

ADULT ASD LINK SERVICE
SPRUCE HOUSE, BRAID VALLEY SITE, BALLYMENNA
OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES (DRAFT 1)

ASD Link Service

ASD Coordinator -- Gail Templeton

ASD Link Worker-- Amanda Lyndsay

Role and Function

The Adult Link Service provides support, advice and a signposting service for adults aged 18 years and over who have a diagnosis of ASD.

Adults must provide consent and will be deemed to have capacity to consent.

Carers Assessment will be offered and Family Support will be provided as required.

The Adult Link Service will work in partnership with other Trust Services, Education, Employment, Housing, Criminal Justice, Private, Leisure and Recreational and Voluntary Agencies etc.

Providing ASD awareness to individuals who are newly diagnosed and their families.

The Aims of the Service

To provide a quality and dedicated service to adults from 18 years old who have a diagnosis of ASD and are not in receipt of any other services.

The service will address the identified needs through a person centred approach with the individual and their families being central to the assessment process and will participate fully in formulating their own support planning process.

Principles of Human Rights, Confidentiality, Respect and Dignity will be maintained as per Trust's Policy and Procedures.

Safeguarding principals and the right to address Complaints through the Trust's Complaint Process will be addressed as per policy and guidance.

How to access the Service

Referrals may be accepted from Trust Core Services when a specialist ASD input is deemed appropriate.

Referrals will be accepted from adults, their carer/family, Trust staff, Education, Voluntary Organisations and other sources.

Referral Forms must be completed and will be processed to ensure information is sufficient and a criterion is met. (Referral Form attached)

What happens next?

Appropriate referrals will be accepted and an acknowledgement letter will be forwarded to the referrer and the individual.

The Adult ASD Link Worker will be allocated as your Key Worker and will make arrangements to meet with you to begin a person centred assessment of need.

Assessment and Support Planning Process

The ASD Link Worker will work with the individual and their families and input from other agencies (as appropriate) will assist in the development and implementation of a support plan which will address identified needs and promote self-confidence, independence and develop life skills and problem solving.

Risk factors will be built into the assessment and support planning process.

Regular monitoring and reviews will take place to ensure goals/targets are met.

Timely and appropriate delivery of support to enable the individual to increase their skills, knowledge and independence across various transition points.

Discharge from Link Service is a natural progression.

Contact Key Worker if needs change to refer back into service.

Information System

The Adult ASD Link Service currently uses Lcid and will log details.

Key Worker responsibilities will be maintained by the Adult ASD Link Worker.

When the ASD Link Service receives a referral from Adult Mental Health she will ask the Named Worker to add her to EPEX as co-worker.

When the ASD Link Service receives a referral from Adult Learning Disability she will ask the Named Worker to add her name to SOSKARE as co-worker.

The Named Worker will remain from these core services and will co-ordinate support plans, reviews and will ensure the ASD Link Worker is invited to meetings and kept updated in all aspects of the individuals care and support.

SERVICES/RESOURCES AVAILABLE

TO

THE ADULT ASD LINK SERVICE

1. National Autistic Society – Contact Tim Glenn – 07776151804

- The National Autistic Society holds Adult Social Groups:
- Application Form to be completed for new referrals

Groups Held

First Wednesday of the Month – Magherafelt/Cookstown

Second Tuesday of the Month – Newtownabbey

Third Tuesday of the Month – Coleraine/Ballymoney

ASD Link Service has a contract with NAS.

NAS is represented on the Northern Trust ASD Forum

2. Autism Network – Contact Derek Doherty – 07756458199

- Groups for children and adolescents
- Contact Derek for information on referral process
- Groups are not held during the summer

Autism Network has a comprehensive website and provides information on a variety of areas such as Benefits, Legal support i.e. Tribunal attendance

ASD Link Service has a contract with Autism Network.

Autism Network is represented on the Northern Trust ASD Forum

3. Autism Initiatives – 028 9069 9139

Make referral to the Adult ASD Link Service to access this service. (Gate-Keeping Role)

- Provides a counselling service
- Provides Floating Support
- Provides Outreach Service

4. Disability Action – Terry Kelly – 028 9029 7880

- Benefit Advice and will help fill in DLA/ESA Forms but will need 4 weeks notice
- Ring first to ensure will accept a referral

- Provides driving instructors
- Check website out for all their services.

As we are not funding this service we are not always guaranteed spaces.

5. Autism N.I. – 028 9040 1729 -- Contact for information if you are going to make a referral

- Provides family support for Paediatric ASD Service
- Provides training in TEACHH for adult centre staff and families/carers within Adult Learning Disability. (Service level Agreement)
- Provides a number of support groups across the Northern Trust area mainly for children and adolescents.
- Autism NI Alert Card- application form for new referrals.

Autism N.I. is represented on the Northern Trust ASD Forum.

6. Northern Trust's Carer's Coordinator – Ann Cummings – 028 2766 1392

- Organises events for carers – sends information out by email to staff
- Can access referrals for Extra Care
- Refer to Adult ASD Link Service for a Carer's Assessment if not known to Community Adult Mental Health Services re: complete Carer's Assessment.

7. The Cedar Foundation – make referral to ASD Link Service to access this service (Gate Keeping role)

- Referrals for Vocational and Employability Programme for ASD
- Limited number of places available for ASD

Service Level Agreement is in Physical Disability Service.

8. Social Activity and Interpersonal Capacity Building Service – make referral to ASD Link Service to access this service (Gate Keeping role)

- To commence in July 2012 (will advise re: date)
- National Autistic Society providing service in collaboration with the ASD Link Service
- Will provide 1:1 and small group work
- Will cover the entire Northern Trust area – is not centrally based
- Flexible and innovative service to be provided over 7 days/evenings

Some other contacts we have:

1. Brenda Breen, Careers advisor – 028 2566 0777
2. Seven Towers Training Centre – Adults aged 18-23
3. Link with The Pathways Teams and Careers Teams in Local areas.

4. Link with all local Colleges/Universities re: courses available and supporting the individual to access college, ASD awareness for staff etc
5. Liaise with Disability Advisors re: University applications, benefits etc
6. Bernie Mellon – Complex Needs Officer, Supported Housing, Housing Executive – 028 2566 7811
7. Local Community Centres and Leisure Centres are good contacts for activities available in local areas.
9. Local Volunteer Centres
10. Local Libraries
11. Jobs & Benefits offices
12. PSNI/Safeguarding
13. Employment Agencies
14. Other Trust services

There are lots of other contacts with other voluntaries.

If an area of need is identified or you wish to discuss a referral contact the ASD Adult Link Service.