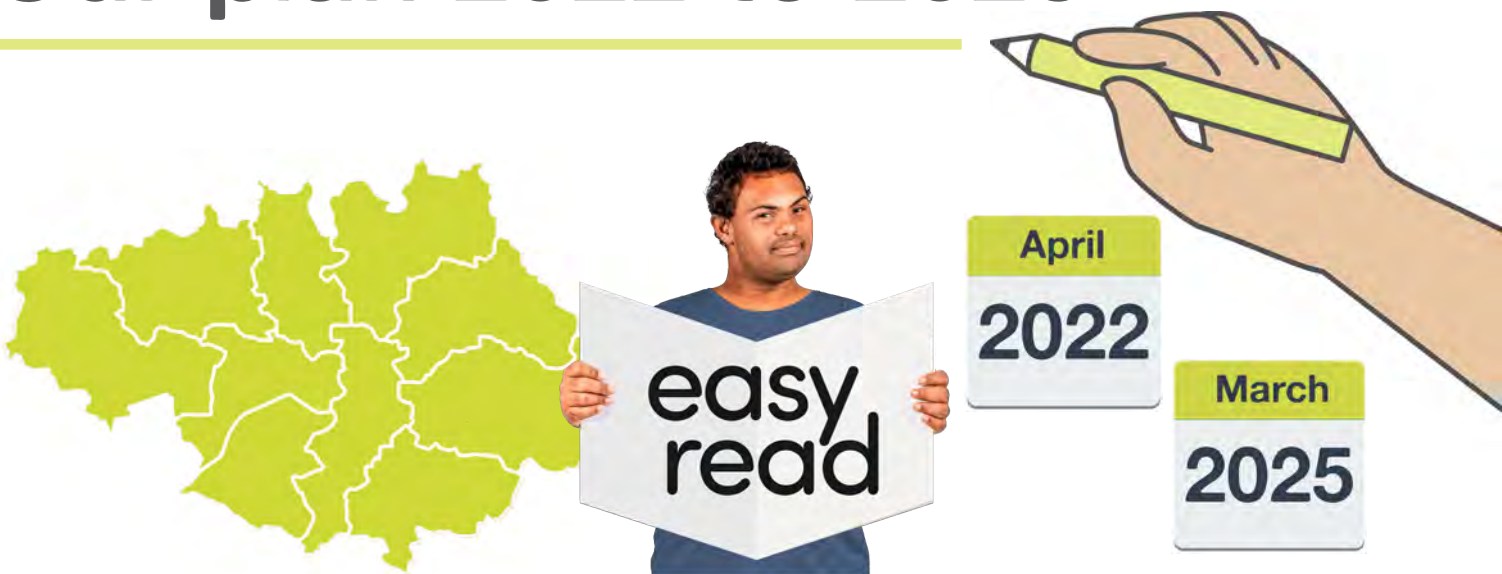


Making Greater Manchester Autism Friendly Our plan 2022 to 2025



In this plan we try to use simple everyday words.

Sometimes we have had to use words people may not know.

We put these words in **bold blue print like this** and try to explain what they mean.

Hello, welcome to our plan



Who we are

We are Greater Manchester Autism Consortium. We give information, advice and support to people, their family members, carers and professionals about all issues to do with autism.



We bring together:

- The social services departments of the 10 councils that make up Greater Manchester.
- The 10 Greater Manchester Clinical Commissioning Groups, who plan most of the health services across Greater Manchester.
- The Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership.



We fund and guide work about autism, which is run by the National Autistic Society. This is a national charity, set up to make the lives of autistic people better.

What this plan is about

This is the easier to read version of our Greater Manchester All Age Autism Strategy.

Greater Manchester is the area run by councils: Bury, Bolton, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan.

All Age means everyone from young children to old people. This plan is for all autistic people.

Strategy means a big plan.

We have made this version of the plan shorter than the full version. To do this we have had to leave out some things, but we hope it still gives you a good idea of what the plan is about.

You can get the full version of our plan from our website at:

<https://www.autismgm.org.uk/>

The plan runs from April 2022 to March 2025.



Autism Friendly

The plan says how we will Make Greater Manchester Autism Friendly.



Autism Friendly means that as an autistic person you:

- Are understood and valued.
- Feel safe and part of your community.
- Have goals and aims and feel like you can make them happen.
- Can get a diagnosis.
- Get support after you have been diagnosed.
- Get an education that meets your needs and sets you up for the sort of life you want to have.
- Meet professionals who understand autism.
- Can get help and advice about services.
- Can be sure that organisations that play a part in your life such as education, health and social care, or employment will make reasonable adjustments.



Reasonable adjustments changes that can be made to the environment or the way work or services are done, so a person can do the work or use the services.

More about our plan



This is the second plan we have done.

The last plan ran from 2019 to 2022.

There was also an easy read version of it.

You can download all of our plans from our website.

<https://www.gmhsc.org.uk/>

We know that we cannot do everything we need to do in 3 years. So there may need to be more plans.



The way we say things in this plan

In this plan we say “autistic people” as this is how many of the people we met described themselves.

But we know some people would say “person with autism” instead.

We also know some autistic people live with other conditions and may want to be described as neurodiverse.

Neurodiverse is the idea that everyone’s brains are organised in a different way.

How we chose what is in this plan



We worked with lots of different autistic people including children, young people and their families from all parts of Greater Manchester.

We also worked with stakeholders.

Stakeholders are groups and organisations that have something to do with autistic people.



We wanted to find out what was important to them so the plan belonged to them as well.

We did this in different ways such as

- Holding events.
- Doing a survey.
- Going to Autism Partnership Board meetings.
- Listening to the views of groups such as the Autistic Adult Advisory Group and the Family Member Advisory Group.
- We looked at our last plan.
- we also looked at the Government's 5-year National Autism Strategy for England.



Our values

When we were writing the plan we thought about 5 things that were important:



1. Nothing about us without us

This means all work has to be co-produced with autistic people themselves.

2. Difference equals strength

We think that the different way autistic people think is a good thing that should be celebrated.



3. Rights

We want autistic people to know their rights.

4. Clear accessible and honest communication

The best way to communicate is in a way that is clear and accessible that people can understand. Support services should be honest in what they say.

5. Importance of diverse experience

People come from different backgrounds and have different experiences. There are lots of different communities in Greater Manchester.



Some people belong to more than one community. We think this is a good thing that makes us stronger.



Actions

These are some of the main things we will do.
We give more detail in the full version of our plan.



Better understanding and awareness

Co-produce training on autism, learning disability and reasonable adjustments for staff in health, social care and mental health services.

Better access to education and transition



Transition is when a person moves from being a child to an adult and the support they get changes from being given by children's services to adult services.

- Set up an Education Implementation Group and a Young Peoples' Advisory Group.
- Help social workers understand autism.
- More information for parents.
- Make information better.





Support more autistic people into work

- Work with the statutory sector to make the experience of autistic staff better.

Statutory sector are services that the law says central or local government must provide, such as hospitals, benefits and schools.



- Set up an Autistic Entrepreneur and Business Owners' Network.
- Make the GM Neurodiversity and Learning Disability Employer Network bigger and better.
- Help start a Greater Manchester Supported Employment Forum.



Reduce inequality in health and care

- Work on support for people right after they have been diagnosed as autistic.
- Look at support before a diagnosis.
- See why some groups of people such as women are under diagnosed.
- Develop training.
- Have more social opportunities for autistic adults and children.



Get the right support and inpatient care

- Work with groups and service providers who work in housing and homelessness.
- Help autistic people and their families to know more about Care Treatment Reviews and Care Education Treatment Reviews.

Have better support in the Criminal Justice System and Youth Justice System

Criminal Justice System is all the different people and services who may be involved when someone is arrested for a crime.

These are the police, courts, prison and probation service, and government departments such as the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, and the Crown Prosecution Service.

- Give information on accessible communication and make training videos with people with lived experience for staff who are part of the Criminal Justice System.

- Develop a plan of how autistic people who are going to prison are supported.

- Look at the needs of victims of crime and ways of stopping autistic people becoming victims of crime.



What we will do next



- We will write an Implementation Plan each year.

This is a list of things we will do to make sure the things in the Greater Manchester All Age Autism Strategy happen.



Our first Implementation Plan should be written by March 2022.



- We will ask each area in Greater Manchester to do their own Implementation Plan each year. This will say what they will do in their area.



The first one should be written by June 2022.



- We will set up some Task and Finish Groups. These are groups that look at the things we have said we will do and make sure we do them.

These will start some time between April and July 2022.



- Working Groups will be set up in the different areas of Greater Manchester. People will be picked to go on them. They will look at making the actions in the Greater Manchester All Age Autism Strategy work.

