



**AUTISM**  
ACCREDITATION



The National  
Autistic Society

# AUTISM ACCREDITATION IN VOCATIONAL SERVICES

## Community Integrated Care's vocational support service

Community Integrated Care provides a vocational support service committed to facilitating people with learning disabilities and mental health issues into integrated and valued employment. They also specialise in supporting autistic people across greater Merseyside.

The vocational service joined Autism Accreditation in 2006, received their first accredited status in 2009 and have maintained this to date.

## Reason for joining

**"The main motivation to join Autism Accreditation was trying to find a benchmark for the work we do. As a supported employment service we are not regulated by Ofsted or the CQC. We wanted to ensure we were working to best practice in our industry."**

"We work with any person with a barrier to employment due to disability. The frameworks used to achieve accredited status work well with people without an ASC, so standards have improved for us across the service."

**"We have stayed with Autism Accreditation as the ongoing process has continued to provide opportunities for us to improve our service. We have also seen a growth in business directly due to having achieved and maintained this."**

## Benefits

"From a business perspective, when we began the process in 2006 we supported seven autistic people. We now support 20.

We have found that the ongoing improvement and benchmarking helps us to ensure that we are working towards best practice.

It has been amazing how well some of the policies and documents we have developed as part of the process work across any disability and are improving things for all the people we support.

We have had a number of different advisers who have all been extremely supportive, offering advice and guidance throughout the process, always available at the end of the phone to listen and support.

Our current adviser helps us to tweak the paperwork we are developing as well as helping us to stay on track with our self-audits. They support us in a way that works for our unique service and is friendly and flexible.

We have been reviewed three times. Each time we are anxious about the process in the lead up to the review and each time have had a lovely time during the review.

**"The peer reviewers who come to look at the service have all been great. All feedback is constructive and this process has enabled us to improve the delivery of the service."**

We are all very proud of the service and it's great to show people around. The people we support are proud of the work they do and love to receive feedback from independent people about how good they are at their job.

We have attended several Accreditation network events and been lucky enough to present at two. Through attending these events we have been able to find out more about other services local to us. We can let people we support know about approaches like Lego therapy. I find these events invaluable and supportive.

**“We would recommend any service that is providing for someone with autism to explore joining Autism Accreditation as it has definitely added value to our service. The biggest thing for us is the independent opinion. There are things that we just do that we don’t see as special. It’s lovely to hear from someone else that it is above and beyond what would be expected from our type of service.”**

Examples include the post service support that we provide to employers and people who have become independent in the workplace. We assist people who are job searching, and who are not eligible for health and social care funding. This process has helped us to realise that we should document this good practice and has made us tell commissioners and social workers about it. This raises our profile with local authorities.”

Autism Accreditation was established in 1993 and now supports over 500 organisations to achieve and recognise good autism practice within their settings.



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