

# Community Access

Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth



The Community Access Department of Autism Hampshire provides a free information, advice, guidance and signposting service to local adults, young people and children with autism, their families and professionals.

All services are countywide providing for the Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth local authority areas.



## Information, Advice, Guidance, Signposting and Support Service

Our team of officers have extensive information and knowledge of local autism related services. They can offer a telephone or a face to face meeting by appointment in one of their local offices and they attend a range of support groups and events. This service is available pre, during and post diagnosis. It is essential to book an appointment to ensure a member of the team is available to meet with you.

*“it was so beneficial and helpful to me to have the support of the Autism Hampshire team who helped me with my problems. I am really ambitious now” Jack (diagnosed with autism aged 4, now at university).*

## Information Share

This is sent monthly with local autism information such as events, activities and consultations. To receive it free of charge, tell us your email or postal address.

The **online message board** found on our website, is another good way to share information.

## Community Access Resource Library

A collection of autism related books that are free to borrow. Please contact us to arrange to view the collection. Books are made available through our local offices and at events across the county.

## Local Autism Directory <http://www.autismhampshire.org.uk/local-autism-directory/>

A free online directory found on our website, with local autism related information such as support groups, activities, education, employment, housing, local news, health, finances and diagnosis.

**For more information about any of our services please contact us and we will do our best to help.**

### Community Access - Southampton Office

Community Resource Centre, 3 Bassett Avenue,  
Southampton, SO16 7DP  
Tel: 02380 766 162  
Email: [communityaccess@autismhampshire.org.uk](mailto:communityaccess@autismhampshire.org.uk)

### Community Access - Portsmouth Office

Frank Sorrell Centre, Prince Albert Road,  
Southsea, Hampshire, PO4 9HR  
Tel: 02392 814 723  
Email: [communityaccess@autismhampshire.org.uk](mailto:communityaccess@autismhampshire.org.uk)

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## Autism Alert Programme

This supports people with autism should they find themselves in any type of contact with the Police. Please contact us if you would like an:

- Autism Alert Card
- Autism Alert Car Sticker
- Autism Alert App

## Autism Alert Card

This yellow card should be carried at all times and shown to a police officer in the case of an incident or situation. The Police will be able to support the person in an appropriate manner and contact a named person listed on the back of the card to assist with supporting the person during their time in Police care.

## Autism Alert Car Sticker

The yellow Autism Alert Car Sticker is to be placed with information facing inwards, blank side outwards, in the bottom left hand corner of the windscreen. In the event of a road traffic accident, emergency services would be able to identify that a person with autism may be on board.

## Autism Alert App

This enables people who have autism to share information about their autism and support their autism. The app can be used by local young people and adults, who can choose which information to include. This might be emergency contact details, information about how your autism affects your communication or sensory issues. We can offer support to people who want to use the app, including a **smart phone loan** service.

*The Autism Alert Programme won the iESE 2011 Award for the Police Project of the Year.*



## Try Before You Buy Service

Resources that may help people with autism are available to borrow for a short time or to view. Items such as weighted blankets, ear defenders and timers are made available to borrow for a small deposit.

## Support and Social Groups

The Community Access team host a variety of opportunities to get together, share experiences and to meet other people. These are free to attend, and take place in a variety of venues across the county.

A wide variety of groups are run by other organisations to support people with autism, parents and carers. We keep a regularly updated list of all local groups and list them on the Local Autism Directory. If you are interested in starting a group please contact a Community Access Officer who will be happy to offer advice and support.

**The Serendipity Social Group Project** is developing a network of social groups across the county with adults who have High Functioning Autism or Asperger's. If you would like to attend a group, want more information about the project or would like to volunteer to help with a group, please contact us.

## Criminal Justice System

The Community Access team are actively working within the Criminal Justice System countywide to support people with autism and have partnerships with the Hampshire Police, Wessex Youth Offending Team, Winchester Prison, Hampshire Probation and The Crown Prosecution Service.

## Other Work

Developing autism specific leisure activities, supporting schools and cluster groups, supporting at information days and other events, presenting autism awareness information, supporting local partners to develop autism friendly services and much more....