

# **Have Your Say - Making Bexley Better for Autistic People**

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Or email it to: <a href="mailto:office@bexleymencap.org.uk">office@bexleymencap.org.uk</a> .....	8

## Introduction

Bexley Council are working together with partners to develop a new Autism Strategy that will help us make Bexley better for autistic people. Many things have changed since we launched our previous Autism Strategy and mean that we haven't been able to achieve everything we aimed for yet. However, we know that lives are very different for some people after the Covid-19 pandemic, and it felt right to update and refresh our strategy.

It is important that the strategy is based on the experiences, thoughts and views of autistic people and the people that care for and support them now. We want to hear from you to make sure we are working on the most important things.

You do not need to have a formal autism diagnosis to take part in developing this strategy, you are also welcome to get involved if:

- you self-identify as autistic
- you are waiting for an autism diagnosis
- you are a parent or carer of an autistic person
- you work with autistic people

The survey will only take a few minutes to fill in. We have included tick boxes but also want to hear about why you have given your answers.

## Your views

1. What is working well for autistic people in Bexley?
2. What could be better for autistic people in Bexley?
3. What 3 things could change to make things better for autistic people in Bexley?

## Section 1: Improving understanding and acceptance of autism in Bexley

4. Do you think people who live in Bexley understand autism?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ At times
  - ☐ Not sure
5. Do you think that people who work in services in Bexley understand autism?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ At times
  - ☐ Not sure
6. Do you feel that you are treated with dignity and respect in Bexley?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ At times
  - ☐ Not sure
7. What else would make life better for autistic people in Bexley?

## Section 2: Education and becoming and adult

8. Do you think that autistic children and young people get the right support with their education?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ At times
  - ☐ Not sure
9. What else would help autistic children and young people with their education?
10. Do you think that autistic children and young people get enough information and support to prepare for adulthood?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ At times
  - ☐ Not sure
11. What else would help autistic children and young people with becoming an adult?

## Section 3: Employment

12. Do you have a job?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Looking for a job
- ☐ Not interested in having a job
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Other

13. Do you think there is enough support for autistic people to find and keep a job?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ At times
- ☐ Not sure

14. What else would help autistic people to find and keep a job?

## Section 4: Information and activities

15. Where do you go to get support, advice or help?

- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Paid support worker
- ☐ Local charity
- ☐ Social worker
- ☐ Other (please specify)

16. Do you think that there is enough information and support for autistic people to take part in hobbies and activities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

17. What else would help autistic people to be more involved with their community?

## Section 5: Health and Care

18. Do you think autistic people can get the support they need from physical health services?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ At times
- ☐ Not sure

19. Do you think autistic people can get the support they need from mental health services?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

- ☐ At times
- ☐ Not sure

20. What else would help autistic people have good access to physical and mental health services?

21. Do you think autistic people can easily get support from social care (social services)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ At times
- ☐ Not sure

22. What else would help autistic people access social care?

## Diagnosis

23. If you have a diagnosis how happy are you with how long it took to get your diagnosis?

- ☐ Very happy
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Unhappy
- ☐ Very unhappy

24. Do you think there is enough support for autistic people after they get a diagnosis?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ At times
- ☐ Not sure

25. What else would help autistic people to get after they get a diagnosis?

## Section 6: Working together

26. Do you feel that you are involved in making decisions about things which affect autistic people in Bexley?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ At times
- ☐ Not sure

27. What else would help autistic people be more involved in decision making in Bexley?

## Updates

28. We plan to share the draft Autism Strategy for further feedback once it is complete. Would you like to be kept updated about the Autism Strategy, such as providing feedback on the draft strategy or knowing when the final strategy is launched?

- ☐ Yes (please give email address):
- ☐ No

## About You

29. Please tell us about yourself:

- ☐ I have been told I am autistic
- ☐ I believe I am autistic but have decided not to find out
- ☐ I am waiting to find out if I am autistic
- ☐ I am an autistic person with a learning disability
- ☐ I am a family member or unpaid carer for an autistic person
- ☐ I am a paid carer or somebody who works with autistic people
- ☐ Other

30. How old are you?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-25
- ☐ 26-30
- ☐ 31-40
- ☐ 41-50
- ☐ 51-60
- ☐ 61-70
- ☐ 71-80
- ☐ 81-90
- ☐ 91+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

31. What is your religion?

- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Other religion
- ☐ Prefer not to say

32. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

33. What is your ethnic group?

- ☐ English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ Any other white background
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Any other Asian background
- ☐ African
- ☐ Caribbean
- ☐ White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ White and Black African
- ☐ White and Asian
- ☐ Any other Mixed/Multiple Ethnic background
- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Any other Black/African/Caribbean background
- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Any other ethnic group
- ☐ Prefer not to say

34. What is your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Heterosexual/straight
- ☐ Gay or lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to say

## Thank You

Thank you for taking part in the Autism Strategy survey. We will be holding a number of focus groups and workshops to talk with autistic people, their families and the people who support them over the coming weeks.

If you would like to find out more, please visit: [www.bexley.gov.uk/bexleyautismstrategy](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/bexleyautismstrategy)

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