



# AIM NEWS

Autumn 2018 | Leeds Autism AIM's official newsletter  
A FREE service for autistic adults in Leeds with little/no support

## FRIDAY HUB NOW WEEKLY

### • Quiet sessions for booked appointments and groups

We can officially confirm that our additional quiet Friday Hub session for booked appointments only will now be running on a weekly basis. This means that we are able to provide more one-to-one support if needed. The Friday session is intended to be quieter than our Tuesday drop-in. There, we can offer the following support:

- Information and signposting to services you would like to access
- Limited advocacy support
- One-to-one peer support from Trudi, our Peer Support Worker and Gill, our Peer Development Worker. They will be working on alternate Fridays
- Employment advice every other Friday
- Support from the **Chapelton Citizens Advice Bureau** every other Friday
- Self-advocacy tools/personalised resources



As well as that, we plan on holding regular groups at the Hub, most likely in time for early next year. We will have details of what they are and how often they will be running at a future date.

The Friday Hub is open from **4-7pm** and will be at the Lovell Park Hub (pictured), just outside Leeds City Centre. To come along, you need to live in the Leeds City Council area

and to book an appointment with us beforehand.

To book a place at one of our Friday Hubs, please contact us by email at [leedsautismaim@advonet.org.uk](mailto:leedsautismaim@advonet.org.uk) or by calling the Advonet office on **0113 244 0606**.

If you are contacting us by phone, you will be put through to someone from the Leeds Autism AIM staff team.

### Advonet online stakeholder survey

Advonet, which Leeds Autism AIM is part of, have a stakeholder survey where anyone who takes it can share their views on what they are doing well and what they could do better. The survey is open to members of the public, third sector workers, carers and Advonet service users. Find it at [surveymonkey.co.uk/r/advonetstakeholdersurvey2018](http://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/advonetstakeholdersurvey2018).

### Staff deliver autism and MH session

As requested by attendees and services, AIM staff delivered an autism understanding session to a group of therapists from IAPT services in September. This was really well-received, and we will be delivering further sessions to IAPT in the new year, as well as additional training to the new community-based mental health services

### Self-advocacy tools discussion

AIM staff were involved in a discussion on self-advocacy tools at the recent Advonet-led Strengthening the City Through Advocacy event. We spoke about the existing tools we use and learned about what tools are used by other groups. Gill Loomes, our Peer Development Worker, is currently developing additional ideas and resources to expand further.

### First visit to the Hub?

Due to increasingly high use of our Tuesday drop-in (recently averaging 35 people each session), we would like to request that any people who have not visited the service before contact us first to make sure we can give enough time and support to you on your first visit. The contact details are on the other side of the newsletter.



Leeds Autism AIM is part of Advonet, a charity which provides a range of independent advocacy services throughout Leeds.  
Find out more at [advonet.org.uk](http://advonet.org.uk)

# LEEDS AUTISM AIM NEWS

## LADS TEAM BACK AT HUB

After a few months away, the Leeds Autism Diagnostic Service (LADS) team are now back doing their monthly consultation session at the Lovell Autism Hub.

The session is for anyone who wants more info about getting a diagnosis, as well as any additional advice about autism.

The session is on the second Tuesday of each month from **3:30pm to 5pm**. Contact us if you would like to book an appointment to see them.

## LTHT TALK ON 27TH NOV

On **Tuesday 27th November**, the Patient Liaison lead and Lead Nurse for Autism and Learning Disability from the Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHT) will be coming to our Hub to talk about access to health services.

Both will be visiting to talk about what they can do for autistic patients visiting any NHS hospital in Leeds and will be around to answer questions. The talk is from **4-5pm**; it is open to autistic adults in Leeds.

## SOCIALISING DISCUSSION

November's Cafe Autistique group will be discussing socialising and what the barriers are for autistic people. It follows on from October's discussion on shopping.

It will take place on **Tuesday 27th November** from **5:30pm to 6:30pm**. The group is open to autistic adults, and parents, carers and partners of autistic adults who live in the area. The group is completely free to attend and will be at the Lovell Autism Hub.

## AUTISM NEWS IN BRIEF

### AUTISM TRAINING DEBATE

MPs debated the topic of autism training for healthcare professionals. The debate, which took place on Monday 22nd October, resulted from a successful petition by campaigner and mother Paula McGowan.

It called for autism training for healthcare professionals to be made mandatory in order to prevent the avoidable deaths of autistic people and people with learning disabilities in hospital wards.

You can read a transcript of the debate in Parliament by going to <http://bit.ly/2OJOb3m>.

### YOUNG AUTISTIC GROUP

People Matters' weekly social group for young autistic people is back for the new academic year. It is for autistic people in Leeds aged 14-25 and meets every Wednesday during term time.

The group goes out together, doing activities such as playing 8-ball pool and computer gaming. Its aim is to help young autistic people socialise at their own pace.

For further information about joining in this social group, please call the People Matters office on **0113 234 6896**.

### AUTISM REFERENCE GROUP

The next Autism Reference Group meeting will be held on **Tuesday 20th November** at the Lovell Autism Hub from **5-6:30pm**.

It will look at the Self-Assessment Framework for autism services in Leeds and will ask people who attend how they would rate services around five specific areas.

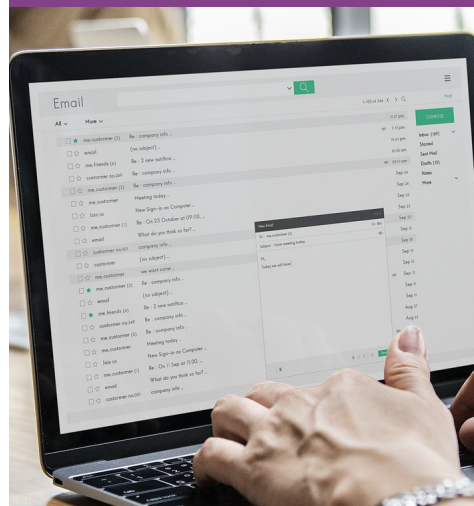
The group is for autistic adults in the Leeds area and feeds into the Autism Partnership Board. At the end of the meeting, people can nominate themselves to go to the Board meeting in early December.

## INFORMATION

If you are not able to use the drop-in or mentoring services, you can contact us for info by phone, email or on our Facebook page at any time.

Just send us a message to the contacts below and we will do our best to answer any questions.

## MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE



Starting this autumn, we produce a monthly email update to our two mailing lists. In it, we have the latest timetable for our drop-in hub on Tuesdays, news from across our website and a little more info about any groups and talks we have at our Hub sessions each month.

To sign up for these updates, visit [leedsautismaim.wordpress.com/resources/mailling-lists/](https://leedsautismaim.wordpress.com/resources/mailling-lists/). You can unsubscribe from these lists at any time.

## CONTACT THE AIM TEAM

Web: [leedsautismaim.org.uk](https://leedsautismaim.org.uk) / Tel: 0113 244 0606

Facebook: [facebook.com/leedsautismaim](https://facebook.com/leedsautismaim)

Twitter: [twitter.com/leedsautismAIM](https://twitter.com/leedsautismAIM)

Email: [leedsautismaim@advonet.org.uk](mailto:leedsautismaim@advonet.org.uk)



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Leeds Autism AIM is funded by the Big Lottery Fund, Leeds CCG and the Health & Social Care Volunteering Fund