

Annual Professionals' Conference

Wellbeing and thriving



National
Autistic
Society

11 March 2027

Conference programme

- 9am** **Welcome by the chairs**
Eiman Munro, Autistic writer, educator, trainer, editor and community organiser
Rob Holland, Director (Scotland & Wales) & UK Strategic Lead for Volunteering, National Autistic Society
- 9.10am** **Welcome address**
TBC, NAS Ambassador
- 9.20am** **Plenary session – The role of autonomy in wellbeing and thriving for autistic people**
Professor Liz Pellicano, Professor of Autism Research, University College London
- 10.10am** Short break
- 10.20am** **Plenary session – Topic TBC**
Speaker TBC, TBC
- 11.10am** Morning break
- 11.30am**

Education and young people – Stream A

Chairs: Eiman Munro & Rob Holland

Supporting students with AuDHD in the classroom
Dr Prithvi Perepa, Associate Professor in Autism Studies, Global Engagement Lead, University of Birmingham

Mental health and clinical services – Stream B

Chair: Christine Flintoft-Smith

Trauma informed approach in healthcare and therapy, Curiosity, Collaboration & Care: A neuro-affirming approach to autistic distress
Sophie Meredith, Autistic Practitioner, Neurodiversity Consultant, Rare Disease Advocate

Supportive approaches – Stream C

Chair: TBC

Thriving in the workplace
Speaker TBC, TBC

12.15pm Lunch break



1.15pm

Stream A

Topic TBC
Speaker TBC, TBC

Stream B

Supporting autistic people in
Eating Disorder Services
Dr Elizabeth Shea, Consultant
Clinical Psychologist

Stream C

Topic TBC
Speaker TBC, TBC

2.00pm

Short break

2.10pm

Stream A

Autism and demand avoidance
Dr Judith Brown, Head of
Autism Knowledge and
Expertise, National Autistic
Society

Stream B

Topic TBC
Speaker TBC, TBC

Stream C

Making speech and language
therapy accessible for all
children
Warda Farah, Speech and
Language Therapist, writer and
lecturer

2.55pm

Afternoon break

3.10pm

Stream A

Emotionally based school
non-attendance
Victoria Castelli-MacLennan,
Engagement Support
Manager, National Autistic
Society

Stream B

Person-centred acute
healthcare for autistic children,
children with learning
disabilities and global
developmental delays
Shevon Dalena, Paediatric
Learning Disability Clinical Nurse
Specialist, King's College NHS
Foundation Trust

Stream C

Topic TBC
Speaker TBC, TBC

3.55pm

Short break

4.05pm

Plenary session – AuDHD – Living well
Sarah Hendrickx, Author and speaker

4.55pm

Closing remarks from the chairs

5.00pm

Conference ends



Additional on-demand sessions

- 1 A lived experience introduction to tics and Tourette syndrome**
Ione Georgakis, Occupational Therapist, advocate and trainer, Therapies and Advocacy Manager at Tourettes Action
- 2 Autistic menopause: understanding and supporting autistic people through the menopausal transition**
Dr Rachel Moseley-Braund, Principal Academic in Psychology at Bournemouth University and a late-diagnosed autistic adult
- 3 Autism-informed suicide prevention: making conversations, crisis responses and safety plans more accessible**
Agnes Munday, Head of Training at Grassroots Suicide Prevention
- 4 Deprivation of Liberty – what the changes in law and policy mean in practice**
Dr Oliver Lewis, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers
- 5 The Scale of the Spectrum: Recognising Autistic People with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities**
Dr Joanna Grace, Sensory Engagement and Belonging Specialist, Researcher, Author, TEDx Speaker, and Founder of The Sensory Projects
- 6 Topic TBC**
Speaker TBC, TBC