Information Pack

for parents and carers of children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder

October 2009
Acknowledgements

This Information Pack has been developed through joint working. Special thanks go to the following individuals for giving their time to support the venture:

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A Parent’s Introduction

You are probably just coming to terms with this diagnosis and a little uncertain where and who to turn to next. It is important to realise that you are not alone – there are many services and organisations available that can help parents and carers of children and young people recently diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs).

This pack is designed to provide help, support and information on Autism Spectrum Disorders and guide parents to specific and specialist support services within the county of Gloucestershire.

Introduction

This information pack has been put together for families with a child who has recently been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and is tailored for families living locally.

A group of people has worked together to develop the information pack. It forms part of the work which aims to develop a consistent approach to diagnosis in the county. Representatives from different agencies and a parent adviser have met to prepare the pack.

There is a wealth of information available about ASD. It can be difficult finding information that will be most useful to you in the beginning. This pack aims to be a starting point. You may wish to discuss the pack with the lead professional or key worker working with you and your child.

We have included information on organisations that offer support and advice for parents and carers of children with ASD, and relevant information about the services available within Gloucestershire.

What is an autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) are lifelong, developmental disabilities that affect the way a person communicates and relates to people around them.

Children with ASDs are affected in a variety of ways and to very different degrees. This is why it’s called ‘the autistic spectrum’. Autism can affect children with any level of intellectual ability; from those who are profoundly learning disabled, to those with average or high intelligence. Having an ASD doesn’t mean that you have learning difficulties. The more acutely affected children at one end of the spectrum have learning difficulties as well and will often require high levels of support. At the other end of the spectrum, some people with Asperger Syndrome do not have an intellectual impairment. Some children have other difficulties which are not directly related to their ASD, such as dyspraxia, dyslexia, or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). It’s important to seek an assessment of any other conditions, as this affects the sort of support that will best meet your child’s needs.
**What are the signs and characteristics of autism spectrum disorders?**

Children with ASDs have difficulties relating to other people in a meaningful way. Their ability to develop relationships is impaired, as is their capacity to understand other people’s feelings and the social rules of communication.

Everyone with an ASD has difficulties in three areas. These are known as the ‘triad of impairments’ or the ‘three impairments’.

- **Social Interaction**
  Difficulty understanding social ‘rules’, behaviour and relationships, for example, appearing indifferent to other people or not understanding how to take turns

- **Social communication**
  Difficulty with verbal and non-verbal communication, for example, not fully understanding the meaning of common gestures, facial expressions or tone of voice

- **Rigidity of thinking and difficulties with social imagination**
  Difficulty in the development of interpersonal play and imagination, for example, having a limited range of imaginative activities, possibly copied and pursued rigidly and repetitively.

All children with autism have impairments in all three of these areas. Each child is individual and the way in which the three impairments manifest themselves varies enormously.

**Sensory Difficulties**

Senses provide individuals with unique experiences and allow us to interact and be involved with the rest of society. They help us to understand the environment around us and how to respond within it. It is not uncommon for children with an ASD to be very sensitive (hypersensitive) or under sensitive (hyposensitive) in one or more of their senses. They may have heightened sensitivity to certain types of sound, touch, movement, texture, taste of food, light, colour or smell. Something like a clothes label might cause a child discomfort. Other children may lack sensory awareness of temperature or pain. Some children shift between hypersensitivity to hyposensitivity. Sensory difficulties can have an impact on behaviour and communication.

(Information taken and adapted from Early Support Information for parents Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and related conditions. For a more detailed explanation about ASDs read the booklet ‘Early Support Autistic Spectrum Disorders and related conditions’ available with this pack.)
National Organisations

Afasic Unlocking Speech and Language
Address: 2nd Floor, 50-52 Great Sutton Street, London, EC1V 0DJ
Helpline: 0845 355 5577 calls charged at local rate
E-mail: info@afasic.org.uk
Website: www.afasic.org.uk

Afasic aims to increase awareness and recognition of communication impairments and to assist with developing children’s confidence and self-esteem. Afasic offers a range of services and information that include a helpline, publications, support groups, online message boards and membership.

Contact a Family
Address: 209-211 City Road, London EC1V 1JN
Helpline: 0808 808 3555 Freephone for parents and families
(10 - 4 Mon – Fri and 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm Monday evenings)
E-mail: helpline@cafamily.org.uk
Website: www.cafamily.org.uk

Contact a Family is a UK-wide charity, providing support, advice and information for families with disabled children.

National Autistic Society (NAS)
Address: 393 City Road, London, EC1V 1NG
Helpline: 0845 070 4004 (10-4 Mon-Fri), calls charged at local rate from landlines
E-mail: nas@nas.org.uk
Website: www.nas.org.uk

The National Autistic Society aims to offer families and carers information, advice and support, to stimulate more understanding about the difficulties that people with autism face, to encourage research, to provide day and residential services for people with autism. Activities include an information and helpline service, a range of literature, a national diagnostic and assessment service, courses and conferences.

Office for Advice, Assistance, Support and Information on Special Needs (OAASIS)
Address: OAASIS, The Croft, Vicars Hill Boldre, Lymington, Hants
Helpline: 0800 197 3907
E-mail: oaasis@cambiangroup.com
Website: www.oaasis.co.uk
A resource for parents & professionals caring for children with Autism / Asperger Syndrome and other learning disabilities including free publications, information and advice and support.

**Parent to Parent line (NAS)**
Address: 393 City Road, London, EC1V 1NG
Helpline: 0800 9 520 520
E-mail: nas@nas.org.uk
Website: www.nas.org.uk

Parent to Parent is a confidential telephone support service for parents and carers of an adult or child on the autism spectrum. You can call free from a landline at any time and leave a message. A volunteer will then phone you back as soon as possible. Our volunteers can call at a time that suits you, including evenings and weekends.

Please be aware that if you call the line from a mobile you may be charged - please check with your provider.

**The Autism Services Directory (formerly known as PARIS)**
Website: www.autismdirectory.org.uk

Paris is an online UK-wide database of diagnostic services, schools, support groups, training courses, residential and day services and much more. The directory is designed to help people with autism (including those with Asperger Syndrome), their families and the people who work with them professionally to find out more about the services available to them.
Department for Work and Pensions

Benefit Enquiry Line
Tel. No: 0800 88 22 20 (before you have made a claim)

Confidential advice and information for people with disabilities, their carers and representatives, about social security benefits and how to claim them. You can call the Benefit Enquiry Line and ask them to send you a claim pack. Benefit Enquiry Line is open 8.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 1.00pm Saturday

Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance
Address: Warbreck House
        Warbreck Hill
        Blackpool
        Lancashire
        FY2 0YE

Tel. No: 0845 7 12 34 56

General enquiries about Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance

Carer’s Allowance Unit
Address: Palatine House
        Lancaster Road
        Preston
        Lancashire
        PR1 1HB

Tel. No: 01253 856 123
Enquiry line for information regarding Carer’s Allowance, the main state benefit for carers, including eligibility and how to make a claim.
Local Information Services

Family Information Service
Gloucestershire County Council’s Family Information Service offers information on childcare (finding the right childcare), funded nursery education, information on tax credits and benefits, parenting information, family support and details of children’s activities.
Freephone: 0800 542 0202
Email: familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Gloucestershire Children and Young People's Service Directory
The directory provides information about local, regional and national organisations. The services they provide and the events they hold for families with children and young people aged between 0 and 19 years (25 years for young people with additional needs). The directory has been put together by Gloucestershire County Council's Family Advice Service to provide information on childcare, housing, finance, employment and training, services for children with disabilities, health services and crisis help lines.
Website: www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk

GUIDE
GUIDE information service – a free and confidential health, social care and disability information service.
Freephone No. is 08000 151 548
Email: enquiries@guide-information.org.uk
Website: www.guide-information.org.uk – listing local and national support services and organisations.

PALS
Advice and support for people using NHS services in Gloucestershire
Tel: 0800 0151 548
Email: community.pals@glos.nhs.uk
Website: www.palsglos.org.uk

The Key
An information service for any family in Gloucestershire with a disabled child. Members receive information on services and benefits for disabled children and young people, customized to the child or young people’s needs.
Tel: 08456 583 857
Email: thekey@guide-information.org.uk
Website: www.keywords.org.uk.
Local Organisations

CADCAF - Cheltenham and District Carers and Families
Contact: Emma Searle
Telephone: 01242 222117
E-mail: emma@cadcaf.co.uk
Website: www.cadcaf.co.uk

A support group for families and carers in the Cheltenham area who have children with special needs. They offer support for carers, in addition to social activities for families during school holidays and occasional weekends. The group holds coffee mornings once a month at Battledown Centre, a toy library takes place once a month on a Saturday, and activities and coach trips are arranged during the school holidays. They also arrange ‘siblings-only’ activities and therapy sessions for parents/carers.

CADCAF now offer a counselling service for parents/carers in the group. Also available (for children with special needs aged 8-15 years of age) is a Wednesday out of school club (term time only). A membership fee applies.

Carers Gloucestershire
Contact: Lucy Powrie
Telephone: 01452 386283
Website: www.gloscarers.org.uk

Carers Gloucestershire is an independent carer led organisation that seeks to empower carers across the county to promote their rights and enable them to make positive choices to improve the quality of their lives. They offer help, advice and advocacy, which includes helping you to find your way through the welfare benefit system and ensure you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to, help with filling in the forms and appealing against decisions, write letters or make phone calls on your behalf, attend meetings with you and speak on your behalf if you want them to.

Face 2 Face Gloucestershire
Contact: Juliet Blackburn
Telephone: 0844 800 9189
E-mail: facetofacenetwork@scope.org.uk
Website: www.facetofacenetwork.org.uk

Face 2 Face is a network of trained volunteer befrienders who are able to offer emotional support at the time of diagnosis of their child’s disability, or at a time when a parent may feel overwhelmed with issues relating to their child’s disability. Befrienders undergo training and because they themselves have disabled children, are able to share and empathise with other parents because of their own experiences. Many parents find it invaluable to have another parent to talk to who can understand and listen. Face 2 Face Gloucestershire links parents with befrienders who live nearby so that they can meet and talk face to face. Face 2 Face is free and confidential and supports parents of children with any type of disability or special need.
Forest Support Group (Forest Pulse)
Contact: Pam Jones
Telephone: 01594 826357
E-mail: admin@forestcontactafamily.org

Forest Pulse is a local independent charity, managed by parents, which offers a support and befriending service to families living in the Forest of Dean area who have a child with Special Needs, from birth to nineteen years. This is achieved by linking parents together, through Coffee Mornings, Social Events, a Quarterly Newsletter and through a variety of activities for the children and young people. Parents of children and young people with autistic spectrum, communication and language disorders meet once a month at the Heart of the Forest Community Special School.

Gloucester Autism Support for Parents (GASP)
Contact: Paula Willcox
Telephone: 01452 305775

Gloucester Autism Support Group for the families and carers of children and young people (up to sixteen years) meets at The Spring Centre on the second Monday of each month, from 10:00am to 12 noon. Childcare is available.

Jigsaw - Aspergers and Autism Support Group - Tewkesbury
Contact: Evelyn Ley
Telephone: 01684 290116
E-mail: jigsawtewkesbury@yahoo.co.uk

This is an informal support group for families in the Tewkesbury area who have children affected by Asperger Syndrome or Autism. The group meets once a month at Alderman Knight School. The group is an informal gathering where parents and carers can gain mutual support, information and friendship. Some sessions include guest speakers who come along to give advice and answer any questions. Membership is free.

National Autistic Society - Gloucestershire Branch
(formerly the Stroud Autistic Support Group)
Contact: Amanda Jenkins
Telephone: 0777 073 1012
E-mail: gloucestershire@nas.org.uk

The Gloucestershire Branch of the National Autistic Society (NAS) provides local support, information and help to parents, carers and families affected by autism. The branch meets during the evening, once a month, with speakers invited to talk about various issues relating to Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs), and also informally during the daytime in Cheltenham (am) and Tewkesbury (pm). We also offer social activities during school holidays, autism conferences/workshops, branch newsletter, confidential individual support via our telephone and email helpline and access to our extensive resource library. Branch membership is free and we welcome anyone for whom our group may be a helpful resource.

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Respite Care

Crossroads (Caring for Carers)
- Cheltenham and Tewkesbury – 01242 584844
- Stroud and Gloucester – 01453 755999
  (incl. Hucclecote, Churchdown, Brockworth & Quedgeley)
- Forest of Dean – Tel. 01594 823414
  Email: admin@crossroadsfd.org.uk
  Website: www.crossroadsfd.org.uk

The main service that they provide is a high quality domiciliary respite care service. Community support is offered in the carer’s home, taking over their caring duties, giving the carers an essential break. Service is usually free and is reliable, flexible and tailored to your needs and can give you regular planned breaks any time, including evenings and weekends. Crossroads is a national charity and there is a high demand for their service and they currently have a waiting list.

Hop, Skip and Jump Play and Support Centre, Seven Springs
Contact: Centre Manager - Lynne Godwin
Telephone: 01242 870438
Email: hsj@hsjcotswold.plus.com
Website: www.sevensprings.co.uk

The centre provides a safe and fun environment for children to play. They offer respite and also open the centre for families to come along with their children. An initial assessment is carried out to determine level of supervision. They also run a Saturday club giving children an opportunity to spend some time on their own at the centre whilst their parents/carers can have a few hours break knowing their child is in a safe and fun environment.

The Spring Centre, Gardener House, Quedgeley
Contact: The Spring Centre
Telephone: 01452 725935
Email: info@springcentre.org
Website: www.springcentre.org

The Spring Centre provides care and support to children and young people with disabilities and their families from across Gloucestershire. Services range from respite care, after school club and holiday activities. We also provide specific help and support for parents and siblings through our family sessions, coffee mornings and holistic therapies.
Local Services - Preschool Services

CAMHS
Address: Child & Adolescent Services (CAMHS)
        Acorn House, Horton Road
        Gloucester GL1 3PX
Telephone: 08454 226010

CAMHS is a multi-disciplinary, community based therapeutic and assessment service that responds to the psychological and emotional needs of children and young people up to 18 years of age with mild to moderate mental health difficulties and forms part of a continuum of emotional health and wellbeing services in Gloucestershire. The service aims to see children as individuals, within a family and/or social context. It acknowledges the right of parents and carers and aims to involve them in the intervention process where appropriate. The service aims to provide effective, appropriate communication in relation to the child's care with other agencies and professionals as appropriate within the remit of consent to share procedures.

Communication and Interaction Team
Contact: Lead Advisory Teacher, Communication and Interaction
Address: Advisory Teaching Service
        Cheltenham SEN Support Service
        Battledown Centre
        Harp Hill, Cheltenham
        Glos GL52 6PZ
Telephone: 01242 525456
Fax: 01242 239309
E-mail: cheltenham.senss@gloucestershire.gov.uk

The Communication and Interaction Team aims to increase the capacity of early years settings to meet the needs of children and young people with language and communication needs (Speech, Language and Communication Needs and autism spectrum) and to support parents/carers. Advisory teachers and preschool workers provide advice and support for individual children within preschool settings. Preschool workers help facilitate the smooth transition of children with social communication difficulties from preschool to reception class. The Team contributes to the multi-agency assessment of individual children including those undergoing ASD diagnosis. The Team delivers training for staff in a range of settings and offers ASD specific training and support for parents/carers including specific parent programmes (see Parent Information Programme). Parents/carers can access information and resources from the Gloucestershire County Council website http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=11014

Community Lead Professional Team
The Community Lead Professional (CLP) Team is a Short Break Pathfinder Project. The team use the Common Assessment Framework as a tool to help disabled children (from 0-18 years) and their families to identify any areas in which they want or need support and any outcomes they would like to achieve. They will take the role of lead professional to co-ordinate and ensure implementation of a multi-agency plan to meet those identified needs.
There is a strong focus on using existing provisions and services within the child’s community with support from the lead professional to identify and obtain any additional resources that may be required to accommodate the child within that provision. Individual services can be commissioned to meet individual need where there are gaps.

Families entering by either a social work or CLP route can access both inclusive services and specialist services to make up packages of care.

Parents/carers as well as any agency working with disabled children and young people can make a referral. To make a referral, please telephone the Children & Families Helpdesk: (01452) 426565.

**Childrens’ Centres**

Childrens’ Centres provide or coordinate information and services for young families with children aged 0-5. Anyone can use them, whether it's simply to pop in to find out more about local playgroups or for full daycare for your child. A range of additional services can be accessed if your child attends a Children’s Centre this includes Educational Psychology, Communication and Interaction Team.

**Early Years SEN Service**

For children with an ASD diagnosis before they enter formal schooling there is a developed collection of services and provision for pre-school children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. It includes the Portage service, Nigel Hunter Nursery (NHN) in Gloucester and the emerging Battledown Child Development Centre (CDC) in Cheltenham.

Portage offers structured learning through play, delivered by specialist early years workers who work in partnership with parents/carers. Access to this service is through the early years panel, and referrals are only accepted if the child has a syndrome or medical condition known to be associated with learning disability, or who is assessed as being significantly delayed in at least two areas of development. Until now, the service has only been offered to children aged over one year.

NHN is a specialist early years provision on the site of GRH. It offers multi-professional assessment and therapeutic play sessions with health professionals. Families and children are referred directly to the nursery manager. Referrals come predominantly from paediatricians and other health professionals.

Battledown CDC offers two play sessions “ELFS” per week - supported by allied health professionals - for children aged under two years old. Referral is made directly to the early years practitioner who runs ELFS. Additionally, there is a pre-school therapy group that runs once a week led by a physiotherapist.

**Educational Psychology Service**

Provides a service to all local authority provision (childrens’ centres, schools, specialist units and special schools) supporting staff in their work with children with special educational needs. Educational Psychologists are also involved in multi agency assessment and interventions for this group of pupils.
Paediatricians
Paediatricians are specialist doctors who have received high level medical training in child health. Paediatricians in community child health focus on the assessment, investigation and long term medical management of children with Autism and other neuro developmental disorders. They are used to working in multi-disciplinary and multi-agency teams with speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and CAMHS specialists.

A written referral by either a GP/ SN /HV is necessary to access the service

They are based both at Cheltenham General Hospital and Gloucester Royal Hospital.

Community Paediatrics, Battledown, Cheltenham General Hospital, Sandford Road, Cheltenham GL53 7 AN.

Community Paediatric Gloucester, Tower Annexe, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Great Western Road Gloucester GL1 3 NN.

Parent Information Programme 1 and 2 (PIP1 and PIP2)
Contact: Carolyn Spice, Advisory Teacher
Address: Gloucester SENSS, Matson Lane, Matson, Gloucester
          GL4 6DX
Telephone: 01452 426955

For parents of children under 5 with severe social communication and interaction difficulties (children do not need to have been given a diagnosis). Parents are offered two places per family. One of the places must be taken by a parent but if it is not possible for both parents to attend they may wish to bring along another family member, friend or professional who spends time with the child. The programme consists of eight sessions of 3 hours each. Each session offers opportunities to listen to information from experienced professionals, share ideas with other parents and make practical resources. Families are also offered the support from a pre school worker to support the strategies used in the home.

Parent Partnership Service
Support for parents/carers of children who have special educational needs
Freephone: 0800 158 3603
Landline: 01452 426448
Fax: 01452 544010
Email: pps@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Website: www.glospps.org.uk

The Gloucestershire Parent Partnership Service provides free impartial advice and help to parents and carers of children with special educational needs.
The Secure Start Infant Mental Health Service
For families with children under 2 years of age is also located within the childrens’ centres.

Special Schools
Further detailed information on the work of Special Schools is contained in the booklet ‘Special School Education - Information and advice for parents and carers’. This is available from your local GP practice or health centre, by phoning 01452 425480, or from the Gloucestershire County Council website at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/senguides

Speech and Language Therapy Service
Contact: Speech and Language Therapy Department
Address: Child Health Services
County Offices,
St George’s Road
Cheltenham
Telephone: 01242 516235

The Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) service has open referral and can take referrals directly from parents or from any professional provided that parental consent has been obtained. SLT support for children with social communication difficulties / ASD is provided to children and families in a variety of settings (home, clinic, childrens’ centres or other Early Years settings) in collaboration with other professionals involved. Intervention usually involves joint working with families and educational professionals. Advice and support are offered in the following areas. SLTs contribute to the multi-agency identification, assessment and diagnostic process. Hanen ‘More Than Words’ parent programme is offered to parents as part of the therapeutic process.
Local Services - School Age

CAMHS
Address: Child & Adolescent Services (CAMHS)
          Acorn House, Horton Road
          Gloucester GL1 3PX
Telephone: 08454 226010

CAMHS is a multi-disciplinary, community based therapeutic and assessment service that responds to the psychological and emotional needs of children and young people up to 18 years of age with mild to moderate mental health difficulties and forms part of a continuum of emotional health and wellbeing services in Gloucestershire. The service aims to see children as individuals, within a family and/or social context. It acknowledges the right of parents and carers and aims to involve them in the intervention process where appropriate. The service aims to provide effective, appropriate communication in relation to the child’s care with other agencies and professionals as appropriate within the remit of consent to share procedures.

Communication and Interaction Centres (C & I Centres)
Contact: Lead Advisory Teacher, Communication and Interaction
Address: Advisory Teaching Service
          Cheltenham SEN Support Service
          Battledown Centre
          Harp Hill, Cheltenham
          Glos GL52 6PZ
Telephone: 01242 525456
Fax: 01242 239309
E-mail: cheltenham.senss@gloucestershire.gov.uk

The C & I Centres are specialist centres attached to mainstream primary schools. They offer support to children with severe to profound difficulties in the areas of language and communication and the autistic spectrum. Gloucestershire has four primary centres across the county: Christ Church in Cheltenham, Gastrells in Stroud, Ruardean in the Forest and Tuffley in Gloucester.

Communication and Interaction Team
Contact: Lead Advisory Teacher, Communication and Interaction
Address: Advisory Teaching Service
          Cheltenham SEN Support Service
          Battledown Centre
          Harp Hill, Cheltenham
          Glos GL52 6PZ
Telephone: 01242 525456
Fax: 01242 239309
E-mail: cheltenham.senss@gloucestershire.gov.uk

The Communication and Interaction Team aims to increase the capacity of mainstream schools to meet the needs of children and young people with language and communication needs (language and communication needs and autism spectrum) and to support
parents/carers. Advisory teachers and preschool workers facilitate the smooth transition of children with social communication difficulties from preschool to reception class. The Team contributes to the multi-agency assessment of individual children including those undergoing ASD diagnosis. The Team delivers training for staff in a range of settings and offers ASD specific training and support for parents/carers including specific parent programmes (see National Autistic Society EarlyBird Plus Programme).

Parents/carers can access information and resources from the Gloucestershire County Council website [http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=11014](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=11014)

**Community Lead Professional Team**

The Community Lead Professional Team is a Short Break Pathfinder Project. The team use the Common Assessment Framework as a tool to help disabled children (from 0-18 years) and their families to identify any areas in which they want or need support and any outcomes they would like to achieve. They will take the role of lead professional to co-ordinate and ensure implementation of a multi-agency plan to meet those identified needs. There is a strong focus on using existing provisions and services within the child’s community with support from the lead professional to identify and obtain any additional resources that may be required to accommodate the child within that provision. Individual services can be commissioned to meet individual need where there are gaps (see Appendix E).

Families entering by either a social work or CLP route can access both inclusive services and specialist services to make up packages of care.

Parents/carers as well as any agency working with disabled children and young people can make a referral. To make a referral, please telephone the Children & Families Helpdesk: (01452) 426565.

**Educational Psychology Service**

Provides a service to all local authority provision (children's centres, schools, specialist units and special schools) supporting staff in their work with children with special educational needs. Educational Psychologists are also involved in multi agency assessment and interventions for this group of pupils.

**NAS Early Bird Plus Programme**

Contact: Carole Hall, Advisory Teacher  
Address: Forest SENSS, Dockham Road, Cinderford, Glos GL14 2DB  
Telephone: 01594 832102

This programme is for families of children with a diagnosis of ASD. There are places for two parents/carers of each child. The programme runs for three months with eight group sessions and four home visits. This programme caters for children between the ages of 4 and 8 years who have recently received a diagnosis of ASD. There are three places for each family – two for parents/carers and one for a professional who works with the child, usually someone from the child’s school.
Paediatricians
Paediatricians are specialist doctors who have received high level medical training in child health. Paediatricians in community child health focus on the assessment, investigation and long term medical management of children with Autism and other neuro developmental disorders. They are used to working in multi-disciplinary and multi-agency teams with speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and CAMHS specialists.

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Fax: 01452 544010
Email: pps@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Website: www.glospps.org.uk

The Gloucestershire Parent Partnership Service provides free impartial advice and help to parents and carers of children with special educational needs.

The service includes:
- a parent and carer help line
- Parent Advisers
- Support at meetings, with appeals and complaints
- Home visits
- A wide range of written information

Special Schools
Further detailed information on the work of Special Schools is contained in the booklet to this ‘Special School Education - Information and advice for parents and carers’. This is available from your local GP practice or health centre, by phoning 01452 425480, or from the Gloucestershire County Council website at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/senguides

Speech and Language Therapy Service
Contact: Speech and Language Therapy Department
Address: Child Health Services
County Offices,
St George’s Road
Cheltenham
Telephone: 01242 516235
The Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) service has open referral and can take referrals directly from parents or from any professional provided that parental consent has been obtained. SLT support for children with social communication difficulties / ASD is provided to children and families in a variety of settings (home, clinic, childrens’ centres or other Early Years settings) in collaboration with other professionals involved. Intervention usually involves joint working with families and educational professionals. Advice and support are offered in the following areas. SLTs contribute to the multi-agency identification, assessment and diagnostic process. Hanen ‘More Than Words’ parent programme is offered to parents as part of the therapeutic process.