

ARCH

Autism Resources Coordination Hub



Moving on from Transacting to Transforming

**South Lanarkshire's Five Year Local Autism Action Plan
2018-2023
Easy Read Version**

What is Autism?



- Autistic people are born with autism, which means their brains are connected in a different way from typical people or non-autistic people
- Autistic people are just different in the way their brain takes information in and makes sense of this information

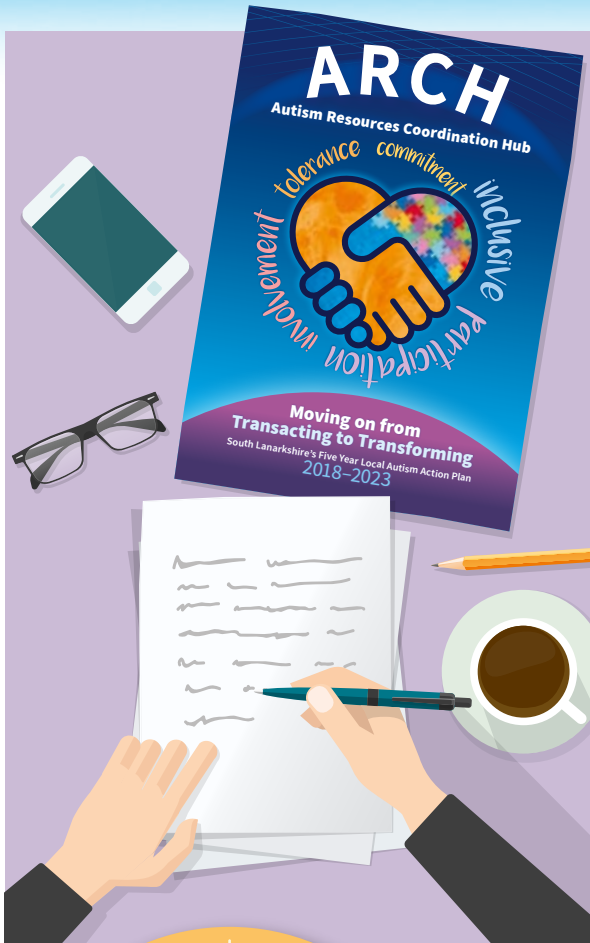


- Autism means you have things you are good at and other things you find difficult, just like everyone else
- It is important to remember that autistic people are individuals. This means everyone is different and some might need more support than others



- South Lanarkshire wanted to make sure we were listening to our autism community and improve support for all our autistic people no matter what their age
- We set up ARCH (the autism hub) in 2016 and asked our staff there to design some questions to ask the autism community what services and supports it needed
- After receiving replies to these questions, ARCH staff then went out to local areas within South Lanarkshire and asked local groups what they needed
- These areas were:
 - Cambuslang / Rutherglen
 - Clydesdale
 - East Kilbride / Strathaven
 - Hamilton / Blantyre / Larkhall





- A report was written about the things people with autism and their families told us
- The answers we received were then made into our big action plan which is called **The Local Autism Action Plan 2018-2023**. We will work on the things your community told us they needed over the next 5 years
- The Autism Plan has **15 things** it will make happen over the next five years. These are called '**Key Priorities**', meaning the most important things we heard about that need done
- These were the most important ideas about how to make things better for autistic people in South Lanarkshire in the future



- The 15 most important things individuals with autism and their families told us were:
 1. Getting told as soon as possible by health or other professionals if you are autistic no matter what age you are.
 2. Having services that ask you what you need and do not wait until you ask them for support.
 3. Making sure you are kept informed at all stages during the process when you are being told you might have autism.
 4. Having staff to support autistic people into jobs or training and helping them stay in these jobs or courses.





5. Making sure autistic people have contact with staff who can help them get what they need.
6. Autistic people given the chance to develop skills which help them better understand and get on with people in school, work or the community.
7. Autistic people offered advice and support during moves in their lives, like between schools or on to their adult life.
8. Making sure that everyone knows what best practices are to help autistic people make moves or changes in their lives.

15 important things...



easily understood information



working together



9. The important people in an autistic person's life talking to one another and making sure they are working together to make things better.
10. Providing more easily understood information about autism.
11. Letting anyone who wants to understand autism a bit better have a chance to learn about it.
12. Finding ways for autistic people and their families or carers to work together with the whole community to make it more autism friendly.





- 13.** Helping people training to become teachers to know more about autism before they start working in schools.
- 14.** Staff members who understand autism being available to talk to staff members who don't know as much about it.
- 15.** Encouraging staff in all organisations to meet together to learn more about autism from one another as well as from autistic people themselves.

Our Vision

This is the plan which we will focus on over the next five years. By keeping to this plan, we will be able to show that the views of our autism community have been listened to.

Vision

“

We want to make sure that all South Lanarkshire autistic people no matter what their age and their families are included in decisions about what kinds of supports and services they receive. Because they will have a say, the supports and services provided in the future will be more relevant to their needs.

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If you need this information in another language or format,
please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 0303 123 1015

Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk



*Working together to improve health and wellbeing
in the community – with the community*