



*Irish Autism
Action*

FIVE POINT VISION PLAN



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F Focus on Ability (Not disability)
R Reduce the Stigma
I Include Everyone
E Educate yourself about Autism Spectrum Disorder
N Numbers – 1 in 100 people in Ireland with ASD
D Don't Discriminate
L Let's work Together
Y You can make THE Difference.



MISSION STATEMENT

Irish Autism Action's mission is to raise the quality of life of individuals and their families affected by autism through ensuring the provision of highest standards in education, care, support, employment and equality of living opportunities in partnership with families. Understanding autism is key to our vision for the future.

AUTISM/ASD

- Autism is a spectrum disorder that affects people in different ways.
- Each child has their own additional support needs as well as having abilities that need to be enhanced.
- The shortfall in appropriate support is something a national autism strategy would help highlight.
- There is an urgent cultural change required for families to be respected and treated equally.

CHALLENGES

- Families feel isolated in their communities with the very poor understanding of autism across society at large.
- Families also feel that their concerns are ignored by the state agencies whose duty of care is to provide support.
- The biggest fear for parents at large is who will take care of their children if anything happens to them.
- There isn't the same pathway of care that there is for a typically developing child with no inpatient unit, no daycare programmes, no automatic access to therapies and interventions that are specific to autism to treat complex problems.
- People might think that a diagnosis of autism will automatically lead to support but, in a lot of cases, it is actually the opposite. People are handed a diagnosis and told to head for the internet.



WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

- The need for a more Autism Friendly and understanding environment should be embraced and proactively supported by government.
- Educating society at large will bring families out of isolation, will make them feel that they can be included, will allow their children to be viewed in a different way, in a way of respect and not one of thinking that the person should be locked away.
- Creating an autism friendly environment will be a challenge, but one that will bring about real change with the support of the state and society at large.

THE FORMULA TO HELP CHANGE

- Irish Autism Action are committed to being part of a solution and working with Government on implementing changes in culture to help create a more autism aware and autism friendly society.

This will require cross departmental support in particular from the Departments of Social Protection, Health, Disability, Children and Education to deliver a strategy that will become easier for everyone to use.

Irish Autism Action's mission is to raise the quality of life of individuals and their families through ensuring a properly coordinated approach between Health, Education Employment and Equality supports. By achieving that, we believe that the quality of life outcomes for families will rise - and the long term costs to the state will fall.

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THE FIVE POINT PLAN

1. Provide a National Autism Helpline and support service.
2. Lead on the forum to deliver a National Autism Strategy which will put a plan in place from the time of diagnosis that provides life-long care to the individual and family.
3. Educate society to become more Autism Friendly.
4. Write the template and advocate for a new model of third level education to support young adults with autism.
5. Deliver on a National Autism Awareness Day supported by Government coinciding with World Autism Awareness Day - April 2nd





1. HELPLINE

The National autism helpline and support will be operational Monday to Friday to deal with all queries through 3 main strands

1. Advice, help, Support up to & including hardship fund.
2. Advocacy both self and if need be a trained advocate to support the family.
3. Behavioral Support up to and including home based support where necessary.



2. NATIONAL STRATEGY

- Lead on the forum to deliver a National Autism Strategy which will put a plan in place from the time of diagnosis that provides life-long care to the individual and family.
- We need to build a better future for families with autism and guarantee access to public services for everyday care and for emergency services when needed.
- Autism Acts exist in the UK since 2009, why not Ireland?



3. AUTISM FRIENDLY

- Educate society in understanding that people with autism are different but not less.
- Creating a more inclusive setting & environment for families to feel comfortable in society.
- Autism impacts the family and not just one individual.
- Working with public services like hospitals, Medical centres and public transport helping to create more autism friendly initiatives.
- Encouraging more and more private companies to embrace autism friendly initiatives.



4. FURTHER EDUCATION

- IAA's further education model is dedicated to supporting young people with complex autism, helping them to start try to obtain work and live independently.
- Currently, only one in four young people with complex autism manage to get a place in further education and with this model we hope to change that.
- This will help prepare young people with autism for a future where they can make a positive contribution to their local communities and develop meaningful employability and life skills.



5. AWARENESS DAY

- Raising awareness is still one of the most important roles of our charity and we welcomed the governments support for 2016.
- In April 2017 we hope to run a major awareness campaign involving lighting up buildings blue, blue nose day, releasing more new information and encouraging families to participate.



LIGHT UP BLUE 2017 FOR AUTISM



NATIONAL CONCERT HALL

CONTACT US:

Coole Road, Multyfarnham,
Mullingar,
Co. Westmeath
N91 WC67

+353 44 9371680

www.autismireland.ie
info@autismireland.ie

 / Irish Autism

 @Irishautism



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