

Annual Professionals' Conference

Rethinking support through
neuroinclusive practice

12 March 2026

Conference programme

- 9am** **Welcome by the chairs**
Amanda Hind, Autism speaker, trainer and consultant, Amanda Hind Autism Training & Consultancy
Josh Fitzgerald, Managing Director of Education and Children's Services, National Autistic Society
- 9.10am** **Welcome address**
Chris Packham, NAS Ambassador, Naturalist, TV presenter and photographer
- 9.20am** **Plenary session – Autistic Utopia; what society needs to do to achieve it**
Dr Luke Beardon, Senior Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University and author
- 10.10am Short break
- 10.20am** **Plenary session – AuDHD: Beyond co-occurrence – rethinking the interaction of autism & ADHD**
Dr Khurram Sadiq, Consultant Neurodevelopmental Psychiatrist
- 11.10am Morning break

11.30am

Education and young people – Stream A

Chairs: Amanda Hind & Josh
Fitzgerald

**Neurodiversity-affirming
practice in early childhood:
reimagining diverse
development and play**

Kerry Murphy, Autistic & ADHD
early childhood specialist, Diverse
Pathways for Early Childhood

Mental health and clinical services – Stream B

Chair: Christine Flintoft-Smith

**Transdiagnostic Research & the
Neurodiversity Paradigm**

Prof Sue Fletcher-Watson,
Professor of Developmental
Psychology, University of Edinburgh
Prof Duncan Astle, Professor of
Neuroinformatics, University of
Cambridge

Supportive approaches – Stream C

Chair: Dr Jude Brown

**'Let's Get some sleep' -
Practical Strategies & the
science that underpins them,
to promote better sleep in
autistic people**

Dr Jill McGarry
Consultant Clinical Psychologist,
Sleep Better Doctor

12.15pm Lunch break



1.15pm

Stream A

Autistic strengths as enablers of engagement and learning – a pedagogy for autistic learners with high support needs
Ginny D'Odorico, Headteacher, The Windmill School

Stream B

How the low arousal approach can support children and young people who self-injure
Keri Fisher, Behaviour and Training Practitioner in Low Arousal Approaches, Studio III

Stream C

Achieving neuroinclusion through allyship and co-production
Connor Ward, Autistic consultant, trainer and Neurodiversity Specialist

2.00pm Short break

2.10pm

Stream A

Supporting neurodivergent learners – a holistic approach
Lisa Carey-Wools, Trainer, Consultant & Teacher
Phil Wroe, Trainer, Consultant & Specialist Teacher

Stream B

AI and autism stigma: What Large Language Models and chatbots mean for autistic mental health and wellbeing
Dr Chris Papadopoulos, Author, Academic, CEO at London Autism Charity Group

Stream C

Supporting non-speaking autistic people to flourish
Professor Vikram Jaswal, Professor of Psychology, University of Virginia

2.55pm Afternoon break

3.10pm

Stream A

Can't Not Won't – what it means for families when their child can't go to school
Eliza Fricker, Author, Illustrator, Advocate & Consultant for PDA, autism and learning

Stream B

Pregnancy, motherhood and mental health
Alexis Quinn, Author, Trainer, Speaker & Psychotherapist

Stream C

Autism, Race and Belonging: Neuroinclusive Practice with Global Majority Communities
Reena Anand, Neurodiversity Coach & Consultant

3.55pm Short break

4.05pm **Plenary session – Technology, tools, barriers & me**
Jamie + Lion, Developer, writer and public speaker

4.55pm **Closing remarks from the chairs**

5.00pm **Conference ends**



Additional on-demand sessions

- 1 Autism and older adults: not just the need for better policies**
Dr Wenn B. Lawson, Psychologist and autistic researcher
- 2 Co-design and evaluation of a primary care health check for autistic adults: Results and implementation**
Professor Jeremy Parr, Professor of Paediatric Neurodisability, Newcastle University
- 3 Policy updates on SEND reforms**
Joey Nettleton Burrows, Policy and Public Affairs Manager, National Autistic Society
- 4 Neurodiversity-Affirming Practice for Speech, Language and Communication**
Ruth Jones, Speech and Language Therapist
- 5 Autism and the Family Justice System – A time for improvement**
Alia Lewis, Partner and Head of Public Law Children, TV Edwards Solicitors & FLANC (Family Law Advice for the Neurodivergent Community)
- 6 Co-produced peer support for autistic young people: findings from the Autism Transition to Adulthood Groups (ATAG) feasibility trial**
Benjamin Redmayne, Programme Manager – Health and Wellbeing, Ambitious about Autism
Leon Allain, Research Assistant – ATAG project, Ambitious about Autism



National
Autistic
Society

Conference programme

The National Autistic Society reserves the right to make amendments to the advertised conference programme and speakers.