

Autism Friendly Surrey



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Autism by Experience CIC



We are a not-for-profit Community Interest Company called Autism by Experience CIC.

www.autismbyexperience.co.uk

We have 13 paid staff, most of whom are autistic and we are looking forward to helping to make communities more 'Autism Friendly'.

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Our team

Jo, Monisha and Mike will be the team members from Autism by Experience working across the North West Surrey area. Kira is our minute taker !



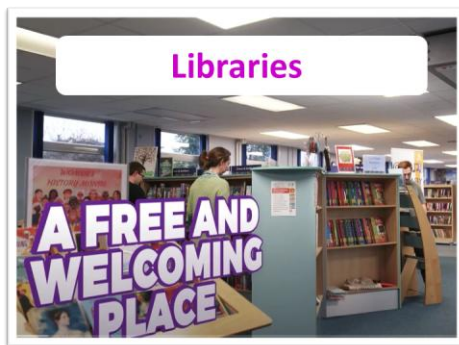
Contact us using AFC@autismbyexperience.co.uk



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Mapping activities across Surrey

During May and June we have continued to map Quiet Hours and inclusive activities for both adults and children across Surrey.



We are collating information about a wide range of venues and activities.

We are making contact with venues and activities and have started visiting them.

We can offer venues training on autism/neurodivergence and support to create visual stories.

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Our facebook Group

We are uploading information from the mapping we are doing onto our facebook group which we've recently set up.



We have collated this information by area e.g. Frimley / North-West Surrey.

These are word documents for now, but we are exploring more accessible ways of sharing this information.

We are also on [Instagram](#)



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Facebook Groups for families

There are a range of facebook groups across Surrey for families with autistic /neurodivergent children.

You can find these by typing the group name into facebook and searching:

- Neuro Diverse Support Group
- We Shine Local Network
- Surrey Autism Spectrum
- Surrey SEN Group

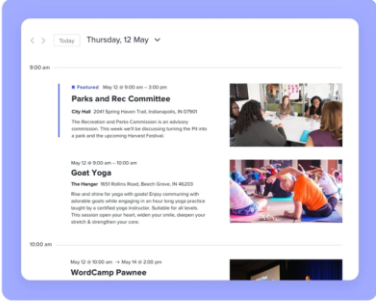


The [National Autistic Society Surrey Branch](#) offer support groups for families, a bi-monthly newsletter and moderated email forum.

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Exploring calendars

We are currently looking at developing an online event calendar for quiet hours and inclusive activities. There are apps we can use for this.



Highlight your events with multiple views.

- Month View
- List View
- Day View
Give your audience the full rundown of all events occurring on the same day.
- Week View
- Photo View
- Map View
- Summary View

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Visual stories

We can support venues to create a Visual Story to help people to prepare in advance for a visit to a venue for the first time.

The Visual Story will be on the website of a venue and aims to answer questions or worries people may have about going somewhere new, as well as helpful adjustments.

Busy times and quieter times

Our busiest times tend to be Fridays Saturdays and Sundays (though Sunday evening is often less busy).

We have a DJ on a Saturday night from 8pm.

There will often be children's parties at the weekend during the day, which can be noisy !

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays tend to be our quieter days and evenings.



We do have ear defenders you can borrow free of charge from the Game On counter.

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Supported 'taster sessions'

We are keen to work with venues to offer 'taster sessions' for autistic / neurodivergent children and adults.



Trying a new activity for the first time can feel daunting.

Our team are keen to support people and can arrange taster sessions which we can meet people at the venue to support them to try an activity out.

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Training

We are developing our ideas for autism / neurodivergence training for venues in local communities.



Our current thinking is to advertise training sessions targeted at venues offering similar services. For example:

A training workshop for leisure centre staff in Surrey and a training workshop for library staff in Surrey.

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North West Surrey mapping

Monisha and Jo have been visiting venues in North West Surrey who offer inclusive activities and quiet hours.

It has been helpful to experience these venues and find out what they are like in reality.

We have had a really positive response from venues who seem very keen to be inclusive.



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The Lightbox Woking



[The Lightbox](#)

- On the last Sunday of every month between 11.00am - 12.00pm, we operate a relaxed opening.
- This is an hour offering a calm atmosphere in which to explore our galleries, sensitive to the needs of visitors with any communication or sensory needs.
- If you would like a slightly quieter entrance to the building, we recommend using the back entrance, accessible through the car park.

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Do or Dice in Addlestone

We are Do or Dice, a table top game café (formerly known as Geek Retreat).

We host a weekly programme of events including Pokemon, Magic Gathering, Yu-Gi-oh!, One Piece, Star Wars unlimited, Lorcana, chess, Dungeons and Dragons, Warhammer and board games.

We have a library of over 300 board games available to borrow while in store.

[Do or Dice](#)



This week at Do or Dice

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
9.30AM - 12PM DROP IN TEA AND COFFEE MORNING	9.30AM - 12PM BABY GEEK SOCIAL MORNING	9.30AM - 12PM BABY GEEK SOCIAL MORNING	9.30AM - 12PM BABY GEEK SOCIAL MORNING	9.30AM - 12PM BABY GEEK SOCIAL MORNING	9.30AM - 11.30AM KIDS POKEMON CLUB £7	10.30AM - 12PM CHESS CLUB
4PM - 6PM AFTERSCHOOL DND £7	4PM - 7PM AFTERSCHOOL TCG DISNEY LORCANA £8	4PM - 6PM BUILD AND PAINT WARHAMMER £7	4PM - 6PM AFTERSCHOOL POKEMON £7	4PM - 6PM GR ACADEMY PLAY AND LEARN TO PLAY £8	ALL DAY FAMILY BOARD GAMES	2PM - 4PM KIDS DND £7
7PM - 10PM ADULTS DND £7	7PM - 10PM YU-GI-OH £7 PLUS OTS	7PM - 10PM ADULTS DND £7	7PM - 10PM ADULTS POKEMON £7	7PM - 10PM MAGIC THE GATHERING CONSIDER £8	6PM - 10PM ADULT DND £7	11AM - 4PM BOARD & PAINT CLUB INCLUDES WARHAMMER £7

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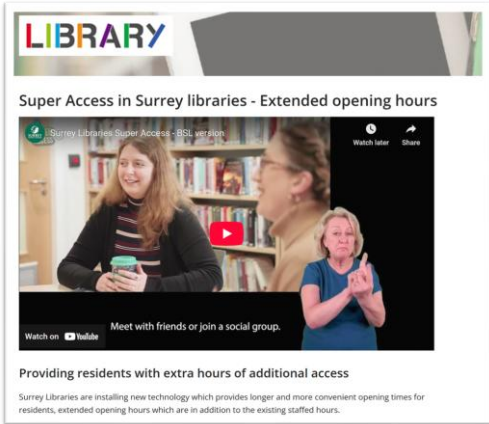
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Surrey Libraries – Super Access



Providing residents with extra hours of additional access.

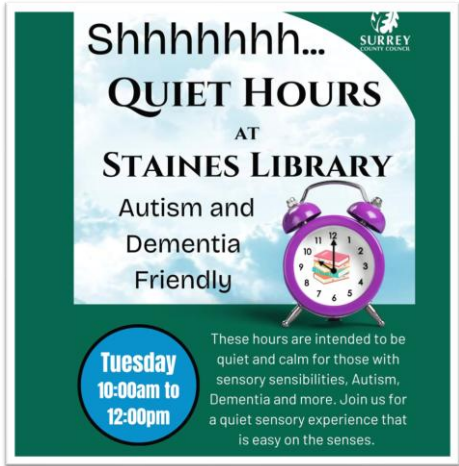
Surrey Libraries are installing new technology which provides longer and more convenient opening times for residents, extended opening hours which are in addition to the existing staffed hours.

Libraries offering this include Woking and Egham

[Surrey Libraries – Extended opening hours](#)

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Staines Library Quiet Hours



During their Quiet Hours Staines library dim the lights and turn down the phone volume.

They also don't have any other events running in the library which could disturb the library users.

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The All Aboard Club



All Aboard Club runs inclusive train-play sessions for autistic, ADHD and SEND children, where they can build their confidence, develop their social skills and just be themselves.



Many of the All Aboard Club staff and volunteers have lived experience of autism and ADHD.

We have designed our child-led play sessions to reduce the children's sensory and social challenges, and allow them to play together.

Groups run in Brookwood, Esher and Sutton.

[All Aboard Club](#)

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Kempton Steam Museum



Sensory-Friendly Sunday - 29th June. A special opening designed for visitors who prefer a quieter, more relaxed experience at the museum.



Kempton Steam Museum is the home of the world's largest working triple-expansion steam engine. The museum is located at the Kempton Park Pumping Station in southwest London, which is operated by Thames Water and continues to supply water to London.

[Kempton Steam Museum](#)

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Support and social groups

We are keen to support the further development of social and support groups for autistic adults in Surrey.



There are existing groups that meet regularly.

- Some of these groups are funded and supported
- Some groups are run by members themselves and unsupported

We are compiling a list of local groups

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Adult support and social groups

The National Autistic Society (seperate to The Surrey Branch) run funded support groups for adults



- Godalming Women's Group (adults - once a month every third Saturday afternoon)
- Guildford Aspire (adults – once a month on a Thursday evening)
- All Surrey virtual social group (adults - Last Friday evening of each month)

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Autistic Peer Network

We have organised online meetings for autistic adults in July 2025. The aim is to get autistic people views on developing peer networks.

Autistic Adults Peer Network Consultation evenings:

- Thursday 10th July 2025 – 7pm to 8.30pm
- Saturday 19th July 2025 – 11am to 12.30pm

Autistic Parents Peer Network Consultation evening:

- Tuesday 1st July 2025 – 7pm to 8.30pm



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Staying safe in the community

We are working with young people to design an easy-to-read guide to staying safe in the community.

Staying safe when:

- Using buses and trains
- Using social media
- Meeting new people



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