



## “Empowering Families: Launching a New Autism Support Service for Stronger Futures”

Spring North and Child Action Northwest, are both leading non-profit organisations dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with autism are excited to announce the launch of a pioneering project designed to provide comprehensive support to families and parents who have children diagnosed with autism and those going through the assessment process. The project, set to operate across East Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen, will offer a wide range of vital services to address the specific needs of these families.

The project’s primary objective is to offer support to parents, carers, and families who are navigating the challenges associated with having a child diagnosed with autism. Recognising the significance of early intervention, the project will focus on two key areas of support: education on autism and strategies to support parents.

### GO LIVE DATE

**1st JULY**

The new service will be accepting referrals and requests for support from parents from the start of June 2023 by accessing the portal below:

[www.springnorth.org.uk/ASDsupport](http://www.springnorth.org.uk/ASDsupport)

However, the delivery of support services will not fully begin, until the 1st July 2023

For more information about the project and how to make a referral or access support, please contact Spring North at [office@springnorth.org.uk](mailto:office@springnorth.org.uk)



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# WHAT THE NEW PROJECT WILL OFFER?

The project will also address the difficulties that parents, carers, and families may encounter when dealing with challenging behaviours exhibited by children on the autism spectrum. Strategies and practical support will be offered to help families work cohesively, improving both their overall well-being and the child's behaviour. The project team will work closely with the children and their parents or carers, providing wrap-around care to ensure the best possible outcomes for everyone involved.

## Key services and initiatives offered by the project include:

- Practical support and guidance for parents and carers of newly diagnosed children and young people with autism.
- Information, advice, and training workshops on accessing benefits, signposting, education, and EHCP (Education, Health, and Care Plan) support and advocacy.
- Pre-diagnosis advice and signposting services.
- ASD counselling services tailored to the needs of young people.
- Positive strategies to combat isolation among parents and families, ensuring that carers feel equipped to cope with the challenges they face. Specialist advice and emotional support will be provided to enhance the overall health and well-being of parents and carers, ultimately improving their quality of life, and preventing family breakdown.
- Social and leisure sessions offering opportunities for social interaction and the development of communication skills, while also providing access to valuable role models.
- Family sessions designed to create enjoyable play experiences for children and young people with autism, as well as their siblings, utilising the resources available at the project's resource centre.
- Delivery of the EHWB (Emotional Health and Well-Being) training course, equipping parents, and carers with strategies to support their child's mental health if they have an autism spectrum disorder. The course will also include home visits from project staff to provide further assistance and guidance.

## General enquiries

 [office@springnorth.org.uk](mailto:office@springnorth.org.uk)

## Make a referral

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