



AIM NEWS

Winter 2017/18 | Leeds Autism AIM's official newsletter
A FREE service for autistic adults in Leeds with little/no support

2018 AUTISM EVENT DATE SET

• #BiggerAndBetterInLeeds to happen in late March

An annual event held to mark World Autism Awareness Day will be returning to Leeds city centre next year. #BiggerAndBetterInLeeds, an event where many local autism charities and services provide info and speakers give talks, will be held on **Tuesday 27th March**.

The event will see over 20 different services hold stalls, including Leeds Autism AIM, Leeds Autism Services, Specialist Autism Services and Leeds ABC.

Over the next few months, details about who will be speaking will be released, whilst there will be news about catering, parking and the final list of stall holders.



The event will run from **9:30am to 3pm** and, as was the case at previous events, it will be completely free to attend. It is open to autistic people and their parents, carers and partners in the Leeds area. The

event will be supported by Leeds Autism AIM volunteers on the day. For more information and news about the event, why not have a look at the event's official website, which is at biggerandbetterinleeds.org,



Volunteer mentor training confirmed for early 2018

Leeds Autism AIM have had an increasingly high demand for our volunteer autism mentors and so will be training a new group of mentors early in the new year.

The training sessions will be mainly run over two Saturday sessions, one covering autism awareness and the other covering the mentoring role, on **27th January** and **10th February** from **9:30am to 4pm**, plus one additional evening. They are free to attend and will be held at Cafe Leep, next to the Advonet offices off Roundhay Road.

The mentor's role is to work together

with the autistic adult they are matched to in order to overcome obstacles to achieving their goals. Mentors and mentees meet regularly, usually for one to two hours weekly or fortnightly.

We welcome applications from both autistic and non-autistic volunteers. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a volunteer mentor or attending the upcoming training, please send us an email at leedsautismaim@advonet.org.uk or phone us on **0113 244 0606** and ask for either the autism volunteer coordinator, Owen Walker, or Wendy.

AIM training activities

Leeds Autism AIM have continued to work with many agencies in the last year, giving training, support and information on helping to improve access for autistic adults. This included providing recent training for the LTHT's Hospital Champions and Voluntary Action Leeds (VAL). In February, we will be running an afternoon session as part of an autism training event run by the British Association of Cognitive and Behavioral Therapists.

It will be led by autistic academic Gill Loomes, together with AIM staff and volunteers.

First visit to the Hub?

Due to increasingly high use of our Tuesday drop-in (recently averaging 35 people each session), we would like to request that any people who have not visited the service before contact us first to make sure we can give enough time and support to you on your first visit. The contact details are on the other side of the newsletter.



Leeds Autism AIM is part of Advonet, a charity which provides a range of independent advocacy services throughout Leeds. Find out more at advonet.org.uk

LEEDS AUTISM AIM NEWS

ASPIEDENT IN PUDSEY

Aspiedent will no longer have their fortnightly employment sessions at the Lovell Autism Hub after February. However, they will continue to run their fortnightly sessions in Pudsey on Thursday afternoons.

These sessions are for booked appointments only and take place from **5pm to 6:30pm** at the Pudsey Wellbeing Centre.

To book a place, please email Jen at j.blacow@aspiedent.com or call her on **07717 404 846**.

LGBT GROUP IN HUB RETURN

Out, Autistic and Proud, our LGBT* support group for autistic adults, will be returning to the Lovell Autism Hub on a trial basis in January.

The group will run on **Tuesday 23rd January** from **5:30pm to 6:30pm** and, as before, is open to LGBT* autistic adults in the Leeds area. The topic discussed will be chosen by the people coming to the group.

We will have more information about the group on our website before the start of 2018.

HUB SPEAKERS IN 2018

We have a regular visitors/speakers slot at the Autism Hub to link with other services. This has helped our attendees to find out about what they offer directly and helped services to understand what barriers there may be and how to address them.

We have had speakers this year around topics including employment support, housing, health services, fuel poverty and benefits. If you have any suggestions for future speakers, please ask Wendy or Luke.

AUTISM NEWS IN BRIEF

SPEAKING AT AUTISM SHOW

The Participatory Autism Research Collective (PARC), a group of autistic academics and activists, will be organising the Speakers Hub at the 2018 Autism Show in Manchester. They are looking for autistic speakers at the next event.

Anyone interested in speaking at the event on **29-30 June 2018** needs to email a written proposal of up to 300 words to Dr Damian Milton at damian.milton@autismshow.co.uk. PARC will also be running the Autism Meets stall, where visitors can talk to speakers and ask them questions.

FRESH ONE TRAINING

Connect in the North (CITN) will be hosting a one-day autism awareness training session held by Inclusive Solutions. It is for professionals and family carers and will take place on **Friday 2nd February**.

The training session will run from **10am to 4pm** and costs £95 to attend (£20 for family carers).

It will cover topics such as anxiety, sensory issues and including autistic people in everyday activities. Visit citn.org.uk/fresh-one-1-day-course-people-know-someone-autism-95/ to download a booking form.

NEW HOSPITALS CONTACT

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHT) has a new contact for autistic patients at Leeds hospitals. The lead nurse for autism/learning disabilities, Sadie Dunne, has retired and hands over responsibility to Barbara Ball until she is replaced later in the year.

You can email Barbara directly to get an autism alert or flag on the hospital system or other adjustments you may need at barbara.ball3@nhs.net.

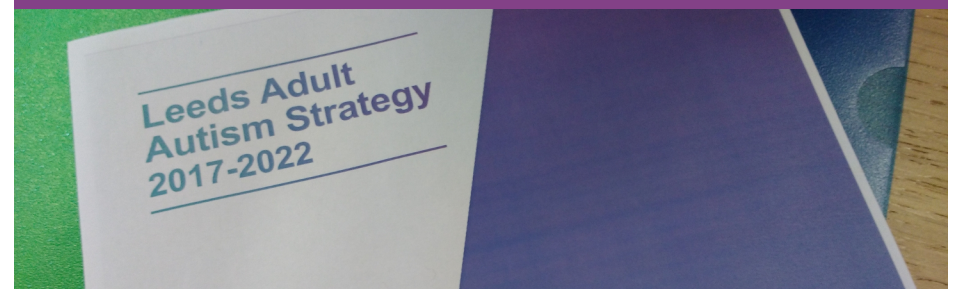
There is info on health adjustments on our website. We will be supporting LTHT to produce autism internet and intranet pages in the new year.

INFORMATION

If you are not able to use the drop-in or mentoring services, you can contact us for info by phone, email or on our Facebook page at any time.

Just send us a message to the contacts below and we will do our best to answer any questions.

LEEDS AUTISM STRATEGY



The Leeds Autism Strategy is out and you can get involved. We run the quarterly reference group for autistic people at the Autism Hub, which is open to all autistic adults in the Leeds area. At the meeting, you can have your say on what services in Leeds should do for autistic people. You can read the new strategy and find out about Reference Group meeting dates in the Leeds Autism Strategy section of our website.

CONTACT US

WEBSITE
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