

Referral and funding process



Initial enquiries can be made via our website

www.autism.org.uk/diagnosisenquiry.

Once a completed referral form has been received, the team will review it and check the referral is appropriate for our service.

If the referral is appropriate, then funding must be organised through your GP, local authority, or independently (private).

Further help

If you are having difficulty accessing funding for an assessment or getting support from your GP or local services, please contact the National Autistic Society Helpline on **0808 800 4104** or get in touch by completing our online form at www.autism.org.uk/helplineenquiry.



Training

The Diagnostic Interview for Social and Communication Disorders (DISCO) was developed by Dr Lorna Wing and Dr Judith Gould as a clinical and research tool for assessing children, young people and adults of any age with possible autism.



DISCO training is for professionals engaged in diagnostic practice who want to develop their knowledge and expertise in assessing people on the autism spectrum.

www.autism.org.uk/training

The National Autistic Society is here to transform lives, change attitudes and create a society that works for autistic people.

We transform lives by providing support, information and practical advice for the 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK, as well as their three million family members and carers. Since 1962, autistic people have turned to us at key moments or challenging times in their lives, be it getting a diagnosis, going to school or finding work.

We change attitudes by improving public understanding of autism and the difficulties many autistic people face. We also work closely with businesses, local authorities and government to help them provide more autism-friendly spaces, deliver better services and improve laws.

We have come a long way but there is still so much to do to increase opportunities, reduce social isolation and build a brighter future for people on the spectrum. With your help, we can make it happen.

For full range of services visit:

www.autism.org.uk/lornawingcentre

The National Autistic Society is a charity registered in England and Wales (269425) and in Scotland (SC039427) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England (No.1205298), registered office 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG. 3604 250619



National
Autistic
Society

Lorna Wing
Centre

Autism diagnostic services Kent and Essex



The **Lorna Wing Centres for Autism** are recognised internationally for their pioneering work in the diagnosis and assessment of autism and related conditions.

The Centres are named after Dr Lorna Wing who co-founded the National Autistic Society in 1962. She coined the term 'autism spectrum', completely revolutionising the world's thinking on autism.

The Lorna Wing Centres provide neurodevelopmental assessments for the NHS and other public services, as well as offering independently commissioned assessments.

The Centres also offer professional training in the diagnosis and assessment of autism spectrum disorders.

Our Centres

The National Autistic Society has been providing diagnostic assessments, consultations and advice for children, young people and adults on the autism spectrum in the UK for over 25 years.



Dr Lorna Wing and Dr Judith Gould established the first Centre in Kent, originally called the Centre for Social and Communication Disorders.

Lorna Wing Centre, Kent (Bromley) was one of the first centres in the country to provide diagnostic and assessment services for people with complex social and communication difficulties in the UK.

The success of the Kent Centre meant we were able to open the new Lorna Wing Centre in Essex (Chigwell).

"When they diagnosed me it was like they knew who I was."

Young adult diagnosed with autism at the Lorna Wing Centre, Kent

"It is a huge relief to have a formal diagnosis for our daughter - it feels like a passport into her future!"

Family member after diagnosis



Our diagnostic and assessment services



Our specialist diagnostic services can be commissioned both privately and through the NHS. We see people of all ages and specialise in the assessment of complex presentations of autism, including people with co-occurring conditions. We provide second opinions for cases where there is uncertainty about diagnostic outcomes.

Diagnostic assessment includes:

- taking a detailed developmental history using the Diagnostic Interview for Social and Communication Disorders (DISCO)
- psychological and/or speech, language and communications assessments
- comprehensive diagnostic report with detailed recommendations based on identified needs
- recognition of gender differences in presentation
- advice that can contribute to a Care Plan, EHCP or Employment Support Plan.

Our professional team includes:

- clinical psychologists
- educational psychologists
- psychiatrists
- speech and language therapists
- social workers
- forensic specialists.

Pre-diagnostic consultation service

To help parents explore whether or not their child needs a full diagnostic assessment and what this might entail.

On the day of your assessment you will have:

- support from our friendly staff
- a dedicated diagnostic team, who will tailor the assessment to your needs
- time to process information and ask questions
- an opportunity to discuss resources
- feedback on the outcome on the day.

Assessment setting:

- homely and relaxed atmosphere
- autism-friendly spaces
- private garden area
- adjustable lighting
- access to sensory equipment.



After your assessment

A draft report is sent to you for comments before it is finalised. You will be offered one year's free membership with the National Autistic Society.