



Department  
of Health

# Think Autism

**How our big plan about autism is  
going and more work that will be done**





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## Who we are

We are the UK government.

## What this report is about

This report is about people with autism and their families in England.

In 2010 the government made a big plan about making things better for people with autism and their families.

In 2013 the government asked people how the plan was going.

In 2014 the plan was changed to make it better. The plan is now called **Think Autism**.

This report tells you about:

- how the Think Autism work is going
- some more work that will be done in the next year and a half.

Now you can find out more about this.



# 1. Making sure people get good care and are healthy

## Plans and information

Local areas have been working on things like:



- making sure that local plans include what people with autism and their families need
- making sure people with autism and their families help make local plans.



There are new rules to help the NHS and councils know what they need to do.



Local areas did some checks to see how they are getting on with their autism work.

This information will help people see how well their local area is doing.



Information about the checks for 2015 will be on the Autism Connect website:

[www.autism-connect.org.uk](http://www.autism-connect.org.uk)



Work is happening to get better information about how many people have autism and what they need.



There may be things that can help with this. Like a new way for doctors to make a note on their computers if someone has autism.

## Training

Work is happening to help many more people know about autism.



For example:

- there are some local plans about autism training for health and support staff, the Police and other people
- there is better information to help health staff learn about autism





- there has been more training and support for people like the government, groups they work with, social workers and education people



- there will be better autism training that people can do on their computers.



## **Better support for children and young people with autism**

A new law called the Children and Families Act started in 2014.



It will help children and young people with autism and their families get much better support.





For example, young people and their families will get:

- better information about the support they can get. A document called a Local Offer should tell them this



- more support to get ready for the future. Like thinking about education, jobs and where to live



- much more say in what happens.



People with autism who need more support will have a plan about their education, health and support.

It is called an education, health and care plan. Or EHC plan for short.



There are new things to help with this, like:

- information to help councils make sure young people with autism can have a say
- people who can support people with autism and their families to make their plans.



Some people will not have an EHC plan. But they should still get support if they need it now or in the future.

Some people can now have a meeting with their council about this.



Colleges now have to give young disabled people better education and support.

There is more support, information and money



## More work to be done in the next year and a half

Work will be done to:



- check what information local areas have about people with autism and what they need



- look at what skills and information health staff should have about autism



- make information to help bus and coach drivers get the right training about disabled people



- see if the changes are helping children and young people with autism and their families get better support.



Someone with autism or a carer will help run the government group that checks how this plan is going.

## 2. Finding out if people have autism



Local areas have been working on a good way to:

- find out if someone has autism
- make sure the person gets the right support if they do have autism.

### **More work to be done in the next year and a half**



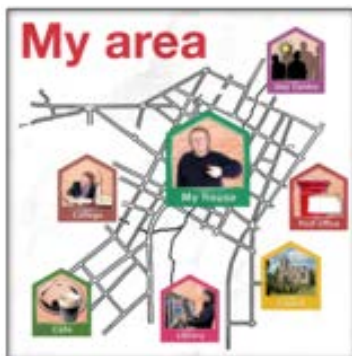
There will be work with some local areas to look at:

- why they do not have a good way to find out if someone has autism
- what can be learned from this.



### 3. New ideas and good care for everyone with autism

There was some money to pay for new ideas to help people with autism:



- take part in their community
- get support with things like keeping well, doing things they enjoy or finding a job.

42 new projects got this money.



More information about the projects will be on this website by the end of January 2016:

[www.autism-connect.org.uk](http://www.autism-connect.org.uk)



Councils got money to buy things that can help people with autism.

For example, computers or technology to help people who need support with speaking, hearing or moving about.



A project has helped make local places and services better for people with autism.

The project helped people do things like:

- make their buildings and services easier
- tell other people what people with autism need.



## **Good care near where people live**



Some people with autism are sent to hospitals for people who need a lot of support.

They may have to stay there a long time.



A lot of work is happening in local areas to stop this.

For example, there are new checks to see if people can get care in their local area instead of hospital.

## 4. Support to keep well



The law now says:

- people should get support if they need it to keep well and stop problems later on.

Like support to make friends or get a job:

- adults can choose and pay for their own support if they want.



Local areas are working to make sure:

- people can get extra support from someone called an advocate if they need it
- there is one place people can go to find out about support.



There is a project that helps people with autism and their families to plan the support they want.

People called Brokers help them with this.



Work is happening to look at using hospital passports. This is information that tells staff what support someone needs.

## **More work to be done in the next year and a half**



Work will carry on to make sure:

- all groups of people with autism get the support they need. Like women and people from different cultures or religions



- older people with autism get the support they need



- people with autism get the right support with housing.



## 5. People working better together in local areas

### Support to get a job



Lots of work has been done to make it easier for people with autism to get a job.



Local areas and the government have worked on things like:

- training for staff and companies
- good support for people to find and keep a job or try out work
- making work places easier for people with autism
- working with different companies to help them give people with autism a job





- help for young people at school or college to get ready for the future.



A new group is looking at how to support some people with autism to have a job and have better health.



## **Crime, the Police, courts and prisons**

Work has been done to make things better for people with autism if they have to go to the Police, court or prison.

For example:



- local areas are working to make sure people with autism are part of local plans about crime and safety



- a group is looking at how to give people with autism better support if they go to the Police, court or prison



- there is new information and training for staff



- new ideas are being tested. Like a new mobile phone app and a new way for prisons to give people better support.

## **More work to be done in the next year and a half**



There will be more work to:

- train staff who help people find a job
- help companies give people with autism job.



There will be new training and information for the Police about how to work with people with autism.

Like how to find out if someone needs support to speak up about a crime.



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