

Mental Health Carers Service Information & Advice Sheets

Autistic Spectrum Disorder & Asperger syndrome

Up to 1/3 of people with a learning disability are thought to have an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

This is a lifelong developmental disorder that affects the way a person communicates & relates to people around them. They experience difficulties with everyday social situations & interactions.

Their ability to develop friendships is generally limited, as is their capacity to understand other people's emotional expression.

There is also a condition called Asperger syndrome.

Asperger syndrome is a form of autism, used to describe people at the 'higher functioning' end of the autistic spectrum.

People with Asperger syndrome find it more difficult to read the signals which most of us take for granted.

As a result, they find it more difficult to communicate & interact with others. They often have fewer problems with language than those with autism – often

The **National Autistic Society** (NAS) is the UK's leading charity for people with an autistic spectrum disorder. The NAS champions the rights & interests of all people with autism & Asperger syndrome, & those who care for them.

Contact **Autism Helpline** 0845 070 4004 Open Mon – Friday 10am – 4pm ,
minicom 0845 070 4003