



**Isle of Man
Government**

Reiltys Ellan Vannin



**Easy
Read**

Our plan to support people with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)

2024 to 2034



Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.

This **word** means....



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



The Isle of Man Government has written this plan to explain how we will support people with **Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)**.



People with **Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)** have brains that work in different ways than other people.

People with ASC might also say that they are **autistic** or **neurodivergent**.



Some people with ASC might need extra support and understanding sometimes.



This plan explains what we will do to support them.

The Isle of Man



We think there might be about 1500 people with ASC on the Isle of Man.



We think there might be about 300 children aged 19 and under with ASC on the Isle of Man.



We are not sure if these numbers are right. It is hard to know how many people there are with ASC on the Isle of Man.



One reason for this is that there is no way for an adult to find out from the NHS if they have ASC.

Why we have written this plan



We asked people what they thought were the most important things we should work on to support people with ASC.

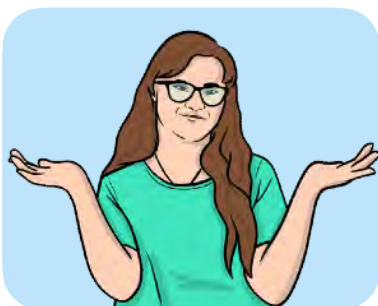
People told us that:



1. There is not enough support for people with ASC, especially for adults and people who do not have a learning disability.



2. People with ASC need more **mental health support** - this is support to help people to feel happy and good about themselves.



3. The public does not know enough about ASC, or how to help people who have ASC.

People also told us that:



4. Staff in different government services do not get enough training on ASC.



5. There is not enough support for people to live happily in their local area.



This support should include help for people who are bullied, or people who might not be safe.



6. People with ASC can find it difficult to take part in school, college or university.



7. It can be difficult to find the right types of information about ASC, like information about what support people can get.

People also told us that:



8. People with ASC do not get enough support to get and keep a job.



9. The families of people with ASC do not always get the support they need.



10. Doctors often give people medicine instead of helping them in other ways that might work better.



We have thought about these issues.



We have also looked at the support we already provide across the Isle of Man.

Our ambition

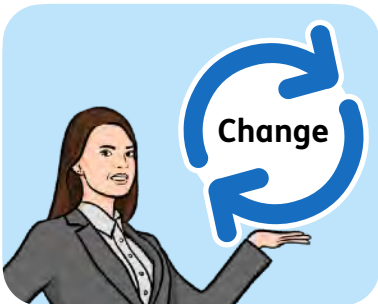
ASC-friendly



Our **ambition** is what we want the Isle of Man to be like in the future.

Our ambition is to be an ASC-friendly island.

This means that we will:



- Make changes to how services on the Isle of Man work, to make life fair for people with ASC.



- Support people with ASC to take part in local life.

What we have done already

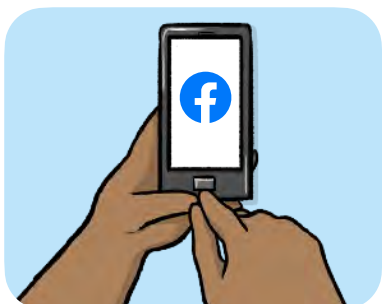
In the last 18 months, we have:



- Run a **campaign** - this is where we speak up about including people with ASC.



- Told the public about what people with ASC think and feel.



- Made posts on **social media**, like Facebook, about how to support people with ASC.



- Helped more people to understand the **Sunflower Scheme** - this is a way for people to show that they need a helping hand, more understanding or more time.

In the last 18 months, we have also:



- Worked with services, like buses and the Isle of Man Airport, to help them become easier for people with ASC to use.

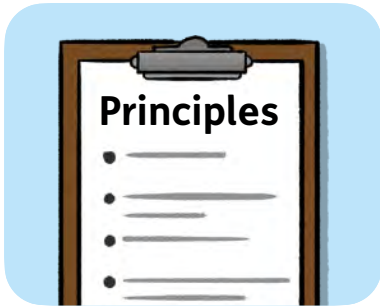


- Started working on a website with information for people with ASC.

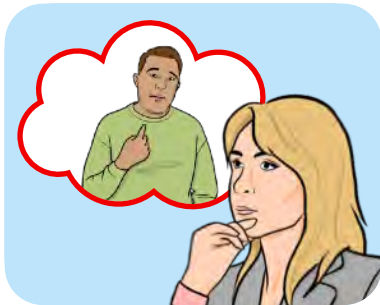


- Worked with local groups, including **Autism in Mann, Autism Initiatives and Crossroads.**

Principles



Principles are the rules that help us to decide what the right thing to do is. Our principles are to:



- Think about each person and what they need.



- Treat everyone fairly and give them the support they need.



- Work quickly so we can stop problems from happening.



- Help different services, groups or people to work together.

Our principles are also to:



- Look at facts to help us decide what to do.



- Work with other organisations.

Our goals



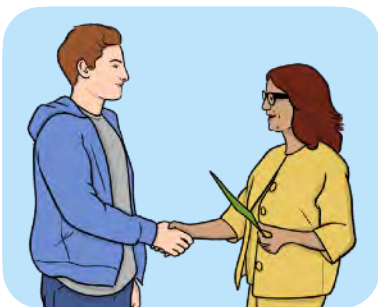
Our **goals** are what we are going to work on.

We have 6 goals.

Goal 1: Helping the public to understand ASC



We want the public to understand more about people with ASC.



This will mean that they become better at respecting people with ASC and treating them fairly.

To do this, we will:



- Run campaigns every April.



- Speak up about **reasonable adjustments** - these are changes that places and services can make so that people with ASC can take part like everybody else.



- Create a website with information and advice for people with ASC and their friends, family, carers and the people they work with.



- Work to provide **ASC passports** - these are documents that explain what support each person with ASC needs.

Goal 2: Stop healthcare inequalities



Inequalities are where some people are not treated as well as others.

We want to stop healthcare inequalities for people with ASC. To do this, we will:



- Look at whether we are finding the right information about people with ASC.

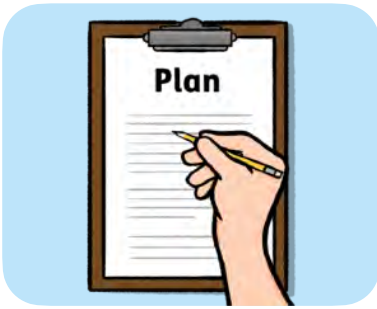


- Collect information about health and care services on the Isle of Man that support people with ASC.



- Understand the health needs of people with ASC.

To stop inequalities, we will also:



- Use the information that we collect to write a plan to improve these services.



- Train all healthcare staff on learning disabilities and autism - this training is called **Oliver McGowan training**.



- Look at whether people need **independent advocacy** - this is where people get help to speak up about an issue.



- Make sure that health staff do not make unfair choices about a person's health, just because they have ASC.



- Make sure that health services listen to people with ASC.

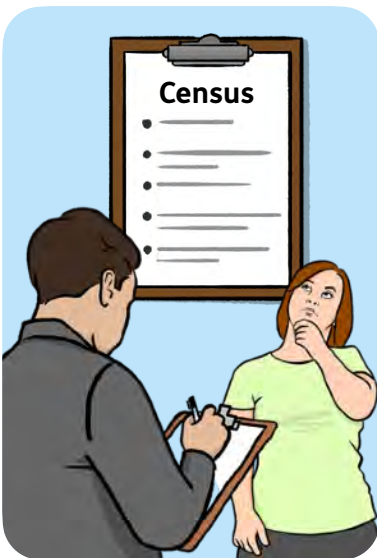
To stop inequalities, we will also:



- Write a prevention plan to support people with ASC who might want to take their own life.



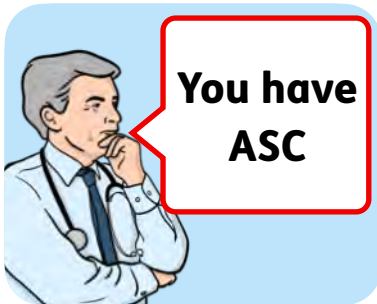
- Make sure people with ASC can get different types of support, not just medicine.



- Make sure that we ask questions about ASC in our next **census**.

The **census** is where the Government asks everyone in the country to fill in a big survey every 5 years.

Goal 3: Provide very good support



It is important that people can find out from a doctor if they have ASC. This is called a **diagnosis**.



We want everyone to be able to find out if they have ASC, no matter how old they are.



When people get a diagnosis, it is also important that they then get the support they need.



We will make sure that it is easy for people to get the support they need, after their diagnosis.

To provide very good support, we will:



- Write information about how a person can get a diagnosis of ASC.



- Start a project to provide people with different ways of getting support.



- Check how **children in care** get a diagnosis.

Children in care have parents who are not able to look after them or live with them. The government is in charge of looking after them instead.



- Support Manx Care to give more children and young people mental health support.



- Make sure that there are ways for people with different types of mental health issues to get support that is right for them.

Goal 4: Help staff to understand more



We want Isle of Man government staff to understand more about ASC.



This will help them to include people with ASC in their work.



This will make the lives of people with ASC better.

To help our staff to understand more about ASC, we will:



- Train all staff on what people with ASC need.



- Make sure more staff understand the Sunflower Scheme.



- Help different organisations, like sports teams, museums and housing organisations, to understand more about ASC.



- Write a plan for how we can support staff with ASC.



- Help staff to share information about how best to support people with ASC.

Goal 5: Supporting people to learn



We want all children, young people and adults to have the chance to learn in ways that are good for them.

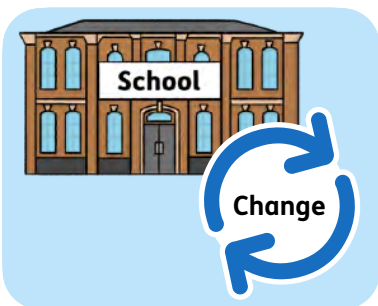
To do this, we will:



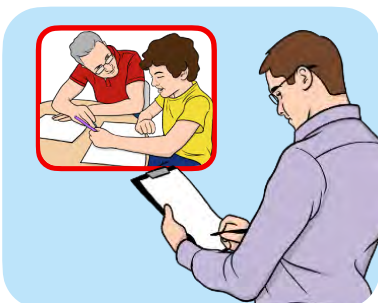
- Check that enough staff are trained to support children with ASC.



- Check that schools get the right training about ASC.



- Support schools to change so that children and young people with ASC can take part.



- Check whether the support and training childminders and day care services get is good enough.

To help people with ASC to learn, we will also:

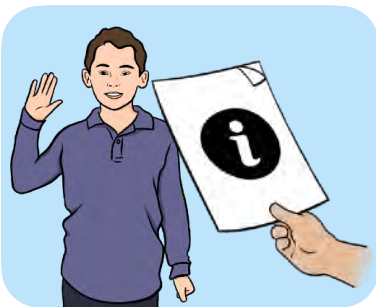


- Check on how **Specialist Provision Centres** are working.

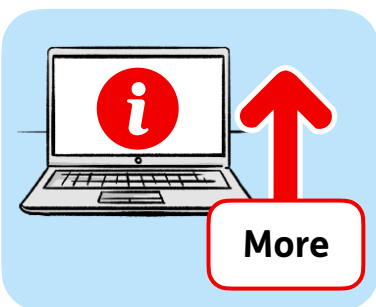
Specialist Provision Centres are places that support children and young people who need a lot of help to learn.



- Write new rules about including people with ASC who want to learn in schools or colleges.



- Write new information for schools, day care services and childminders on how best to support children with ASC.



- Look at whether we should use computers to share more information so schools know how to support children with ASC.

Goal 6: Improving daily life



We want to improve the daily lives of people with ASC. This includes things like going to the shops or using the bus.

Many people with ASC:



- Feel like people do not understand them.



- Find it hard to get a job.

To improve people's daily lives, we will:



- Help groups and companies to make small changes that make a big difference to people with ASC.



- Support people with ASC to work in ways that are right for them.

What kind of job would you be good at?



- Train **careers advisers** in how to find what people with ASC are good at.

Careers advisers are people who help people to find a job.



- Create an award to give to organisations that do a lot to support people with ASC.

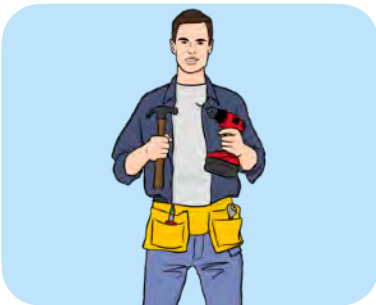


- Look at writing a new law on how to treat people with ASC.

To improve people's daily lives, we will also:



- Make sure we think about what people with ASC need when we write our new plan for carers.



- Support people with ASC to get and keep jobs.



- Help companies understand why parents of children with ASC might need to work differently to other people.



- Help to create groups that support people with ASC who do not have learning disabilities.

The Steering Group



The Steering Group is a group that will be in charge of making sure this plan happens.



The group will include people from the Government, local organisations and people with ASC.



We will keep checking that our plan for supporting people with ASC is right for local people.



After 18 months, the Steering Group will write a report explaining what they have done so far.

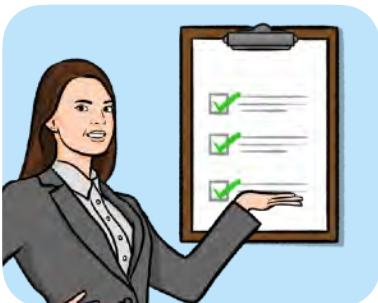
Money



It will be difficult to get enough money to pay for everything we want to do.



So we will have to think hard about how we work.



We will do as much as we can, with the money we have.



But we still think that we can achieve our goals.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:

www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/health-and-social-care/dhscpolicy/national-autism-spectrum-condition-asc-strategy/

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