

## **London Borough of Bexley Autism Awareness Training Strategy**

### **Introduction**

Improving training around autism is at the heart of the Adult Autism Strategy for all public service staff. When professionals understand autism, the positive impact on the lives of adults with autism can be immense. The 2010 Statutory Guidance (updated 2015) for local authorities and the NHS made it clear that basic autism training should be available to all staff working in health and social care. In addition, the guidance stated that local authorities should be providing general autism awareness to all frontline staff in contact with adults with autism, so that staff are able to identify potential signs of autism and understand how to make reasonable adjustments in their behaviour and communication.

### **Who should complete autism awareness training?**

The Adult Autism Partnership Board would therefore encourage all staff to undertake basic awareness training on Autism via the [MeLearning](#) e-learning course to improve knowledge and understanding of how we, in Bexley, can best support people living with Autism.

The Adult Autism Partnership Board have reviewed and quality-assured the MeLearning e-learning course on Autism Awareness and found it to be “a very positive, informative training tool about Autism, presented by people with Autism”.

Many Bexley staff and staff of partner agencies already have a Bexley [MeLearning](#) account. If staff need to create an account there is a self-registration button and clear guidance on the home page.

To find the Autism Awareness course select Courses and Course Library. You may also wish to access the Care Act or Safeguarding Courses – all courses can be found in the Course Library.

For staff within Adult Social Care this is a mandatory requirement and should be completed as part of the Induction process. Managers should check that relevant staff members have completed the training and refresher training is undertaken as appropriate.

### **External Partners**

The London Borough of Bexley works with a number of voluntary and statutory partners who may work with or come into contact with people with autism living in the borough. It is a requirement that any provider delivering social care services on behalf of the council adequately trains its staff in autism awareness. In addition, we promote the importance of autism awareness training through our Adult Autism Partnership Board and Learning Disability Partnership.

There are a number of publicly available resources that organisations can access to ensure their staff are adequately trained in autism awareness listed on the [Government's website](#).

The [British Psychological Society](#) offers a number of introductory autism awareness courses suitable for any individual who works in a public facing service. Courses available are; Building awareness of adult autism, Supporting adults with autism and Working with adults with autism

## **Monitoring**

Take up of autism awareness training within the council will be monitored and further work to ensure relevant staff are completing the course will be undertaken if needed.

Training amongst external partners will continue to be promoted through the Adult Autism Partnership Board and is a priority in the Bexley Adult Autism Strategy and Action Plan.