



North Yorkshire All Age Autism Strategy 2024 -2027 Easy Read survey



In this document, difficult words are in **bold**. You can find an explanation of what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to a website which has more information.



What is autism?

Autism can affect things like:

- **Communication**
- mixing with other people
- how you think and feel about things.

Communication is the way people share information. It includes speaking and writing.

Autism can affect people very differently. This means autistic people need different types of help and support.

Autism is something you're born with. Signs of autism might be noticed when you're very young, or not until you're older.

A lot of people say being autistic is really important to how they feel about themselves.



The people in the **North Yorkshire Autism Group** have talked to lots of people who live and work in North Yorkshire, including:

- Autistic people
- Family and carers
- Advocates
- North Yorkshire Council
- The NHS
- Voluntary services

The **North Yorkshire Autism Group** is a group of people from North Yorkshire Council, the NHS, education, justice, community voluntary services and a family carer.

They asked people for their views, ideas and experiences of autism services in North Yorkshire and what mattered to them.

They worked together to look at what people said and to write the North Yorkshire All Age Autism **Strategy**

A **strategy** is a plan of how we will do things over a long time.

- [autism strategy easy read](#)
- [autism full strategy](#)
- [privacy notice](#)

When filling in this survey, please do not tell us any personal information about yourself or your family.





There are 8 **key themes** in the plan:

Key Themes are important topics and issues.

- Education and preparing for adulthood
- Employment
- Housing
- Carers
- Assessment, diagnosis and support
- Health and care
- Adult and youth justice
- Inclusive communities

We want to know if you think these are the right key themes for the autism plan.

We want to know if you think we have got the plan right, what is most important to you and if there is anything else you think we should know.

Education and preparing for adulthood

It is important children and young people have the right support in schools and colleges.

This helps them to be successful in what they want to do and helps them to get ready for being an adult.

Do you think education and supporting young people to get ready for being an adult should be a key theme in the autism plan?

Please tick  a box



Yes




No



Don't know



Please tick  which statement is most important to you

- Autistic children and young people are helped to understand what being autistic means to them
- People who work in schools and colleges have the right information and training to support autistic children and young people
- There are places for autistic children in local schools and there is a help




for children who are unable to go to school and their families.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about education and preparing for adulthood? (Please do not tell us anything personal about yourself)

Employment

We want more autistic people to have the same work opportunities as everyone else.

Do you think getting a job should be a key theme in the autism plan? Please tick  a box




Yes



No



Don't know

Please tick  which statement is most important to you

- Autistic people and employers should develop training and information about supporting autistic people to get a job and do well in work
- Organisations who help people find a job should work better together and




make it easier for autistic people to get a job

- Schools should make sure young people and their families have the right information about what support and opportunities are available for them when they leave school.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about getting a job? (Please do not tell us anything personal about yourself)

Housing

Everyone needs a safe place to call home. Autistic people should be able to get a home that meets their needs.

Do you think housing for autistic people should be a key theme in the autism plan?
Please tick  a box



Yes



No



Don't know



Please tick ✓ which statement is most important to you

- We need to plan the housing needs of autistic people for the next 5 years.
- Autistic people and their families have the right information to help them choose a home to meet their needs.
- Housing providers should understand autism, what **reasonable adjustments** they may need to make and be autistic inclusive.

Reasonable adjustments are changes that public services, buildings and employers have to make, to make it possible for people with disabilities to use a service or do a job. Such as making appointments longer, having accessible information and accessible environments.


Is there anything else you want to tell us about housing? (Please do not tell us anything personal about yourself)



Carers

A **carer** is a person who does not get paid and helps a family member, friend or neighbour who is ill, struggling or disabled and could not manage without this help

Carers are so important to the people they care for and are usually happy to support the person, but their caring role can be bad for their own health and well-being.

Do you think helping parents, carers and families of autistic people should be a key theme in the autism plan? Please tick  a box



Yes



No



Don't
know




Please tick ✓ which statement is most important to you

- North Yorkshire Council continue to work with carers to refresh their plan to support carers.
- Carers should have the support and information they need.
- Carers assessments are reviewed to reduce the waiting time for assessments and a an online assessment should be developed.
- Social care staff should have training to help them understand how autism may affect carers and their families.
- There should be help for carers to help them understand different ways of supporting autistic people.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about carers? (Please do not tell us anything personal about yourself)

Assessment, Diagnosis & Support

It is important autistic people have the right support when they need it. We want people to get support as early as possible and to help those who need it most first.

Do you think assessment, diagnosis and support for autistic people should be a key theme in the autism plan? Please tick  a box



Yes



No



**Don't
know**



Please tick ✓ which statement is most important to you


- Improve the support children, young people and adults get before and after they are diagnosed as autistic.
- Reduce the waiting times for an assessment including looking at different ways to get an assessment.
- Work with other organisations to make sure people can get support and **reasonable adjustments** while they are waiting for an assessment.
- Look for ways to make it easier and fairer for people to get an assessment.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about getting an assessment, diagnosis and support? (Please do not tell us anything personal about yourself)



Health & Care

Autistic people of all ages should live healthier and longer lives, supported by autism-inclusive health and care services

Do you think health and care for autistic people should be a key theme in the autism plan?
Please tick  a box.



Yes




No



Don't
know



Please tick  which statement is most important to you

- Autistic people, their families and carers, and health and social care staff working together to design and deliver information and training to improve support for autistic people.
- Environments should be improved to make them more accessible to autistic people.
- Making sure the needs of autistic people is included in suicide prevention work.
- Sharing what North Yorkshire Councils provider services have learned from the **National Autistic**

Society Autism Accreditation of with others to improve care for autistic people.


The **National Autistic Society Autism Accreditation** checks that organisations are committed to understanding autism and setting the standard for autism practice. It is a way for organisations to show they offer excellent support to autistic children and adults.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about getting health and care?
(Please do not tell us anything personal about yourself)



Adult and Youth Justice

Autistic children, young people and adults should have good support in the justice systems.

Do you think adult and youth justice for autistic people should be a key theme in the autism plan? Please tick  a box



Yes



No



Don't know



Please tick which statement is most important to you

- That the justice services follow the recommendations of the Ministry of Justice report on **neurodiversity**, including:
 - Making the physical environments better for autistic people
 - Training staff to understand autism and **neurodiversity**
 - Getting better at sharing information with other services

Neurodiversity means all the different ways in which people's brains work. This can include people who are autistic, have learning difficulties or disabilities, ADHD, speech and language difficulties, tic disorders or brain injuries.



- **The Office for Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner** employs someone who will work with the police, fire and rescue services, to help them understand the needs of autistic people and how the services can work better with people.


The Office for Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner works with people and communities to improve police and fire services.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about adult and youth justice?
(Please do not tell us anything personal about yourself)



Inclusive communities

We want everyone who is autistic to feel safe, be accepted in their community and not to feel lonely or isolated.

Do you think making communities more inclusive for autistic people should be a key theme in the autism plan? Please tick  a box




Yes



No



**Don't
know**

Please tick  which statement is most important to you

- Helping everyone in the community to work together to make our communities autism inclusive.
- Work with local communities, businesses, and organisations to help them understand autism and how they can make their environments easier for autistic people to use.


Is there anything else you want to tell us about inclusive communities?
(Please do not tell us anything personal about yourself)



Information about you

Knowing a bit more about you will help us understand why you are filling in our survey.

You don't have to fill this part of the survey in, and you can leave parts of it blank if you want to.

Please do not tell us any personal information about yourself or anyone else. Please tick  a box.

Are you an:

Autistic child	
Young person	
Adult	
A carer	
A family member	

Have you been diagnosed as autistic?



Yes



No



Don't
know

Do you:

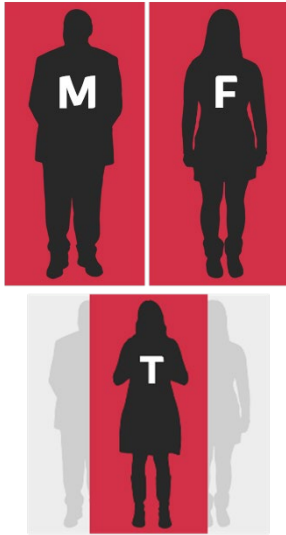
Work with autistic people?	
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Which age group are you?



Please tick a box.

16 - 19	
20 - 29	
30 - 39	
40 - 49	
50 - 64	
65 - 74	
75 - 84	
85+	
I don't want to say	



Please tick a box to tell us if you:

Are a man	
Are a woman	
Think about yourself in a different way	
Prefer not to say	



Please tick a box to tell us where you live:

Craven	
Hambleton	
Harrogate	
Richmondshire	
Ryedale	
Scarborough	
Selby	
Other (please specify)	

