



AUTISM
ACCREDITATION



The National
Autistic Society

AUTISM ACCREDITATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

Knowsley Disability Service – 2015 winners

Knowsley Disability Service was commended for the integration of adult day services with leisure and cultural services. Their new-build centres and the co-location of activity bases within mainstream leisure centres provides excellent new purpose-built buildings and access to world class leisure facilities.

It was felt that the above area of work was not only in line with, but surpassed, guidance from the Social Care Institute for Excellence, Community Based Activities for People with Learning Difficulties.

Knowsley Adult Disability Service supports over 280 individuals with learning and physical disabilities and autism. The service is funded by the Knowsley Metropolitan Council.

Over the last 15 years the service has undergone a massive transition from traditional day centres to locality-based activity bases within community and leisure facilities. The co-locations and integration of services is having a positive impact on the wellbeing and outcomes for individuals, ensuring people:

- have the opportunity to achieve the best health and wellbeing throughout their life
- are protected from risks that can affect their health and wellbeing
- are able to look after themselves and support others to do the same.

Having a physical presence in the leisure and community centres has developed a genuine 'place' in the local communities for people with disabilities and autism. Not only do the people use fitness suites and attend fitness sessions alongside local people, but staff from the leisure and culture service have had their awareness of vulnerable people's needs heightened. For example, several leisure centre staff have gained NVQ qualifications in Health and Social Care. Leisure and community centre staff have proved to regularly go beyond their service provision, to support and help the vulnerable people in day support and confirm the place they have in the community.

"As a parent of a young autistic man, I understand the many thoughts and feelings that can be experienced when your son or daughter is transitioning from school to day services. For us as a family I can't put into words the feeling of pleasure that we receive knowing that he is enjoying his days at the activity base."

Ian, carer

"Simply outstanding! The facilities and staff are way beyond my expectations and I am so excited about the possibilities for our son."

Kim, carer

Autism Accreditation was established in 1993 and now supports over 500 organisations to achieve and recognise good autism practice within their settings. The Autism Accreditation Excellence Award is given to services that show particular creativity, innovation or outstanding impact.

Find out more

For more information or advice, or to arrange a call with one of our Accreditation advisers contact the office on

0117 974 8420

accreditation@nas.org.uk

www.autism.org.uk/accreditation

The National Autistic Society is a company limited by guarantee registered in England (No.1205298) and a charity registered in England and Wales (269425) and in Scotland (SC039427), registered office 393 City Road, London, EC1V 1NG. 3049 010916

www.autism.org.uk/accreditation