

Annual Professionals' Conference

14 March 2024

Empowering professionals to
understand autistic experience

- 9am **Welcome by the Chairs**
Shabnam Anam, Education Consultant, DewDrop Education
Carol Povey, Director of Autism Projects, National Autistic Society
- 9.10am **Welcome address**
Vanessa D'Souza, autistic *MasterChef* star, National Autistic Society ambassador
- 9.20am **Plenary session - Exceeding expectations; dispelling myths; intersectionality and systematic disadvantages**
Jason Arday, Professor of Sociology of Education, University of Cambridge
- 10.10am **Short break**
- 10.20am **Plenary session - Autism and anxiety**
Dr Luke Beardon, Senior Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University and author
- 11.10am **Morning break**
- 11.30am

Stream A: Education and young people

Chairs: **Shabnam Anam**,
Education Consultant,
DewDrop Education
Carol Povey, Director of
Autism Projects, National
Autistic Society

Identification and exclusion of autistic children in education

Barney Angliss, Consultant in
Special Educational Needs
and Disability

Stream B: Mental health and clinical services

Chair: **Carla Manini Rowden**,
Head of Casework Services,
National Autistic Society

Counselling for different ways of being

Sonny Hallett, autistic
therapist

Stream C: Supportive approaches

Chair: **Jack Howes**,
Philanthropy Manager,
National Autistic Society

Autism and executive functioning

Paul Micallef, life coach,
speaker, facilitator and trainer

- 12.15pm **Lunch break**

1.15pm

Stream A	Stream B	Stream C
<p>Discussing a young person's autistic identity</p> <p>Rebecca Duffus, Advisory Teacher and author</p>	<p>"I'm trying to find my people": Sensory differences, loneliness and mental health in autistic adults</p> <p>Dr Lisa Quadt, autistic researcher at the Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Brighton and Sussex Medical School</p>	<p>Supporting autistic people into work</p> <p>Cath Leggett, Training Consultant, Ambitious about Autism</p>

2pm **Short break**

2.10pm

Stream A	Stream B	Stream C
<p>Why are so many autistic children not fine at school?</p> <p>Dr Naomi Fisher, Clinical Psychologist and author</p>	<p>Inpatient services and Care, Education and Treatment Reviews</p> <p>Loren Snow, Autism consultant and trainer</p>	<p>Masking, stigma and burnout</p> <p>Dr Alice Nicholls, Clinical Psychologist</p>

2.55pm **Afternoon break**

3.10pm

Stream A	Stream B	Stream C
<p>Rewiring and rethinking the classroom for 'Neuroclusivity'</p> <p>Shabnam Anam, Education Consultant, DewDrop Education</p>	<p>A neuro-affirmative toolkit for clinical services</p> <p>Dr Kayleigh Brown, Principal Clinical Psychologist Remie Colledge, Expert by Experience and autistic peer support worker, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust</p>	<p>Introducing autism practice to criminal justice settings</p> <p>Clare Hughes, Criminal Justice Manager, National Autistic Society</p>

3.55pm **Short break**

4.05pm **Plenary session - You're okay as you are: A trauma-informed approach to working with autistic young people**
Dr Naomi Fisher, Clinical Psychologist and author

4.50pm **Closing remarks**

5pm **Conference ends**

Additional on-demand sessions

- 1 Autism and ADHD: Supportive approaches**
Dr Jo Steer, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Dr Jo Steer & Associates
- 2 Autism and learning disability: Actions and responses indicative of distress: self-injury, escape and harm to others**
Dr Penny Williams, Consultant Speech and Language Therapist, Evelina London Children's Hospital
- 3 Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training - Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board**
Wendy Scott, Associate Director of Nursing, Learning Disabilities and Autism, Suffolk and North East Essex NHS
- 4 Healthcare adjustments for autistic people: Development and evaluation of interventions to improve healthcare**
Dr Barry Ingham, Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Associate Psychological Services Director, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
- 5 Autism, food and eating disorders: Supporting autistic individuals with restrictive eating**
James Ward-Sinclair, Founder, Autistic & Unapologetic