Briefing

Sheffield Autistic Society
Group Feedback Sessions
We heard from 17 people
October/November 2018

Healthwatch Sheffield attended three meetings run by Sheffield Autistic Society to listen to adults with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and their families/carers about their experiences of health and social care in Sheffield. This briefing provides an overview of the key themes as well as suggestions from attendees about how services could be improved for people with Autism.
What did you tell us?

Key Themes

Fantastic service at the Sheffield Community and Special Care Dental Clinic in Heeley

Sensory issues: health and social care environments can be Too loud

Too bright

Mental Health Services could be more accessible

Single Point of Access does not always work

It would be better if GP appointments were longer

Need time to build a relationship with different doctors

Social and support workers need more time

‘Bring back Autism specialist social workers’
People are waiting too long for services from Sheffield Adult Autism and Neuro-developmental Service and Social Care.

Post-diagnostic care needs improving. For individuals, not just groups.

Some people, such as older adults or Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and Refugee communities need more specialised support.

We’d like Sheffield Health and Wellbeing Board to discuss these findings.

Your voice counts.
Your ideas of how services could be improved for people with Autism

- Organisations could provide documentation for Autistic people without big blocks of text and with clear headings
- Create Autism friendly letters with signs and symbols to let people know what will happen on the day of an appointment
- More face to face contact rather than just a waiting list
- GP’s need ASC awareness
- Bright lights should be dimmable/covered
- Turn music off in waiting room
- Make people aware of entitlements e.g. Flu jab

Share your own feedback or ideas with Healthwatch:

The Circle
33 Rockingham Lane
Sheffield
S1 4FW
Telephone: (0114) 253 6688
Email: info@healthwatchsheffield.co.uk
Text: 0741 524 9657
www.healthwatchsheffield.co.uk

Sheffield Autistic Society
The Circle
33 Rockingham Lane
Sheffield
S1 4FW
Email: liz-friend@sky.com
www.sheffieldautisticsociety.org.uk