



**How you're helping us  
create a society that  
works for autistic people**





# Our impact

## in 2024-25

The National Autistic Society exists to create a society that works for autistic people and their families. Our bold Moonshot Vision, created with and by autistic people, sets out what that society will look like. In April 2023, we launched our Vision to Reality strategy, saying what our next steps will be to create that society.

At the end of the second year of our strategy, we want to tell you what our impact so far has been.





## A message from our Chief Executive



It has been another crucial year in our fight to create a society that works for autistic people and their families. I am immensely proud to reflect on the success and impact we have had in the second year of our Vision to Reality strategy.

Despite economic pressures and a difficult year for the charity sector, we have seen extraordinary support from our community. Thanks to the unwavering commitment of our dedicated supporters, we have raised millions of pounds so we can continue to fight for autistic people and their families - an incredible achievement that comes at a time when it is needed most. The generosity of our supporters enables us to make our Vision to Reality strategy possible. Thank you for your support.

In the second year of our strategy, we are proud to have supported over a million people through our flagship advice and guidance services, and continued to change the landscape for autistic people by training thousands of professionals. We have also challenged harmful misinformation in the media and public conversations about autism. Together, we have continued to fight for the rights of autistic people and their families and provide support; work that is more critical now than ever.

We ended our year putting the final touches to our archive, an important part of our heritage. Through funding received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund 2023, 'In our Words' is now available on our website. I do hope you'll join me in reflecting on the pivotal milestones in history that brought our charity and society to where we are today.

There is much work still to be done, and as we look forward to the year ahead, I am grateful and honoured to have you on this journey with us; to create a society that truly works for autistic people.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

**Caroline Stevens,**  
Chief Executive



Belief one:

# We support

**all autistic individuals and their families to live a fulfilled life on their terms.**



Through expert advice and guidance, we reached over **1.3 million people**, providing essential support to autistic people and their families when it mattered most.

Your support enabled us to keep our Online Community secure for **869,000** active users; helping ensure no one faces challenges alone.



Our Diagnostic and Assessment Service assessed **220** potentially autistic people, and provided advice to over **5,000** others on the diagnosis process.



Our **83** volunteer-led branches supported thousands of autistic people and their families through social groups, peer support, trips out, local campaigning and much more.



**400+** autistic people were supported by our adult services, helping them build a better quality of life through our specialist person-centred residential services and centres across the UK.

## All across the UK

In **Scotland**, our Growing Up, Embrace Autism, Empower Up, Moving Forward and other support programmes helped **601** autistic people.



In **Wales**, **400** autistic people benefited from our peer support groups, where they could meet others in a safe environment and be themselves.

In **Northern Ireland**, we supported **966** people from our Belfast Centre with a mix of daytime activities, family support and a lending library.

In **England**, **706** parents were supported by our Parent to Parent Service, enabling them to talk to other parents who understand.



**"I love coming to the centre."**

## Meet Peter

**Peter** attends one of our day services for autistic adults. He loves musicals, dancing and putting on shows for his fellow service users. Peter has one-to-one support throughout the day. You can watch his film at [autism.org.uk/meet-peter](https://autism.org.uk/meet-peter)

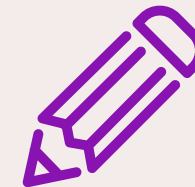




Belief two:

## We influence

and collaborate with others to improve standards and adjustments.



Almost  
**500**

autistic children received specialist education in our schools and Cullum Centres – with spaces built around their needs and potential.

**15,500**

professionals were trained in autism by us and we partnered with 674 organisations, creating ripple effects of awareness and empathy across services.



Over  
**100**

organisations earned our Autism Accreditation Award, raising the standard of care and understanding across the UK.

**Meet**

**Matthew  
and Eddie**

**“My school  
is a place  
where I can  
be myself.”**

**Matthew and Eddie** attend one of our schools. Since joining the school, both have found the support to be themselves and bonded over their love of music. They have formed a band, called the Autistic Monkeys, and you can watch their film at [autism.org.uk/meet-matthewandeddie](https://autism.org.uk/meet-matthewandeddie)

Over

**91,000**

education professionals received training from the Autism Education Trust, ensuring they are better equipped to support autistic students – making classrooms more inclusive nationwide.





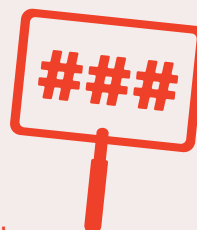
Belief three:

## We transform

society by building understanding, acceptance and respect for all autistic people.

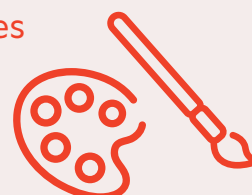
Over  
**3,000**

passionate campaigners emailed their MPs after our *Constant fight* report – demanding change and opening the doors to political conversations that matter.



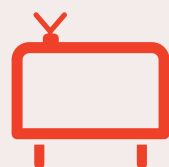
After years of tireless campaigning, **the Mental Health Bill** passed through the House of Lords, protecting autistic people from being detained simply because of their diagnosis.

Our Young Ambassadors campaigned on health inequalities using artwork and poetry, inspiring **2,460** campaigners to sign their letter to Wes Streeting.



Over **90,000** of you engaged with our social media posts that focused on fighting for autistic people's rights.

We had **ten research partnerships**, deepening knowledge about autism and sharing best practice.



We **challenged 14 media outlets** for poor coverage or misinformation about autism.



Meet **Hannah**

**“I believed I wasn’t good enough.”**

**Hannah** is one of our Young Ambassadors. She has had bad experiences in the mental health system. She campaigned on health inequality with us. You can watch the film she made with our other Young Ambassadors at [autism.org.uk/meet-hannah](https://autism.org.uk/meet-hannah)



# You supported our fight for a society that works for autistic people

So much of the impact celebrated in this report is a direct result of the generosity, dedication and drive of our donors, members and fundraisers. We are deeply grateful for your support.

Now, we celebrate you – these numbers are just a glimpse of the incredible contribution you've made to help transform lives and change attitudes.

Thank you for showing up for autistic people and their families; our work wouldn't be possible without you.

## Last year, you:

- ran over 9,100 miles in marathons and half marathons across the world
- completed over 199,500 miles in our 100 Miles in October challenge
- walked 9,765km during World Autism Acceptance Week.



## You also fundraised your way, with 379 people taking on inspirational and creative challenges, including:

- running 3,097 miles as a team whilst serving in the RAF in Iraq
- completing 500 flips on a gymnast bar
- walking the length of Hadrian's Wall
- running every day in 2024.



## And you didn't stop there!

- Over 14,000 of you supported our mission as members of the National Autistic Society.
- 940 of you volunteered - supporting branches, projects and programmes as well as activities within schools and services.
- Nearly 8,000 of you helped us through regular donations to our work.
- Over 500 of you remembered a loved one by generously supporting our work.
- 7,089 of you took part in our flagship campaign, World Autism Acceptance Week, as well as 28 of our corporate partners.
- The support of private donors and corporate partners enabled us to deliver many life-changing projects that simply would not have happened without their generosity.
- Our corporate partners provided 203 hours of pro bono support, which is valued at around £92,000. They also took on exciting fundraising initiatives, including designing and selling 800 Spectrum Colour Watches, generating £54,000 in donations.
- The generosity of private donations from trusts, foundations and valued individuals, totalling over £2 million, meant we could deliver 25 bespoke projects for autistic people and their families.
- Thanks to incredible generosity, an exceptional £3.8 million was donated through people remembering us in their will.



**Together, you helped us raise over £10.4 million to fund our vital work to make society work better for all autistic people and their families. Thank you!**





# There is much more to do to create a society that works for autistic people

In December 2024, **212,964** people in England were waiting for an autism diagnosis assessment. Of these,

**191,656**

had been waiting over three months.

In March 2025,

**2,025**

autistic people or people with a learning disability were in mental health hospitals.

The most recent Government data shows the **employment rate for autistic people is only**

**29%**

**We're ready for the year ahead and won't stop fighting for change. Thank you for your support.**



**The National Autistic Society is  
here to transform lives, change  
attitudes and create a society  
that works for autistic people.**

Find out more at [autism.org.uk](https://autism.org.uk)



**National  
Autistic  
Society**