

Calderdale Autism Services Directory 2023



CALDERDALE COUNCIL &
THE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY

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What is the Calderdale Autism Services Directory?

The Calderdale Autism Services Directory contains information about groups and organisations which provide a service to autistic people in Calderdale and surrounding areas. These groups and organisations are currently accessible to autistic people, but may not be Autism specific.

Please note, that some of these groups and organisations may offer multiple services to autistic people but have been categorised based on the primary service they offer.

Advocacy



Cloverleaf Advocacy Service

Cloverleaf Advocacy offers the following services as part of the Calderdale Advocacy service:

- [Care Act Advocacy](#)
- [Independent Mental Health Advocacy \(IMHA\)](#)
- [Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy \(IMCA\)](#)
- [Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards](#)
- [Relevant Person's Representative](#)
- Advocacy for people in a mental health setting

Phone: 01422 849589

Email: calderdaleadvocacy@cloverleaf-advocacy.co.uk

Website: www.cloverleaf-advocacy.co.uk

Healthwatch Calderdale



Healthwatch Calderdale is an independent body that supports people to raise their views and opinions on Health and Social Care in Calderdale and to help people make their voices heard.

Healthwatch Calderdale:

- Uses local volunteers to gather views and information from local people
- Enables local people to make informed choices about their community's health and care
- Influences the way services are designed + delivered
- Has a strong relationship with Health and Social Care providers as a critical friend using community views to influence and improve planning and delivery of services
- Provides information, advice and support about local services

Phone: 01422 399433

Email: info@healthwatchcalderdale.co.uk

Website: www.healthwatchcalderdale.co.uk

NAS Autism Helpline



The NAS helpline is a free telephone service which provides impartial, confidential information and advice for people with an Autistic Spectrum Condition and their families and carers. The NAS helpline is able to offer information and advice in a variety of specialist areas including education rights, school exclusions, childhood behaviour, and adolescent behaviour, transition and has a specialist advisor for adults.

Phone: 0808 800 4104

Website: www.autism.org.uk/services/helplines/main.aspx

Benefits Advice

Citizens Advice Bureau



The Citizens Advice Bureau provides services in Halifax, Brighouse and Todmorden for people within Calderdale. They offer advice and support around a variety of areas including benefits, work, debt and money, consumer issues, relationships, housing, law and rights, discrimination, tax, healthcare and education. Advice can be given via email, telephone or through appointment with an advisor. See the website for opening times and outreach sessions.

Phone: 0808 278 7879

Website: <http://www.calderdalecab.org.uk>

Disability Support Calderdale

We offer person centred support, with issues that people with disabilities and long-term health conditions face in their daily lives, such as:

- * Benefit Issues
- * Housing Issues

We are based at Hebden Bridge and offer regular outreach sessions in Todmorden.

Phone: 07944 511716/ 07990 833521

Email: dsmain@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.disabilitysupportcalderdale.org

NAS Benefits Advice (national)



The National Autistic Society has useful guides on their website on claiming relevant benefits eg Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Carers Allowance and Universal Credit. They no longer provide the Benefits and Welfare Rights Service.

Website: <http://www.autism.org.uk/benefits>

Parents and Carers Groups



Carers Wellbeing Service

This service supports all adults in Calderdale who support someone with a long-term health issue or disability, whether they are caring for a relative, partner, friend or neighbour. They are independent of Adult Social Care.

They help unpaid adult carers in Calderdale who are 18 and over. They also offer support to young adult carers aged 18 to 25.

Their professional and caring support workers offer a free service to carers across Calderdale.

The support given includes:

- Information and advice.
- One-to-one support.
- Help getting into employment.
- Carers breaks.
- Social activities and groups.
- Support with carers needs assessments.
- Carers Emergency Back Up Plans.

Email: carers.wsc@makingspace.co.uk

Telephone: 01422 369101

Website: [Making Space](http://MakingSpace)

Unique Ways



Unique Ways is a parent-carer led organisation supporting disabled children and their families, helping them to lead ordinary lives. Their goal is to make sure that the voices of parent carers and their families are heard. They provide a broad range of services for parent carers, from training courses and Independent Supporters to social events, focus groups and discounts on family days out! They don't restrict their services on whether a child has a diagnosis or not, and instead work with anyone who feels they need their help.

Phone: 01422 343090

Email: hi@uniqueways.org.uk

Website: www.uniqueways.org.uk

Calderdale SEND Information, Advice and Support Service - SENDIASS

Calderdale SEND Information, Advice and Support Service is an impartial, confidential, free, statutory service for parents of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The service is for 0-25 year olds.

Phone: 01422 266141

Website: www.calderdalesendiass.org.uk

Special Stars

Special Stars is a community/therapy family support group which brings Black Minority Ethnic (BME) families who have children with complex needs including autistic children together on a fortnightly basis to access mutual support, therapy and information.

The group also organises activities such as head massage, glass painting and beading. The group currently has over 20 families who attend for support, including parents of older children and young people.

Phone: 01422 394136

Email: cyps.sis@calderdale.gov.uk

NAS Parent to Parent Service



The NAS Parent to Parent (P2P) Service is a UK-wide confidential telephone service providing emotional support to parents and carers of autistic children and adults.

The service is provided by trained parent volunteers who are all parents themselves of an autistic child or adult. Volunteers are based across the UK so you don't have to share information with someone in your local area. All of the volunteers have personal experiences of Autism and the impact it has on their own families. They can give other

parents the opportunity to talk through problems and feelings, suggest helpful strategies, or provide a non judgemental listening ear.

Phone: 0808 800 4106 (24 hour answer phone service)

Website: <https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/help-and-support/parent-to-parent>

NAS Early Bird Team



The National Autistic Society EarlyBird Programme is a support programme for parents and carers of a child under 5 with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. It offers advice and guidance on strategies and approaches to working with autistic children. The team offering EarlyBird has been trained and licensed to deliver EarlyBird programmes by the NAS EarlyBird Centre. In Calderdale the Council's ASD Team provide this training.

Contact: ASD Team

Phone: 0422 394114

Email: cyps.sis@gov.uk

Education

Calderdale College



Calderdale College is the largest provider of further education (post-16) courses and work-based learning (Apprenticeships) and the sole provider of higher education awards in Calderdale. Calderdale College also have a dedicated team of staff who provide additional support to people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and Autism.

Phone: 01422 357 357

Email: www.calderdale.ac.uk/contact-us

Website: www.calderdale.ac.uk



Calderdale Adult Learning

Calderdale Adult Learning provides a range of courses for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. Our courses include cookery, gardening, art and basic maths and English. All classes take place in a friendly, safe and nurturing environment. We are always looking for new learners and new challenges and welcome all enquiries.

Phone: 01422 392820

Email: cyps.cal@calderdale.gov.uk

Website: www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/residents/education-and-learning/adult-learning

Calderdale Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Team

The ASD Team is part of the Specialist Inclusion Teams and offers a specialist service to mainstream schools, early years settings and colleges. We provide support and advice for children and young people with a confirmed diagnosis of ASD, aged 0 -19 in Calderdale to successfully access the learning and social environment, work towards independence and achieve their potential.

The ASD Team accepts referrals from mainstream schools, and operates predominantly during the school term.

There are 3 Specialist ASD resourced Provisions hosted in Calderdale schools which are commissioned by the Local Authority. Admissions to these provisions are via an Admissions Panel.

Support for parents/carers is provided via twice termly coffee mornings, in conjunction with the local branch of the NAS, NAS Family Seminars, NAS EarlyBird Parent Programme and workshops for parents including Transition and Sensory differences.

Phone: 01422 394114

Email: cyps.sis@calderdale.gov.uk

Calderdale & Kirklees Recovery & Wellbeing College

The Recovery & Wellbeing College is led by South West Yorkshire Partnership Trust and supported by Calderdale and Kirklees Councils. We work in partnership with volunteers and other supporting organisations to develop and run a range of workshops and courses which promote wellbeing and good mental health.

Phone: 07826 876172

Email: ck.recovery@swyt.nhs.uk

Website: www.calderdalekirkleesrc.nhs.uk

NAS Education Rights Service



The NAS education rights helpline/case work service can provide general information about educational rights and entitlements, as well as advice on specific topics such as getting extra help in school, assessments, education plans, reviews or school transport.

Phone: 0808 800 4102

Website: www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/help-and-support/education-advice-line

NAS Transition Support Service



The NAS transition support helpline/case work service provides advice and support to young autistic people and their families on making the transition from school, further or higher education to adult life.

We can:

- offer information, advice and support by phone or email
- explain rights and entitlements in relation to transition planning, including education, social security benefits and community care in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- provide information on requesting assessments and accessing support within the community
- help young autistic people and their families explore their options and make informed decisions
- provide guidance and support on specific issues such as engaging young people, finding suitable provision or resolving disagreements.

Phone: 0808 800 0027

Email: online enquiry form on website

Website: <https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/help-and-support/transition-support-service>

Employment



Job Centre Plus

Disability Employment Advisers in Calderdale

Based in Halifax with outreach services in Todmorden the Disability Employment Advisers assist Work Coaches to support customers with health condition or disability which impacts on their ability to find or sustain work.

This is achieved by sharing awareness, knowledge and skills with work coaches helping them to challenge, support and motivate as well as helping claimants identify and address their challenges to work.

We are able to work alongside Work Psychologists, Employment Advisers, internal Provision Managers as well as external stakeholders to assist in creating local solutions to address shortfalls of employment and provision for customers with a complex health condition or disability.

We are a point of contact for GP's, NHS and Disability Charities and other external organisations. Our remit being to promote Jobcentre services and partner with them to source external provision and condition management.

With links to Access to Work we can support customers who are having difficulties within the work place and work closely with them to find solutions to problems such as "reasonable adjustments".

If anyone would like our support in progressing customers towards employment then please make contact using the details below.

Phone: Qudeer Hussain 01422 305061

Email: Qudeer.hussain@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Phone: Lesley Thompson 01422 305135

Email: Lesley.thompson4@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Phone: 0845 604 3719

Website: www.gov.uk/jobsearch

Specialist Autism Services



The employment programme supports autistic adults (18+) through the process of accessing and maintaining employment. It is a rolling programme which offers tailored support according to individual strengths, needs and career aspirations. They are able to support people who would like to work (in whatever capacity that might be) into vocational placements and eventually sustained employment. Alongside this, they offer Autism awareness training to any potential employers/placement providers. The programme runs each Monday and is based in Halifax town centre. To be eligible individuals need to have a diagnosis of Autism, or be on the waiting list, be 18 years old or over. Interested people can be referred on to the programme through their disability employment advisor at their local job centre, or their social worker, or they can self refer.

Phone: 01274 789789

Email: employment@specialistautismservices.org

Website: www.specialistautismservices.org/employment-support

Halifax Opportunities Trust



Halifax Opportunities Trust is a registered charity who support a variety of individuals to find new or 'better' jobs, learn new skills, start new or expand upon existing businesses and help to raise their young families. Halifax Opportunities Trust also work in partnership with a variety of other local community-based initiatives including Himmat, St Augustines Family Centre, Age Concern and Central Halifax Community Initiative. In addition, they offer a variety of training courses which are designed to empower learners to explore their full potential to meet their learning and career aspirations including IT and Employability skills training.

Phone: 01422 347392

Website: www.regen.org.uk

Calderdale and Kirklees Careers



The Calderdale and Kirklees Career are a non-profit social enterprise which provide high quality, impartial information, advice and guidance to young people and adults who reside in the Calderdale and Kirklees borough. Calderdale and Kirklees Career's provide careers information, advice and guidance to adults (19+), students (13-19yrs) in school and colleges, young people not in educational employment or training, vulnerable groups and have an allocated LDD lead to support students with learning disabilities (13-24yrs) including autistic students. They also provide support to employers around recruitment and work experience.

Phone: 01422 754300

Email: enquiries@ckcareers.co.uk

Website: www.ckcareersonline.org.uk

Talent Match

For young people aged 18-24 years old who have been unemployed for 12 months or more and are resident in West Yorkshire. All young people will be supported through tailored 1:1 sessions to identify their individual needs and build personal confidence to enable them to secure employment.

What can Talent Match offer to young people:

- *One to One mentoring for a minimum of 12 months*
- *Designated Key Worker local to the young person*
- *Access to a bursary to remove barriers such as travel, licences, id (this list is not exhaustive)*
- *Access to internal opportunities such as mental health provision, social activities, young ambassador programme and job creation*
- *The Key Worker will also help to identify other funded opportunities for the young person*
- *Where required the Key Worker will work alongside work coaches*

Phone: Victoria Robinson - 07776 766956

Email: Victoria.robinson@brathay.org.uk

Working Wonders

Working Wonders is a charity based in Halifax that supports young people (aged from 14 - 25) to help get them 'work ready' for the world of work and apprenticeships. We have grants available to support young people and small businesses. We encourage and support businesses, enabling them to increase their workforce capacity and provide apprenticeships.

Phone: 07807 011948

Email: jaynes@cffc.co.uk



Scope Starting Line Employment Service

Starting Line is a pre-employment training programme for disabled people at the start of their journey into work. We will work with you to develop a programme around your career goals and how you can achieve them.

Starting Line is free and open to people who are:

- disabled or have an impairment or condition
- living in Calderdale
- aged 16 and over

Starting Line will support you to:

- grow in confidence, assertiveness and independence
- develop your interview skills
- find volunteering, training or employment opportunities
- talk about disability in the workplace

Training sessions will usually be:

- up to 2 hours long
- held 2 times a week for 7 weeks
- one to one with your employment adviser or in groups

Sessions are held over the phone and online. We can provide adjustments if you need them, such as British Sign Language video interpretation or live chat.

Phone: 0300 222 5742

Email: startingline@scope.org.uk

Mental Health Services



Calderdale CMHT

The Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) provides support for people with mental health difficulties. The team aim to enable people of working age with a mental illness to receive appropriate health and social care in order to lead as independent lives as possible. The team operates from the mental health hub at the Laura Mitchell Health and Wellbeing Centre in Halifax. The team only works with those service users where there are significant other complex and severe mental health issues and are currently unable to work with a primary diagnosis of autism or ADHD. If a specialist referral is required for the autism or ADHD then this needs to be discussed with the relevant appointed GP.

Phone (Single Point of Access): 01422 222888

Calderdale Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team (CAMHS)

There are two CAMHS services in Calderdale:

CAMHS Tier 2 (provided by Northpoint Wellbeing)

CAMHS Tier 2 work with children displaying emotional or mental health problems which significantly affect their daily life despite a preventative or universal services intervention AND the criteria for Tier 3 CAMHS (see below) are not met.

Northpoint also provide the First Point of Contact which is a single point of entry for all CAMHS referrals. The First Point of Contact also offers consultation, advice, support and referral guidance to the Calderdale Children's workforce.

Phone: 01422 300 001

Address: 9 Clare Road, Halifax, HX1 2HX



CAMHS Tier 3 (provided by SWYFT)

CAMHS Tier 3 work with more severe, complex and enduring difficulties affecting children & young people. Tier 3 CAMHS can also help where there is a reasonable indication that the child may have complex neurodevelopmental difficulties e.g. autistic spectrum

continuum, ADHD or other difficulties that may require a multi-disciplinary assessment.

Phone: 01422 262 380

Address: Laura Mitchell Health and Wellbeing Centre, Great Albion Street, Halifax, HX1 1YR

Adult Social Care Services

'Gateway to Care'



Gateway to Care is the first point of contact for adult social care and advice.

The Gateway to Care team includes dedicated nurses, social workers and trained advisors who are working together to make sure people receive coordinated care, help and advice.

Phone: 01422 393000

Email: GatewaytoCare@Calderdale.gov.uk

Counselling

Specialist Autism Services



Specialist Autism Services offer counselling to their members and privately at a cost of £55 per hour. Issues such as bereavement, struggling to adapt following a diagnosis, the problems arising from working in a neurotypical environment, misunderstandings in relationships and trying to relate to people in a neurotypical world.

Phone: 01274 789789

Email: info@specialistautismservices.org

Brighthouse Counselling and Psychotherapy

Deborah Wortman is a highly experienced therapist based in Halifax who has been practising since 2001. She is committed to providing counselling and psychotherapy in a safe, confidential and non-judgemental environment.

In addition to offering standard counselling, she also offers a specialist service working with adults and young adults with undiagnosed/traits or diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), in particular 'Aspergers'. She has over 20 years personal experience and practical professional knowledge of dealing with people on the Autistic Spectrum.

She offers individual or couples counselling at a cost of £55 per individual or £65 per couple.

Phone: 07789 642161

Email: www.brighthousecounselling.co.uk

Leisure

VUE Cinema Autism Friendly Screenings

Vue cinema located in Halifax in partnership with dimensions is holding monthly autism friendly screenings of films on the last Sunday of every month at 10am. Films are varied and are suitable for all age ranges. Autism friendly screenings have low lighting, decreased volume, no trailers at the beginning of films, opportunity to take your own food and drinks and ability to move around the cinema as required.



Website: www.dimensions-uk.org/autismfriendly

Creative Minds



At Creative Minds, we are integrating creativity and the arts into mainstream health and wellbeing practice. We deliver and run projects for local people, to develop individuals' and communities' mental, physical and psychological wellbeing. Our approaches around creative activities, sports and hobbies are developed to:

- Boost confidence and self-esteem by providing opportunities to discover new, exciting activities and experiences.
- Develop social skills and social integration by offering chances to connect with like-minded people.
- Create a sense of purpose by creating communities around shared passions.
- Improve quality of life by making new friends at the events and activities hosted by us and our partners.

Take a look at the website to see the projects running today that you can join.

Phone: 01924 316 285

Email: CreativeMinds@SWYT.NHS.UK

Website: www.creativemindsuk.com

Purple Patch Arts

Purple Patch Arts is a local group who provide opportunities for people with learning disabilities and Autism to have lives that are fulfilling. The work Purple Patch Arts do supports people to build their confidence, communication and self advocacy skills. The activities which are on offer 'inspire creative adventure' and use arts as a way of making things accessible.



Purple Patch Arts offer lifelong learning programmes where people are given the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities including drama, dance, music and literature. Please contact us for prices of activities.

Purple Patch Arts also offer art workshops during school holidays and offer two residential weekends a year where people can take part in a range of creative activities.

Phone: 07725041801

Email: info@purplepatcharts.org

Website: www.purplepatcharts.org

Social Groups

Gateway Youth Club

A youth club for young people aged 13-25 with additional support needs on Thursday eves at The Orange Box, Halifax.

Email: John.Kennedy@Calderdale.gov.uk

Loving Every Minute

Loving Every Minute is a social group designed for young people between the ages of 13-25 with a disability, including Autism Spectrum Conditions. The group meets every Monday from 6-8pm at The Orange Box, Halifax.

Email: John.Kennedy@Calderdale.gov.uk

Luv2MeetU

Luv2meetU is a friendship and dating agency for people with a learning disability or autism aged 18 and over. We support people to make friends, share interests and develop relationships. For Calderdale enquiries contact:

Phone: Liz Davies - 07825 781695

Email: liz.davies@hft.org.uk

Mayfield Trust Social Night

Social Night at Lee Mount Working Men's Club supported by The Mayfield Trust on Tuesday evenings 7-9pm

Phone: 01422 322552

Email: info@mayfield-trust.org.uk

Phoebe's Night

Phoebe's night is a pub based social group for young adults (18-30's) with a learning disability, including Autistic Spectrum Condition which provides the opportunity to meet other likeminded people in a community based environment. This social group runs every Monday from 7pm-9pm at The Blind Pig pub in Sowerby Bridge.

Phone: 01422 833023

NAS Calderdale Branch

The Calderdale NAS Branch offers support to autistic individuals, individuals who are on the waiting list to receive a diagnosis and families and carers who support an autistic person. The branch provides peer support through our Facebook Page and opportunities to meet and take part in our different monthly activities.

Phone: 07798 617448

Email: calderdale@nas.org.uk

Website: www.calderdalenas.org.uk



Support Groups and Peer Support

Calderdale Autism Hub

The Autism Hub is a free weekly informal drop-in service, funded by Calderdale Council and provided by Specialist Autism Services.

At the Autism Hub you can get information and guidance from our experienced staff team and share experiences and coping strategies with other autistic adults who live in Calderdale.

Here you will have the chance to learn more about your diagnosis and learn social and communication skills, coping skills and strategies to help you get the most out of life.

Phone: 01274 789789

Email: info@specialistautismservices.org

Website: www.specialistautismservices.org/calderdale-hub

Healthy Minds



Healthy Minds are Calderdale's local mental health charity, led by people who have personal experience of emotional distress.

We believe that mental health is one aspect of a person's life, not what defines them.

With kindness and respect, together we create and provide

opportunities for people to understand and build on their strengths to better achieve what they want from their lives.

Services offered include:

- Support groups
- Welfare Rights Advice
- Roshani (mental health education project for BME groups)
- SafeSpace (out of hours emotional support for people in distress)
- Time Out (gives young people aged 10-19 access to a range of activities such as arts and crafts, sports and outdoors or singing and drama)

Phone: 01422 345154

Website: www.healthymindscalderdale.co.uk

The Society for Neurodiversity (S4ND)

The Society for Neurodiversity empowers and connects autistic and other neurodiverse people. They campaign for better equality, understanding and embracing of neurodiversity. It's free to join and members can access online meet ups several times a week as well as free weekly online mindful movement classes and a website to chat to other members and form interest groups.

Phone: 01422 348777 / 07971 450062

Email: enquiries@s4nd.org

Website: www.s4nd.org

Sukoon

Sukoon is a well-being group for women from the BME community who care for an adult with mental health needs or autism. The group meets fortnightly at Queens Road Neighbourhood Centre in Halifax. A range of activities take place and the group leader speaks Urdu/Punjabi.

Email: Natsha.Malik@makingspace.co.uk

Phone: 07815 493442

Contact Us

If you would like any further information regarding the Calderdale Autism Services Directory or would like to add or update information, please contact Dawn Collins at Dawn.Collins@Calderdale.gov.uk or on (01422) 393966.



Calderdale Adult Health and Social Care
Princess Buildings, Halifax, HX1 1TS