

What is the Autism Community Connector and Engagement Team?

The Autism Community Connector and Engagement Team in North Yorkshire and York aims to improve the health; well-being and independence of families with children and young people who are awaiting or have recently received an Autistic diagnosis to strengthen pathways of support. The core principles of the service are:

- To provide free, time limited, targeted, support
- To promote independence and facilitate self-help
- To work alongside families to build their confidence and skills
- To facilitate self-assessments and make referrals where appropriate.
- To complement existing services
- To provide practical advice, information and support

Social Prescribers spend time with families on a one-to-one basis to identify what is important to them, what potential networks of support they have and what their priorities are. They will work with families to achieve positive outcomes that are important to them. There isn't a definitive list of 'things' that the Social Prescriber will do because it is a personalised service and it will vary as to what the individual wants to achieve. Some examples of support are:

- Support to build self-confidence
- Support with practical advice and skills
- Helping a family to be connected to, linked with or signposted to services and networks in their area.

Who can access support from the Autism Community Connector and Engagement Team?

This service is currently available to families who have a child and young people with autism diagnosis or those who are currently going through the diagnostic process. As this service is currently a pilot, it is available only to families based in Harrogate, Hambleton/Richmondshire and City of York localities.

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