running a stall the Molesey Carnival on Sunday 5th June, to raise money for the NAS Surrey Branch. Please do support them if you are going to the Carnival.

Surrey Local Offer

Surrey County Council has re-launched its 'Local Offer', the web portal designed to help families find out about what is available for children and young people with SEN or a disability <https://www.surreysendlo.co.uk/kb5/surrey/localoffer/home.page>.

There are still a few errors and omissions (including our listing which is hopefully now being corrected!), so you can help improve it by reporting errors using the 'Is this information correct' button. There is also a Facebook page for its Special Educational Needs and Disability department, SEND2020. You can view it here <https://www.facebook.com/SEND2020>.

Autism Show Tickets on Sale

The Autism Show is taking place in London on 17 - 18th June at Excel in London. If you book early, you get 20% off your ticket compared with buying a ticket on the door.

Speakers include John Bercow MP; Carol Povey, Director for the Centre for Autism at the NAS; Barry Sheerman MP; Micro-sculptor Willard Wigan MBE and Sarah Wild, Head of Limpsfield Grange.

To book go to www.autismshow.co.uk/

NAS SURREY BRANCH CALENDAR JUNE - AUGUST 2016

NAS Surrey Branch support groups, talks, parent programmes and activities are great places to meet other parents and get support - please contact the relevant parent-volunteer for details.

The events shown in BLUE aren't organised by us: please contact the organisers direct.

JUNE

Wed 1st, 7.30pm Camberley Parents of Adults Group
Contact Hilary Dyce 01276 66032 Hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk

Mon 6th, 7.30pm Woking Parents of Girls Group
Contact Jo Dilworth jo.dilworth@googlemail.com

Fri 10th, 10.00am Guildford Support Group
Contact Sara Truman nas@mugsy.org 01483 822 630

Mon 13th, 9.15am Frensham Support Group, The Holly Bush, Frensham Village
Contact Christine Malik christinemalik@btinternet.com or Bonnie Noyce jbnoyce@yahoo.com

Wed 15th, 10.00am, Woking Support Group, Wyevale Garden Centre, Egley Rd
Contact Sarah Norris sarah4ian@ntlworld.com 07543 920917

TALK Wed 15th, 7.45 for 8.0pm. PNL Centre, 122 Ladbroke Road, Redhill RH1 1LF
SLT Jill Goulding and OT Jo Davis on sleeping, eating, and toileting
Contact emma@mugsy.org

Fri 17th 2.00 – 3.15 pm Hinchley Wood Support Group, Hinchley Wood Primary School, Claygate Lane. Contact Juliette Sturge juliettesturge@gmail.com

Fri 17th, 10.00 – 11.30am Ewhurst Support Group
Contact Lucy on lucy@lucytosh.co.uk

Fri 17th, 9.15 – 11.15am Chertsey Support Group, St Anne's School, Free Prae Rd
Contact Emma Whitfield emma@mugsy.org

Sun 19th, 2.00pm. Malden & District Society of Model Engineers – FREE open day for families that include children with SEN or disabilities with ride-on model trains . For details go to <http://malden-dsme.co.uk/public/index.asp> or contact Peter Pullen pjpullen@talktalk.net tel: 020 7783 9174.

Mon 20th, 10.00am – 4pm Woking. Freemantles Conference on Pathological Demand Avoidance. NAS Surrey Branch is exhibiting. To sign up, go to <http://www.freemantles.surrey.sch.uk/Training/conference-20-6-16-pda/>

Wed 22nd, 7.00pm Rodborough Cullum Centre Support Group
Contact Sue Briggs, home-school link worker sue.briggs@hotmail.co.uk 01483 411100 x185

Thurs 23rd, 10.00 – 11.30am Woking Parents of Girls Group
Contact Rachel racheldpearson@gmail.com

Thurs 30th, 10.00am – 12 Redhill Support Group
Contact Helen Ruffhead h.ruffhead@ntlworld.com 01737 212 043

Thurs 30th, 7.30pm Reigate Parents of Adults Group

Contact Sara Truman nas@mugsy.org 01483 822 630

Thurs 30th, 8.00 pm Weybridge & Walton Pub Social, Otlands Chaser, Weybridge

Contact Fi Phippen f.phippen@talktalk.net 07964125558

JULY

Tues 5th, 7.00 pm Guildford Parents of Girls Group

Contact Lisa Ryder lisa.j.ryder@btinternet.com

Wed 6th, 10 – 11.30am, Woking Support Group, Wyevale Garden Centre, Egley Rd

Contact Sarah Norris sarah4ian@ntlworld.com 07543 920917

Thurs 7th, 7.00pm Guildford Parents of Adults Group

Contact Sara Truman nas@mugsy.org 01483 822 630

Fri 8th, 8.00pm Dad's Support Group, The Watermill, Dorking

Contact Martin Trenaman trenamans@talktalk.net

Fri 8th, 10.00am Guildford Support Group

Contact Sara Truman nas@mugsy.org 01483 822 630

Mon 11th, 9.15am Frensham Support Group, The Holly Bush, Frensham

Contact Christine Malik christinemalik@btinternet.com or Bonnie

Noyce jbnoyce@yahoo.com

TALK AND NAS SURREY BRANCH AGM

Weds 13th 7.30 for 8.00pm, Christ Church (night entrance), Church Street East, GU21 6HJ. Tom Pullen from the NAS on the Too Much Information campaign. Please email emma@mugsy.org

AUGUST

Wed 3rd Aug, 7.30 Weybridge Parents of Adults Group

Contact Hilary Dyce on 01276 66032 Hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk

Summer Holiday Play Schemes

We have heard about a number of Play Schemes for younger children with SEND:

White Lodge Specialist Play Schemes for children aged 4 – 19 with additional needs

Booking via White Lodge, Chertsey 01932 567131

<http://www.whitelodgecentre.co.uk/children-young-peoples-services/out-of-school-activities>

Disability Challengers Play schemes for ages 4 – 12 or 13 – 18.

<http://www.disability-challengers.org/playschemes>

Woodlands School **Leatherhead** or Challengers main centre Guildford

Places for these go extremely quickly. If you would like to make bookings, please visit the [Challengers Booking Website](#) or call **01483 230 939**.

NAS Clubs – children or young people who have attended at least half a term at the NAS after-school or youth clubs can apply for places on their holiday activities. For more details contact Helen Dunkley Helen.dunkley@nas.org.uk

Redhill 'Yippee' schemes at the YMCA playscheme for children aged 5-11 with a wide range of disabilities and complex needs

<http://www.ymcaeastssurrey.org.uk/disability-services/>

ASD-friendly Playgroup

Positive Autism Support and Training (PAST) is running a new drop-in ADHD/ASD-friendly playgroup in Weybridge from 1.30 – 2.45pm at the Weybridge Children's Centre, The Churchfield Pavilion, Churchfield Road, Weybridge KT13 8DB. The sessions are free of charge. For more details contact Leanne Alanso, Family Support Manager at PAST. Tel: 07969 555947 Email: leanne4past@gmail.com

Barnardo's 'Moving Forward' Activities

Barnardo's runs a range of 'Moving forward' activities for 12 - 18 year olds with learning difficulties or a disability during the summer holidays. Activities include Travel Training, a summer meal, a summer stayover (for guys or girls) a visit to a farm to learn about 'farm to fork' and a 'Big Cook' afternoon tea. Contact Barnardos direct for details at moving.forward@barnardos.org.uk

Autism Hero Awards

Anna Kennedy Online is running the 'Autism Heroes' awards designed to recognise the achievements of people with ASDs and those who help or support them. There are ten categories including:

- The Extra Mile Award - for an individual who goes that extra mile to help a child/young person with Autism in an education setting such as Teacher, Teaching Assistants/Learning Support Assistants, Nursery Nurses, SENco/ALNcos, Head Teachers or Lunch Time Supervisors
- People's Autism Hero - for an individual who works tirelessly in a voluntary role to raise Autism Awareness here in UK and who Campaigns for changes in Autism Services. This Award is for an individual who goes above and beyond their profession to help people with Autism and their families. This must be significantly more than the requirements of their post.
- Sibling of the Year Award - for a brother or a sister who constantly supports their Sibling with Autism in everyday life.
- Parent/Carer - for a parent or carer that has exceeded expectations, please provide an example(s) of what and how the nominee has accomplished.
- The Outstanding Personal Achievement Award in Sport - for a child or adult with Autism that has exceeded expectations in sporting achievements.
- Business award – for Autism friendly companies
- Autism Professionals Awards - this award will recognise and reward services and professionals who are leading the way in groundbreaking autism practice and commitment in making a huge difference to families and individuals. This will acknowledge the outstanding contributions and achievements of individuals, teams and organisations which have demonstrated excellence, dedication and commitment to improving the lives of families and those on the spectrum.

Nominations close on 7th June <http://autismheroawards.com/nomination-form-1/>

Research into Mothers of Children with ASDs

Two researchers from the University of Birmingham and University College London are undertaking a research project to further understanding of behavioural and emotional traits in mothers of children with an ASD and how these might impact on experiences of caring for a child with a neurodevelopmental disorder. Dr. Jo Moss and Dr. Sarah White are inviting mothers who are under 50 and who have children with autism to complete an online questionnaire <http://tinyurl.com/jjpfre6> (password **cerebra**).

If you have any questions about the research, contact 020 7679 1148 or email j.f.moss@bham.ac.uk or s.white@ucl.ac.uk. Following the link does not obligate you to take part.

MEETING REPORT

Guildford, May 18th Dr Phil Ferreira-Lay, Mindsight Surrey CAMHS

Mindsight Surrey CAMHS is the name for the new county-wide CAMHS service, which came into being on April 1st; this has been made possible by a 30% increase in funding from the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Surrey County Council.

At the Branch meeting we heard a detailed explanation of the service from Dr. Phil Ferreira-Lay, lead consultant child psychiatrist, with responsibility for its implementation within the Surrey and Borders Partnership (SABP).

After a brief overview, Phil focussed his talk on how the changes will improve provision for families with a child or young person on the autistic spectrum. He began by explaining that his aim was to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, and to make sure that there are as few gaps as possible between CAMHS and other services. He told us that SABP is committed to treating people holistically and to see families as part of the community. The child with autism is at the centre of the service, which is layered like an onion, with early detection and prevention being the key to avoiding crisis care.

Dr Ferreira-Lay then outlined the main differences in the new service:

- **Single Point of Access** - a one-stop phone number that can be accessed for referrals from schools, youth clubs, voluntary and faith organisations as well as GPs and social services. Parents and carers can use this line for information, advice and guidance.
- **No 'wrong door'**: every child referred will now be offered assessment, including those who have previously used the service. Clinic scheduling, with extended hours, has been enhanced to improve efficiency and cut waiting times. This has been enabled by new technology and 28 extra staff being employed at all levels.
- **Targeted services** have been expanded, with a managed model of care and monitoring of outcomes. There will also be enhanced access to counselling for children and young people both online and in the community.
- A brand new **Behavioural, Emotional and Neurodevelopmental pathway** for 6 to 18 year olds with autism, ADHD and conduct disorder. At present there is unequal provision across the county, but Dr Ferreira-Lay said his aim is to ensure these are ironed out in 3 to 5 years, with one provider to oversee the pathway.

Questions from the audience led to discussions about accessing CAMHS after a private diagnosis (which many families have had to do); concerns whether the new service could cope with the huge numbers of new families likely to access it; difficulties with getting GPs to refer; how the transition to adult services would be managed.

Dr Ferreira-Lay dealt with these issues frankly but reassuringly. He told us that sometimes privately-diagnosed children might need re-assessment, although this isn't ideal. He admitted that coping with a big influx was going to be a challenge – for example he has not been able to recruit any Speech and language or Occupational therapists so there is a Family Therapist in post for the moment. He emphasised that he is committed to doing the best for families and to reduce waiting lists.

Referral issues

He advised parents whose GPs have refused to believe them or to refer children to change their doctor or even move practices. He added that a new leaflet for professionals to give to carers is about to be distributed, and acknowledged the importance of making all other services aware that Mindsight is now up and running. You can download the leaflet here <http://www.sabp.nhs.uk/services/mental-health/young-people/camhs-mental-health-services/about/camhs-leaflet>

Transition to adult mental health services

Regarding transition to adult mental health services, Dr Ferreira-Lay said that the aim is to alert them at least 6 months ahead of the young person reaching 18, but that CAMHS is committed to keep them on their caseload until they are offered an appointment. However he acknowledged that many young people with autism or ADHD do not meet the criteria for the Community Mental Health Recovery Service (CMHRS), and that the adult diagnostic service does not offer therapy beyond diagnosis, unless there are other mental health conditions present.

The single point of access phone number is 0300 222 5755 – please note, only professionals such as a GP, teacher, social worker or similar can make a referral. Lines are open from 8.0 am to 8.0 pm Mondays to Fridays and from 9.0 am to 12.0 on Saturdays.

You can view a copy of Phil Ferreira-Lay's slides from the meetings page on our web site <http://www.nassurreybranch.org/nas-surrey-meetings.html>

SEN2020 Update

SEND2020 is Surrey's programme to transform delivery of services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). Liz Mills, SEND Strategic Programme Lead for Surrey County Council published an update on the plan in late May which says,

"We are now in a new phase, where we have started to develop a more joined-up system and effective range of services for customers. Although children, young people and their families are not customers in the traditional sense, we think the ethos of good customer service should apply to the way we work together.

"We still have work to do around the following:

- *Our children receiving SEN support do not achieve as highly as other areas of the country, and we must improve outcomes for them;*
- *Families often find the process confusing and challenging and don't feel the current system is person-centered;*
- *Families value relationships, consistency, clarity and compassion. When this is in place they have a much more positive experience, but when it isn't then families feel frustrated;*
- *We must embed a more integrated system;*
- *Our spending on SEND transport, school provision and support is not sustainable as it is, and we must work with partners and families to develop services in ways that don't have an unfair impact on families.*

"If you are interested in getting involved in the programme and any of the areas mentioned then please do get in touch at: send2020@surreycc.gov.uk"

There is also a Facebook page for its Special Educational Needs and Disability department, SEND2020. You can view it here <https://www.facebook.com/SEND2020>

News and Information for Adults

New Spouses/Partners group?

We would like to hear from any wives, husbands or partners of people on the autism spectrum who would be interested in a support group just for them.

As members will know, NAS Surrey Branch volunteers already run informal support groups around Surrey, some open to anyone interested and others targeting specific groups such as Parents of Adults, Parents of Girls, and Fathers of people with autism. If there is enough interest, a Spouses & Partners group will be set up too.

Details such as where and when the group would meet will be decided to suit the majority of those interested in taking part. For more information please email Sara Truman at nas@mugsy.org or call her on 01483 822630.

Aldershot Social Group

Autism Hampshire have set up a new social group for adults with Aspergers or high functioning autism. It meets fortnightly on Monday afternoons at the Aldershot Wellbeing Centre, with the next date being Monday 6th June. For more details contact Jamie Pratt on 02380 633951 email: Jamie.pratt@autismhampshire.org.uk

Ambitious About Autism Employment Campaign

In the last newsletter we informed readers about the NAS survey on people's experience of trying to get employment, in preparation for a campaign they are running in the autumn.

The charity Ambitious about Autism are also campaigning about the difficulties young people have getting into employment when they leave school, and they would like to hear from young people leaving education, or their parents, about whether they have had the right careers advice or preparation for working. To find out more and give them your views, go to <https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/employ-autism>

At time of going to press, there were a few places available on the Employment Works for Autism supported employment project for those claiming out of work benefits.

See our news page for details <http://www.nassurreybranch.org/news-and-events.html> or contact Surrey Choices EmployAbility tel: 01483 806806 email employability@surreychoices.com to check availability.

Research Volunteers Needed

We have heard about two pieces of research which require people with ASDs to participate:

- **Newcastle University** is running a research project funded by the charity Autistica looking at the life experiences of adults with autism and their relatives/carers. For details go to: <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/adultautismspectrum/> or call 0191 282 1380.
- **The University of Portsmouth's Autism Centre for Employment** is researching two different ways of assessing the profiles of adults with autism looking for work, using online questionnaires. They are looking for adults with autism who are in work or about to start a new job to help with the research. For more information email: ACE@port.ac.uk

NAS Supported Living Fundraiser

The staff at the NAS Adult Services in Godalming are holding a fundraiser to raise money to convert a garage at the NAS supported living facility in Godalming into a gym for use by residents. The fundraiser will take place on the 9th July from 2.00 – 6.00pm at the Wilfred Noyce Centre in Godalming. There will be stalls, singing and performances as well as information about the TMI campaign and local community stands.

Westminster Commission on Autism Campaign

Following the publication of recent studies, The Westminster Commission on Autism is launching a campaign to call for improved access to healthcare for all autistic people.

The Westminster Commission on Autism is a coalition of Parliamentarians, autistic people, parents/carers, charities, academics and experts. Members include Dr Carole Buckley (Autism Champion at the Royal College of General Practitioners), Rt Hon Cheryl Gillan (Chair of the Autism APPG), the National Autistic Society, Autism Alliance, Autistica, Research Autism, Hesley Group, Autism Plus, The Giving Tree Foundation, The Shirley Foundation, Centre for Research in Autism and Education and more. It has been supported by the National Children's Group, part of the National Children's Centre.

If you would like more information, please contact Emily Christou at the National Children's Centre emily.christou@nccuk.org.uk

About the NAS Surrey Branch

The Surrey Branch of the NAS is a volunteer-run parent-to-parent support group for families in Surrey affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders. It's FREE to join (although a small donation is appreciated) and we have around 1,500 members. The branch holds regular meetings and organises social events, local coffee mornings and special interest groups, and represents parents in meetings with health, education and social services. We host an active Yahoo! online forum, and produce this newsletter every two months. To join, go to www.nassurreybranch.org or email emma@mugsy.org for a membership form.

If you are a member of the NAS at national level, you can nominate us as your branch by emailing supportercare@nas.org.uk which means we receive a percentage of your annual subscription.

*We're part of **The National Autistic Society**, a national charity founded by parents in 1962 which runs a wide range of services such as schools, clubs and adult centres. It has over 20,000 members, 100 branches and works in partnership with more than 50 local autism societies. The NAS exists to champion the rights and interests of all people with autistic spectrum disorders and to ensure that they and their families receive quality services appropriate to their needs. **National Autistic Society, 393 City Rd, London EC1V 1NG www.autism.org.uk. The National Autistic Society is a registered charity, number 269425. Company limited by guarantee number 1205298.***

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