



**AUTISM**  
ACCREDITATION



The National  
Autistic Society

# AUTISM ACCREDITATION IN ADULT SERVICES

## Feltham Young Offenders Institute

HM YOI Feltham is a prison that houses approximately 500 young men, from 15-21 years old. The prison is split into two parts with 15 to 18-year-olds on one side (Feltham A) and 18 to 21-year-olds on the other side (Feltham B).

Young people can be on remand, on trial, or sentenced. Sentences can range from short term to long term. Only sentenced young adults are held at Feltham, up to a maximum of five years.

Feltham has its own education, primary and mental health provision within the prison that supports young adults with their specific needs.

## Reason for joining

“Feltham joined the Autism Accreditation process in December 2013. It was noticed within violence and safeguarding team meetings that autistic prisoners were being discussed more frequently, due to the additional

support that they needed to deal with the prison environment and regime. It was quickly identified that this was an area where some staff lacked awareness and understanding and a prison-wide approach was required to address this. The hope was that by increasing the awareness and understanding of staff, we would improve facilities and services available to autistic prisoners and reduce potential vulnerabilities and violent incidents.”

## Benefits

“The prison-wide approach to this accreditation process has meant that every department and agency in the prison has become involved either through attending training sessions, or by personal involvement in improving facilities in their own areas.”

“For example, all prisons receive support from Samaritans’ support who are responsible for delivering



training to prisoners to be 'Listeners' for other prisoners. Our Samaritans team attended the autism training and had autism awareness added to the Listener training package.

Support was provided throughout the process, from the initial agreement of the standards that were required to achieve accreditation to the guidance on the type of information that was required to provide evidence to show the work that had been done."

**"Our accreditation adviser provided expertise and knowledge throughout the process and we were very grateful for their support.**

**"It has been incredibly encouraging to see the results of the accreditation process across the prison and to be able to see the difference this has made to the service and support we provide for autistic prisoners."**

Andrew Selous, Minister for Prisons and Rehabilitation, commented:

"I am pleased and proud to be congratulating HMYOI Feltham on their accreditation. Staff have worked hard to achieve this award which recognises their enthusiasm and dedication to supporting the individuals in their charge.

"Prisoners with autism have specific needs and, in many cases, small adjustments to the regime and the estate can tackle those problems, giving them a better chance to engage in rehabilitation. I am delighted that numerous other prisons are expressing interest in Accreditation."

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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