



**National
Autistic
Society**

**Gloucestershire
Branch**

Reg. Charity No. 269425

April Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our new branch newsletter.

Following a period of inactivity, we are pleased to be re-establishing the branch and reconnecting with our local community. This newsletter represents an important step in that process, providing a space to share updates, highlight support and services, and strengthen connections between autistic people, families, and professionals across Gloucestershire.

As we rebuild, our focus is on listening to our community, developing inclusive and accessible opportunities, and creating meaningful ways for people to connect. Over time, we aim to establish local groups, talks, and opportunities to connect, and we will share updates as these develop.

In this newsletter, we also include information on other events happening in the area and some articles which we hope will be of interest.

We would also like to introduce the current branch team:

Janet Davies – Branch Chair
Megan Watson – Treasurer
Adam Wray – Admin
Laura Cole – Newsletter
Ambika Vernekar – Website

Email: gloucestershire.branch@nas.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Gloucestershire branch. We look forward to developing this work together with our community. If you'd like to get involved, volunteer, or collaborate, we'd love to hear from you.

Best Wishes,

The Gloucestershire Branch

Follow us on Facebook to stay updated as the branch develops.

In this newsletter you can expect:

World
Acceptance
Month

Free School
Resources

Inclusion in the
Workplace

Free SEND
Reform
Consultation:
Have your say

Autism Services
Directory

Autism Friendly
Guides

Support in
Gloucestershire



Get involved this World Autism Acceptance Month

This April, we're supporting World Autism Acceptance Month, a time to come together to increase understanding, acceptance, and inclusion for autistic people.

There are many ways you can get involved. Whether you choose to organise a small community event, take on a personal challenge, host a workplace fundraiser, or support national campaigns, every contribution helps to make a difference.

Fundraising is also a great way to start conversations, raise awareness, and promote acceptance within your own networks, whether that's at school, at work, or in your local community.

You can also explore other ways to get involved in World Autism Acceptance Month here: [World Autism Acceptance Month 2026](#) | [National Autistic Society](#)

Thank you for your support.



Free resources for World Autism Acceptance Month

This April, schools and families can take part in World Autism Acceptance Month using a range of free resources from the National Autistic Society.

These include lesson plans, activity sheets, assemblies, and teacher guides designed for a variety of age groups.

The resources aim to support understanding of autism, celebrate difference, and promote inclusion in a meaningful and accessible way.

We encourage you to share these resources with your local school or education setting.

Materials for teachers, educators, and parents can be downloaded here: [School resource packs](#)

Supporting autism inclusion in the workplace

April marks World Autism Acceptance Month, an opportunity for organisations to take positive, practical steps towards creating more inclusive workplaces where autistic people feel understood, valued, and supported.

The National Autistic Society offers a free workplace toolkit, along with a live webinar, to help turn awareness into meaningful action. These resources provide guidance on building understanding and making inclusive practices part of everyday working life. If you're an employer or part of a workplace, we encourage you to explore these resources and consider how small changes can make a lasting difference. Resources can be found here: [At work](#)

Together, we can help create more inclusive environments across Gloucestershire.

Free SEND Reform Consultation: Have your say

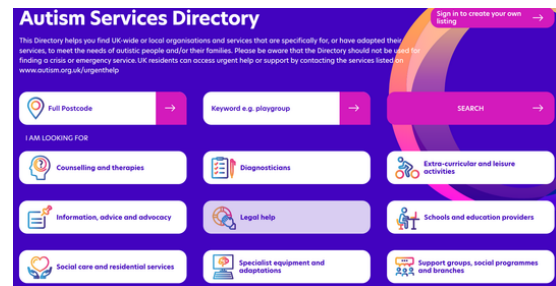
The government has published its Schools White Paper, setting out proposed reforms to the SEND system, with a public consultation open until **18 May 2026**.

We encourage autistic people, families, and supporters to take part and share their experiences. Your views are important in helping to shape the future of SEND support. The National Autistic Society provides a consultation guide to help you understand the proposals and respond to the questions.

For more information:
[How to contribute to the Government Consultation on the Schools White Paper](#)

Autism Services Directory

The National Autistic Society's Autism Services Directory is the UK's largest listing of autism support and services. Whether you are looking for an autism assessment, counselling, social groups, or other types of support, the directory is a useful place to start. It brings together a wide range of services to help you find the support that is right for you. [click here to visit the Directory](#).



Autism Friendly Guides

A range of resources is available to support organisations in creating more positive and inclusive experiences for autistic people.

These resources include practical guidance and helpful tips, and are primarily aimed at businesses and services with physical venues, such as shops, museums, cafés, and hotels. However, much of the information is relevant to a wide range of settings and can be applied more broadly.

We encourage organisations to explore these resources and consider how small changes can make environments more accessible and welcoming.

[Autism Friendly Guide](#)



Support in Gloucestershire

As a newly re-established branch, we are keen to build connections across Gloucestershire and welcome opportunities to work with local communities and organisations. If you offer activities, groups, or support for autistic people and would like to connect, or be featured on our Facebook page or in a future newsletter, please contact Laura at laura.cole@nas-volunteers.org.uk.

While we continue to develop our own local offer, the following organisations provide valuable support within Gloucestershire:

Gloucestershire Carers Hub

Gloucestershire Carers Hub provides free sessions for unpaid carers who are registered with them. You are welcome to attend as a carer, and you may also bring along the person you support. Sessions are available both in person and online.

Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum

Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum represents the voices of those with lived experience of being a parent carer. They work to build constructive relationships with service providers and help improve services for families of children and young people with additional needs across Gloucestershire.

Support Group for Adult Siblings of Autistic People (Sibs)

Being a sibling of an autistic person can bring a wide range of experiences and emotions, which others may not always understand. This support group offers the opportunity to connect with others who share similar experiences, helping to build confidence and reduce feelings of isolation.

Disclaimer

The organisations and groups listed above are shared for information only. While we aim to highlight support available within the local community, the Gloucestershire branch of the National Autistic Society is not affiliated with these organisations unless explicitly stated. Inclusion does not imply endorsement, and we are not responsible for the services provided or the information they share.



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