

## Community support for people with autism

This is a growing resource which can be updated as we learn about new services that become available and changes to existing ones. Please help us to keep this up to date by emailing any suggestions/feedback to [jholdsworth@wcava.org.uk](mailto:jholdsworth@wcava.org.uk)

### North Warwickshire

#### AIM Educational Limited

Is an alternative education provider, based around a small enterprise farm near Atherstone, committed to helping children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, particularly those with autism and Asperger's Syndrome, and those who are unable to engage in mainstream education due to learning, social, emotional or behavioural issues. They aim to empower students to change negative behaviour patterns, develop confidence, personal, social, communication and independent learning skills, as well as gaining work-related skills 01827 711289. [www.aimeducational.org.uk](http://www.aimeducational.org.uk)

#### Briars Barn – Polesworth

Is a work place for adults with learning disabilities in Polesworth. Cottage industry opportunities include 'Turn Around' a furniture upcycling social enterprise, care for animals such as alpacas, chickens and miniature goats, and involvement in a catering team. It also enables people to make friends, learn new skills and have some fun.

Contact Name: Sara Lock Director of Care Services  
Telephone 01827 896 454  
Facebook [Briars Barn Ltd Facebook](#)

#### Embrace Special needs – meetings take place in Coleshill

Set up nearly 10 years ago by a group of parents with children with special needs, to provide friendship and support to other families. Membership is open to everyone - whether you are the parent/carer or family member/friend - or whether you care for an adult or child. Your child does not need to have a full diagnosis.

Meetings are twice monthly and consist of a monthly speaker on the third Wednesday of every month and a coffee/catch up meeting on the last Saturday of every month. Please check the 'meetings' and 'events' section of the website for dates and further details. Social events and outings are also organised throughout the year, which are either for parents/carers or the whole family. 07503 002948  
[www.embracespecialneeds.co.uk](http://www.embracespecialneeds.co.uk)

## **Hillcrescent Day Farm**

The Farm provides health, social and an educational service, for a range of vulnerable groups of people. This includes people with mental health problems, people suffering from mild to moderate depression, adults and children with learning disabilities, people with autism and young people that do not necessarily engage with formal lessons in school. 0121 748 4718 [www.hillcrescentdayfarm.co.uk](http://www.hillcrescentdayfarm.co.uk)

## **In it together**

Parent led support group for parents/carers of children with additional needs in Tamworth and the surrounding areas 07538 525538 [www.in-it-together.weebly.com](http://www.in-it-together.weebly.com)

## **Nuneaton and Bedworth:**

### **Autism Connect**

Is a new peer led group for individuals with autism.

Meets on Monday's, 13.00 - 15.00, at the ISS Community Wellbeing Hub in Nuneaton

Contact Jade for more info on :07563159070 or: [nuneatonhub@isswarks.com](mailto:nuneatonhub@isswarks.com)

### **Quirky Kids**

Is a friendly group offering support, groups and events for families who have children or young people with a disability

Their closed Facebook support page offers a safe place to ask questions, share experiences or just find a listening ear. The events Facebook page has all the groups and events advertised.

Quirky Kids run cafe chat and play group once a month, discos fortnightly and holiday clubs' groups are held at Stockingford Community Centre, Haunchwood Rd, CV10 8DY Krazy Krocs disability session fortnightly costing £4.00 per child or young person at 14 Liberty Way, Nuneaton CV11 6RZ. Breakfast morning meetings and parents' nights out will be arranged and advertised

Sessions are for the whole family and a small fee of £1 per child or young person will be charged. This will be to help continue to run the groups but also allows you to unlimited tea, coffee squash and treats for parents' carers and children and young people. Groups are a place where you can meet other parents, carers and children

and young people sharing the disability journey, getting to know other people, making friends in a relaxed safe environment is very important too.

[www.facebook.com/groups/SquarePegNuneaton/?epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](http://www.facebook.com/groups/SquarePegNuneaton/?epa=SEARCH_BOX)

[www.facebook.com/groups/444092962434575](http://www.facebook.com/groups/444092962434575)

### **Little Pegs Autism Support Group**

Is a local group, supporting families living with Autism and related conditions.

Hold monthly Family Support Groups at Stockingford Community Centre, Haunchwood Road, Nuneaton.

They offer a blend of cake, tea, coffee, chat, cake, crafts, toys and games for the children (big and small) and cake. No diagnosis needed, everyone welcome.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LittlePegs/>

## **Rugby**

### **Rugby Autism Support Group**

Rugby Autism Network is a registered charity. The organisation aims to support parents helping them to do their best and enabling families to enjoy more quality time together. They organise events which offer a chance for parents and carers to get to know each other. Gatherings such as breakfast support meetings with occasional guest speakers, autism friendly activities and opportunities for the children to make new friends. Details can be found on the Rugby Autism Network Events page <https://www.rugbyautismnetwork.co.uk/> or contact [admin@rugbyautismnetwork.co.uk](mailto:admin@rugbyautismnetwork.co.uk)

## **Warwick District**

### **Autism one on one**

Meet in Kenilworth once a month to exchange ideas, tips and advice on autism. For more information contact Vikie via the website [www.vikieshanks.com](http://www.vikieshanks.com)

### **Lillington Parent Support Group**

Is a small support group supporting parents and children with disabilities such as Autism, ADHD, PDA etc.

They organise: monthly meet ups for the parents to find a support network; social activities for the whole family - day trips, special events, simple courses i.e. Triple P etc.; arrange for speakers to share their information with a whole group; and do 1 to 1 support ie form filling signposting to other agencies etc.  
Contact Karen Bedford on 07543118914

### **Special People, Kenilworth**

Facebook Page aimed at helping people find out more about autistic spectrum  
[www.facebook.com/specialpeople/uk](http://www.facebook.com/specialpeople/uk)

## **Stratford District:**

### **ASA Plus**

the group organises social and respite/peer-support sessions plus monthly activities and outings for adults with Autism and their parents/carers Contact via the website  
[www.asaplus.co.uk](http://www.asaplus.co.uk)

### **Happy Active Minds CIC**

The group provides social and creative activities for young adults with Autism and other disabilities  
*(May not have started delivering yet)*

### **Parent to Parent Group**

New support group to help parents achieve good mental health through support from other parents Wednesday 6.15 to 7.45 at Springfield Mind, Stratford Upon Avon  
01789 298615 [www.springfieldmind.org.uk](http://www.springfieldmind.org.uk)

## **South Warwickshire**

### **Equine Learning CIC**

Equine Learning offers therapeutic horsemanship sessions and horse riding in South Warwickshire. Based at Wootton Park, near Henley-in-Arden, they work with schools, care providers, Local Authority departments and individuals to offer inclusive lessons, sessions, camps and educational programmes to mainstream and disabled and disadvantaged adults, children and young people from Warwickshire and across the UK.



They specialise in working with young people with Autism. They offer regular weekly sessions to local people and have accommodation that can be booked for people who live further afield and would like to work with our horses and stay on site. Funded access to our work may be available (subject to availability of funds & means testing) through The Centaurus Trust, registered charity no: 1133212. Contact us for more details is 01564 642101. [www.equinelearning.org.uk](http://www.equinelearning.org.uk)

## **ILEAP**

Is a charity based in Stratford - Upon Avon providing fun and friendship opportunities for people with additional needs across South Warwickshire. For more information contact 01789 260644 [www.ileap.co.uk](http://www.ileap.co.uk)

## **Time 4 Hope:**

Offers a professional counselling service and professional development for parents/carers who have children/young people with additional needs contact 07761 398041 [www.time4hope.co.uk](http://www.time4hope.co.uk)

## **Way Ahead Support Services**

Based in Leamington –Way Ahead provides support for people with a range of learning disabilities as well as older people and those with mental ill health Contact 01926 622980 [www.wayahead.uk.org](http://www.wayahead.uk.org)

## **North Warwickshire**

### **Asperger's United**

Is a Support Group for parents / carers of children with Asperger's, ASD and all Associated Conditions serving North Warwickshire and surrounding area. They hold monthly coffee mornings, quarterly evening meetings and a monthly kid's social club.

Throughout the year they put on events and activities for the children and their families to come along to these include, swim parties, go karting, bowling, laser quest, cinema, family picnic, summer and Xmas parties.

Contact: Dionne Fish, 07969 442 769, [aspergers-united@outlook.com](mailto:aspergers-united@outlook.com)  
[www.aspergersunited.org.uk](http://www.aspergersunited.org.uk)

## **Warwickshire wide**

### **Ability Net Warwickshire**

Offers free services to enable disabled people of any age and with any disability to use computers and the internet at home and in work. For further information contact 01926 312847 or [v.warwickshire@abilitynet.org.uk](mailto:v.warwickshire@abilitynet.org.uk) [www.abilitynet.org.uk](http://www.abilitynet.org.uk)

### **Circles Network –**

Head office and Circles equine based at Rugby. They build inclusive communities through circles of support, advocacy and person centred planning. Support for young people experiencing difficulties includes Circles Equine.

[www.circlesnetwork.org.uk](http://www.circlesnetwork.org.uk)

### **Coventry and Warwickshire Mind – Autism Support service**

The Autism support service aims to provide support to children, young people and families pre and post an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis.

Funded through Warwickshire County Council and delivered across Coventry and Warwickshire, this new service will sit alongside CW Mind's children and young people's department, CAMHS Rise and Specialist CAMHS. This service is to strengthen existing ASD support within current services.

website

Support options include:

- \* Pre-diagnosis & Post-diagnosis
- \* Parent/carer coaching and training

For further information about referral contact: 02476-631835 [www.cwmind.org.uk](http://www.cwmind.org.uk)

### **ECO Workshop CIC Warwickshire**

Provides work based activity sessions for adults who have autism or learning disabilities

- Activity sessions designed with sensitivity to the needs of people who have autism or learning disabilities.

- Work based activities, such as light assembly work, collecting and sorting recyclables, producing items for sale and retail through local markets.
  - Opportunities to achieve personal goals and ambitions.
  - Support to develop work, life and social skills.
  - Participant Centred Plans and achievement monitoring. Varied Reward activities
- For further information contact 01789 267786 or [www.workshop.org.uk](http://www.workshop.org.uk)

**Entrust Care Partnership** Meeting the needs of disabled children, young people, adults and their families and carers through the provision of short break activities, support, training, advice and brokerage [www.entrustcarepartnership.org.uk](http://www.entrustcarepartnership.org.uk) 01926 612748

### **Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA)**

RDA provides fun activities like riding and carriage driving; they provide therapy, fitness, skills development and opportunities for achievement at nearly 500 RDA centres all over the UK. The centre in Warwickshire is based at Shrewley.

RDA is an inclusive and diverse organisation, welcoming clients with physical and learning disabilities and autism, and there are no age restrictions. For further information call 01926 492915 [www.rda.org.uk](http://www.rda.org.uk)

### **Roots to Branches Autism Network**

Roots to Branches Autism Network (formerly the 'Get Together Group') is a local charity which provides support and help in preventing isolation for those in Coventry and Warwickshire with a diagnosis of autism and their families.

One way, in which they offer support is by running support sessions where those diagnosed and their families can come to play and meet others in similar circumstances in a non- judgmental environment. The parents and siblings are able to relax in an environment which is 'autism friendly' and the children get to experience like- minded individuals and none of the pressures that school and other groups have. For further information call 07486 464575 email [rtbautismnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:rtbautismnetwork@gmail.com) or look at facebook/RootstoBranchesAutismNetwork

**Warwickshire PDA (Pathological Demands Avoidance) parents support group-**



Meet every 8 weeks Wednesday evenings in Leamington. For further information contact: [pda.warwickshire@gmail.com](mailto:pda.warwickshire@gmail.com)

### **Take a Break**

Work with children and adults through a huge variety of clubs and individual support options throughout Warwickshire

They provide support for people living with family/carers or living independently.

- Individual support for people in their own homes and to access community facilities of their choice.
- Group activities and support is available for all age groups across the Midlands.
- Support people into employed and voluntary placements.
- Provide specialist services for people with complex health needs or challenging behaviour.

For further information contact 02476 644909 [www.tabw.org.uk](http://www.tabw.org.uk)

### **Turning Point**

Provide workshops, advice and support to empower individuals with a learning disability in Warwickshire 01926 423029 [www.wellbeing.turningpoint.co.uk](http://www.wellbeing.turningpoint.co.uk)

### **Warwickshire Disability Directory of information**

Find Warwickshire disability and special needs clubs, groups and support services in the dedicated section of ABLEize. They list all disability activities and sports including dedicated groups and charities for wheelchair users, mental health and brain injury, diabetes and many more disabilities including deaf, blind, amputee, autism and learning difficulties. [www.ableize.com/disabled-groups-and-clubs-by-county/warwickshire](http://www.ableize.com/disabled-groups-and-clubs-by-county/warwickshire)

**Warwickshire SENDIAS** (information, advice and support for parents/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities) – **organisations offering** [www.kids.org.uk/warwickshire-sendias-warwickshire-organisations-offering-support](http://www.kids.org.uk/warwickshire-sendias-warwickshire-organisations-offering-support)



## **Information about services from national organisations**

### **Autism Directory**

Helping autism families and individuals find autism related resources in their local area and beyond from specialist schools and colleges, therapies, and legal advice to recreation and supported living [www.theautismdirectory.com](http://www.theautismdirectory.com)

### **Autism links**

The website is dedicated to making links to the best help and support across the UK and on a local level [www.autismlinks.co](http://www.autismlinks.co)

### **Autism Initiatives**

From supported living to schools, from a short break service to one stop shops, from work placements to training, clubs and activities, Autism Initiatives has a wealth of resources and expertise that support autistic people to achieve their personal goals. [www.autisminitiatives.org](http://www.autisminitiatives.org)

### **National Autistic Society**

NAS is the UK's largest provider of specialist autism services. Use the website to find services directed towards autistic people, parents and carers and professionals. [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk) and Helpline 08088004104

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