

Bex Mezzo – County Special Needs Adviser Report - September 2013 – Theme Autism.



Autism is a serious, lifelong and disabling condition. Without the right support, it can have a profound - sometimes devastating - effect on individuals and families. Autism affects each person in a different way. Autism is a spectrum condition, which means that, while all people with autism share certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways. Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent and fulfilling lives. Others may have accompanying learning disabilities and need a lifetime of specialist support. All can make a very positive contribution to the lives of those around them. People with autism can find it hard to make sense of the world. Autism affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. Everyday life for people with autism can be confusing, meaningless and even frightening. Understanding and communicating with others is particularly difficult - which can leave people very isolated.

People with autism may also experience some form of sensory sensitivity or under-sensitivity, for example to sound, touch, taste, smell, lights or colour. People with autism share three main areas of difficulty

Social interaction

This includes recognising and understanding people's feelings and managing their own. Not understanding other people's feelings can make it hard to form friendships.

Social communication

This includes using and understanding verbal and non-verbal language, such as gestures, facial expressions and tone of voice.

Social imagination

This includes the ability to understand and predict other people's intentions and behaviour and to imagine situations outside of their own routine. This can be accompanied by a narrow repetitive range of activities.



If there is something that I can help you, a member of your unit be it a girl or adult member just give me a call, email me, text me. I'm here to help -

Kind regards Bex

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