

ALL AGE AUTISM NEWSLETTER

A quarterly publication by Landau Limited

Welcome

Welcome to the autumn issue of our quarterly All Age Autism Newsletter.

The summer has been a busy period for the AAA Support Service Team attending events to promote the AAASS - these include jobs fairs, sports and community events & grant holder events across Birmingham and Solihull. These events raise awareness of the AAASS service, allowing us to gain feedback on existing services and review ways in which we can further enhance access to autism support services in your local area.

Successful grant applications have now exceeded £800,0000 supporting voluntary sector organisations to provide new & innovative services. AAASS Grant funded projects can be reviewed on line via the AAASS Service Directory with access to the FREE services available through the referral process.

Grants Summary

£804,826

Total grant fund awarded

32 successful organisations have been awarded All Age Autism Support Service grants providing **FREE** services including social and emotional support, guidance on sleep, after school clubs, employability, parental support and many more, all designed to meet the specific needs of autistic people and their families/carers and reflect local issues.

Details of the funded organisations can be found here <https://www.aadirectory.co.uk/signpost-to-services/aaa-grant-awardees--referral-options-here>

The funding granted so far has supported over 2800 participants of all ages with a range of innovative autism services. We look forward to reviewing the impact of these over coming months as data is collated on the project goals, objectives & achievements in working to positively influence the lives of the participants, families, parents & carers who are joining these new projects.

Applications for new grants are now closed - if further funding is made available we will update the Grants page - <https://allageautism.co.uk/grants/>

For information on alternative funding opportunities please review the details listed on Page 2

FEATURES

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 aaa@landau.co.uk

News: Autism West Midlands launches Information Helpline through AAA Grant.



Successful AAASS Grant applicant - Autism West Midlands (AWM), have launched a new Helpline for autistic people, family and carers across Birmingham and Solihull, building on the regional support services they already deliver. Autism specialist advisors are on hand to discuss any concerns (before & after diagnosis) and provide information & guidance about local services.

Opening Times:
Monday – Friday 8am – 8pm

If you are interested in finding out more about our Grant Awardees please visit our website:

www.aadirectory.co.uk

SCAN ME



PARTNER FOCUS

We are pleased to include details of two of our recent grant awardees

A Fathers Child Services



Project: U Matter 2!
Awarded: £21,740

This new project offers two strands. **Advocacy Drop In sessions** for people with autism that have yet to receive a diagnosis. This includes weekly community workshops to provide support to families, friends and carers of people living with autism.

**COMMUNITY ADVOCATES
WEEKLY WORKSHOPS**

Carlene Taylor

I am Carlene Taylor, my primary role involves advocating for the rights and well-being of children and families, raising awareness about crucial issues and collaborating with stakeholders to bring about positive changes. My professional journey and expertise predominantly revolve around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), as an experienced SEN advocate, SEND tutor, and Level 3 certified interpreter for the Deaf.



Email info@afcscic.org for any queries or call 0121389 4922

For more information on services and how we can help please contact us

Alongside the advocacy work, an ambitious **Creative Arts Programme** is being launched offering accredited Arts Awards in music production, Applied Theatre, script and creative writing, sound engineering and production together with computer coding and web design for young people under the age of 25 year.

Discover AFCS on our Service Directory here:

 <https://bit.ly/3PE2GIW>

Current Funding Opportunities

1. **National Lottery Awards National Lottery Awards** for All England | [The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](http://TheNationalLotteryCommunityFund.org.uk)
2. **Connect to Support – Neighbourhood Network Schemes**
<https://birmingham.connecttosupport.org/prevention-and-communities/neighbourhood-network-schemes>
nns/#/content/content/edit/1517
3. **Community Foundation** – covers Birmingham & North Solihull Birmingham Community Foundation:
<http://www.bhamfoundation.co.uk/how-to-receive/fair-share.html>
4. **Fairer Futures Funding** – funding closed in Birmingham but still available in Solihull <https://www.birmingham-solihullics.org.uk/our-initiatives/fairer-futures-fund/opportunities-slice-fairer-futures-funding>

Flourish



Project: Road Map Parent-led Support
Awarded: £19,627

Flourish is a community-led network of hyper-local organisations, the aim of which is to reduce health inequalities in west Birmingham. The Roadmap project supports parents who are navigating life with a child with autism.



Picture: Parents from the Road Map peer support group!

Through peer guidance and professional interaction Roadmap aims to bridge the gaps between families, schools and healthcare providers with particular focus on combatting isolation experienced by families recently arrived in the area.

Discover Flourish on our Service Directory here:

 <https://bit.ly/48Axw7v>

Solihull Moors Football Club

AAASS Team Lead Pip Long was delighted to attend a 1st Team game to talk to fans, parents, employees and players about autism support available through the All Age Autism Service.

Working closely with grant holders, Resources for Autism (RFA) and Lee Croft from Solihull Moors Community Foundation we have been able to increase awareness.

Thanks to all for a great afternoon!



Picture: Nick Drew, RFA, Pip Long & Jamey Osborne, 1st Team Captain



AAA Services Stakeholder Event



Pictured: Panel members Lee Croft from Solihull Moors Football Club, Alex Manners, Joanna Stratham, DWP and Dawn Page, Serco Leisure

Our Stakeholder event at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Solihull on 27th September provided an opportunity to bring Commissioners and Professionals within public services together with AAA Grant Holders to discuss the impact of AAA Grant funded projects. The morning opened with Key Note Speech from Autism champion Alex Manners providing an insight into growing up with Asperger's and how the availability of an All Age Autism Support Service would have helped him & his family navigate community autism support services.

We followed with a Q&A session with invited Panel members Dawn Page, Deputy Partnership Manager Serco Leisure, Joanna Statham Inclusion and Engagement Manager DWP, Lee Croft Community Engagement Officer at Solihull Football Club & Alex Manners, exploring the core capabilities required by employers within the Leisure Industries to support people with autism to enter the workforce and access services.



The focus then turned to hearing from participants and carers themselves who shared powerful testimonials about the difference AAA funded projects have made to their lives. This included student RJ who has been attending the **stE.P Up project** – a DJ and music production programmes for autistic and neurodivergent young people managed by Birmingham base **B:Music**.

RJ talked about his passion for music technology but struggled at school. Having started the project in May 2023 RJ has flourished both as a musician and with his confidence. RJ said :
“Everything is done calmly and introduced in a way that suits me. I'm grateful for the charity and I hope the funding continues for others to experience the same as I have.”

New Employability Support Collaboration

A new collaboration forged by AAA Support Services will see Birmingham Community Leisure Trust and Serco Leisure working with four All Age Autism Grants Holder offering employment training and support services across Birmingham and Solihull. <https://www.aadirectory.co.uk/signpost-to-services/aaa-grant-awardees--referral-options-here>

United Support Group has started delivering Drop In Employment Advice sessions at Leisure Centres around north Birmingham while Caudwell Children is currently recruiting for their on-line employability training for young people recognising the opportunities to focus on careers in the sports and leisure industry.

The collaboration with Community Leisure Trust, who manage nine leisure centres across Birmingham, will create new work experience placements feeding into other projects such as Experts by Experience Solihull's volunteering and employment support project running in Solihull. The collaboration will also involve Autism West Midlands delivering employer autism awareness training to Serco Leisure Centre managers in October to ensure a wider understanding of workplace adjustments & support to provide sustainable employment to autistic candidates.



Pictured: Debbie King and Ann Marie Frost from United Support Group with Yasmin Hussain, Community Engagement Officer, Serco Leisure



News about the AAA Service Directory

User Experience Focus Groups: Further consultation into how we can improve the functionality of Online AAA Support Service Directory has taken place over the summer. Following the Hackathon at Birmingham City University, MSc student Mahima Shrestha, from Department of Digital Media Technology held a series of User Experience focus groups to gain further feedback from autistic service users themselves and parents/carers of autistic children accessing Children’s Quarter summer activities programme.

Launch of Translation tool: Prioritising accessibility has led to the Directory now incorporating a translation tool so that people can access information where English is their 2nd language. This development went live as part of AAA Support Service attendance at the DWP Event for International Literacy Day which took place in August in partnership with Refugee Employment Network.

Making information available which is accessible and easy to understand is central to AAA Support Services. We are constantly reviewing all information and the range of channels and formats which will best meet the needs of people with autism, their families and carers.

If you would like to take part in one of our Service Directory focus groups, please visit our website www.aadirectory.co.uk or email us on: aaa@landau.co.uk



Pictured: Mahima Shrestha undertaking UX Testing with parent at Meriden Adventure Playground, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham



AAA App Development

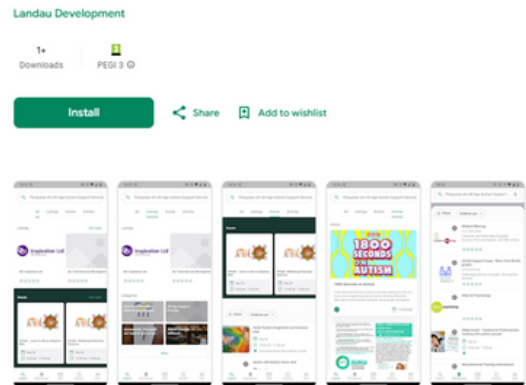
We are delighted to announce that the AAA Service Directory App is about to be launched after analysis of users showed high preference (52% of Service Directory users) are accessing information via mobile phones. The launch of the AAA App offers increased convenience and the ability to access information and refer into services while on the go.

Whether using the new App or logging onto the website via other devices the easy referral process continues to provides access to the free support services available through grant-awarded projects as follows:

1. Visit the AAA Service Directory at: www.aadirectory.co.uk
2. Select **AAA Grant Awardees Category**
3. Choose the organisation to refer yourself/someone else to
4. Click on **Referral Process** at the top of the page
5. Complete the short form & click **Send Message**
6. The AAA Grant organisation will contact you directly.

If you have any queries please contact us at aaa@landau.co.uk

All Age Autism Support Service



Genni’s 100 Miles in October Challenge 2023



AAASS Grants Administrator Genni Toft, is undertaking another walking fundraiser to support National Autistic Society and raise awareness.

If you’d like to donate please visit her JustGiving Page - we will be counting the miles!!!!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/genevieve1695104306207/qrcode>