

LEWISHAM PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

What is Autistic Spectrum Disorder?

Autistic Spectrum Disorder – ASD is a lifelong developmental disability affecting communication and social skills. This Spectrum includes Autism, Asperger syndrome and semantic pragmatic disorders.

Children with ASD may have difficulties that include:

- Understanding social behaviour.
- Forming relationships.
- Verbal/non-verbal communication.
- Coping with change.
- The ability to think and behave flexibly.

Some children with ASD are hypersensitive to sounds, sight, smell, touch and taste, which affect their response to these sensations. They may also have unusual sleep and behaviour patterns. Children of all levels of ability can have ASD. It can affect people from all nationalities or social background. However it seems to affect more males than females.

All children with ASD are individuals. They have varying areas of strength, and can achieve a high level of skill or work task. They may be able to concentrate or focus on an activity for a long period of time.

There is no known cause of ASD and no cure, but there is a range of interventions to aid learning and development.

Parents can request the GP refer their child to a specialist for diagnosis, if concerned.

Further advice and information.

SIGNAL – Support, Information, Guidance and News for Autism in Lewisham. This is a local Parent Support Group set up by parents. SIGNAL can offer support, information and advice. For further information contact 07946 632477 or email: signalewisham@googlemail.com

LAS – Lewisham Autism Support. LAS provides support, advice and information to families living in Lewisham who have children diagnosed with an autistic spectrum disorder. For further information contact LAS on 020 8699 3066

NAS – The National Autistic Society. The NAS can offer support in various ways.
Autism Helpline: 0808 800 4104. text: 07903 200 200. Minicom: 0845 070 4003
Parent to Parent Service: 0808 800 4106
Education Rights Service: 0808 800 4102
Membership: 020 7903 3563
NAS Website: www.autism.org.uk

Lewisham Parent Partnership Service
The Kabin, Forster Park School, Boundfield Road, SE6 1PQ
Tel: 020 8695 5955 Email: lewishampps@pre-school.org.uk
Website: www.lewishamparentpartnership.org.uk

Signpost, a web resource with personalised information: www.autism.org.uk/signpost

Lewisham Outreach Service for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

This is a small team consisting of a teacher and advisers who specialise in working with children who have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The team provides educational and specialist support for pupils in primary and secondary schools. They also provide training for staff.

Pupils are referred by teachers and Senco's in mainstream school. Clinicians at the Communication Clinic also inform the team of a recent diagnosis.

Contact details: 020 7138 1349/020 8314 6804

Further Contacts

Parent Partnership Service: Independent information, advice and support for parents of children with Special Educational Needs. Contact details below