

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CARLISLE
Meeting date: 9 January 2019
From: Christine Bowditch –Champion for Autism

AUTISM CHAMPION UPDATE

I feel that it has been very useful keeping the Committee up to date on Autism matters to date by giving a verbal update at each Local Committee meeting.

One of the central aims of the Group is to develop an awareness of the needs of autistic children and adults within the wider community. To facilitate an attitude of acceptance and understanding towards Autistic people in our society to enable them to make as full as possible contribution within Carlisle and throughout the County. To this end the Champions Group are meeting on a regular basis to share ideas and experiences and this is beginning to prove to be a worthwhile and powerful group.

My intention is to, initially, contact the outlets in The Lanes and talk to them about implementing an Autism Friendly environment within The Lanes. I will extend this to as many shops and cafes throughout the city as possible.

I will continue to work with the Library in Carlisle who is doing an excellent job of becoming Autism friendly.

Niall McNulty and myself are planning to reserve the old Fire Station in Carlisle for a couple of days during Autism Awareness week (1-4 April) so that the ' Word for Word' theatre group can provide workshops/performances of celebrating 'Autists' an opportunity for those living with Autism to create and share artwork. This would be for all age groups and abilities.

We can make a difference to the lives of Autistic children and adults, a very vulnerable group of people, who live within our communities.

Christine Bowditch
Autism Champion

December 2018