

# Membership Guide

You can make  
a difference



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## About us

Autism NI is Northern Ireland's longest serving autism charity and training provider. Autism NI works to provide life changing services for over 35,000 autistic people and their families through Northern Ireland, and campaigns to raise awareness of autism within the wider society.

## Our services



Family support and early intervention



Training



Helpline



Fundraising and events



Support groups



Lobbying and campaigning



# Why join us

As a member you will be part of a large community of people focused on improving services and support for autistic people in Northern Ireland. Your membership will help shape our work and will provide you with the opportunity to connect with others, share experiences and push for change.

## Membership benefits

All members receive:

- ◆ An Autism NI membership card which enables priority entry, queuing, and carer discount at a range of venues across Northern Ireland.
- ◆ Priority information on all Autism NI activities, events, and training courses.
- ◆ Access to free family support workshops.
- ◆ A right to vote in our Annual General Meeting.
- ◆ The opportunity to join our lobbying campaigns.





# How to join

By choosing to become a member you will be helping us look to the future and shape the services we deliver to autistic individuals and their families. Our annual membership is open to individuals, families, and organisations.

## How much does it cost?

Individuals, families,  
and organisations

Parent or carer on  
means tested benefits

**£20**  
per year

**£5**  
per year

## How do I join?



### By post

Complete our application form and return it with your payment information.



### By telephone

Call us on 028 9040 1729 to become a member or renew your existing membership.



### Online

Visit our website to become a member or renew your existing membership.

# Autism (Amendment) Act (NI) 2022

This is the start of a new era for autism services in Northern Ireland! Our members and the wider autistic community welcomed this new legislation being passed.

The legislation will introduce:

- ✓ Development of a regional early intervention service
- ✓ Development of regional adult support services
- ✓ Development of a regional information service
- ✓ Development of an autism training strategy
- ✓ Data collection to include prevalence of adults and children
- ✓ The introduction of an annual budget report on autism
- ✓ An independent scrutiny body to oversee implementation
- ✓ A NI Autism Strategy to include measurable targets and outcomes
- ✓ A NI Autism Strategy to be developed in consultation with the autism community.



# Meet our members

At Autism NI we are committed to, and proud of, our members. Take a look and see how membership has benefitted them.



My son was diagnosed with autism in 2016 and following diagnosis we were placed on a 6-month waiting list. During this time, we reached out to other support services that we could find ourselves, but success was limited, and we needed urgent expert advice on what to do. I saw an advert for a new evening Autism NI support group, I attended that night scared of what lay ahead but left with relief and the confidence to move forward, armed with experienced guidance and instructions on exactly what needed to be done.

Over the last 5 years my family have enjoyed membership benefits such as free day trips to W5 and Belfast Zoo, as well as social opportunities through our support group CoderDojo club. I initially attended the monthly support group meetings and have since become a family support group volunteer, and with Autism NI I've received free training, shaped wellbeing and awareness events, and taken part in fundraising and lobbying activities. I'm thankful to be part of a collaborative charity which works with the autism community to lobby government, drive research and provide lifeline support and services for individuals and families at every stage.

*Fiona Baxter*

I have been a member of Autism NI for 5 years. I heard about Autism NI online and started by going to their support group meetings which have been so helpful to me and my family.

I then enquired about becoming a volunteer to help with events and fundraising, which I really enjoy doing as I get to meet other parents and carers that are in the same position as us. It's lovely to discuss our amazing children/adults and help each other as best we can.

I also like volunteering because it's giving back to a charity that has been so helpful to us.

*Alana Patterson*





## How to get involved

As a member you have the opportunity to get involved and contribute to the work that we do. Whether you campaign, raise money, or volunteer your time, together we can make a difference.

- ◆ Family fun days
- ◆ Fundraising events
- ◆ Training courses
- ◆ Support groups
- ◆ Volunteering opportunities
- ◆ Hold your own event.





# Autism NI Annual Membership

Please **tick** appropriate boxes: -

- I wish to pay my membership of £20 / £5 by Direct Debit (**please delete amount as appropriate**). I have enclosed the completed Direct Debit Instruction.
- I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to Autism NI.
- I wish to make a debit card payment via telephone; please call me?

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

(Please print)

Please include your email address to receive up to date information and events.

Please indicate:  Parent  Carer  Professional  Autistic individual

Are you or someone within your household currently awaiting an assessment?  Yes  No

Name/s:

Ethnicity:

DOB:

Date of diagnosis:

M/F:

Name/s:

Ethnicity:

DOB:

Date of diagnosis:

M/F:

## The Membership Code of Conduct

Members will be required to:

1. Participate within the legal requirements of the Charity and its Mission, Vision, Ethos and Code of Conduct.
2. Promote the Charity and its work in a positive way.
3. As a member of Autism NI, individuals have responsibility to act at all times in a manner which promotes goodwill and cooperation both internally and externally of the organisation which includes the use of social media.
4. Promote a positive image of autism and Autism NI at all times and not undertake any actions, activities or statements which could bring the organisation into disrepute.
5. Adhere to the Code of Conduct at all times.
6. Members are advised to contact the Support Group Co-ordinator as early as possible for advice and support regarding concerns about potential breaches of the Code of Conduct.
7. The Board of Trustees have the right to rescind an individual's membership should they breach the Membership Code of Conduct.

## PRIVACY STATEMENT

- By signing up to become a member and providing Autism NI with your personal details, you are opting in to receive information from Autism NI including direct marketing and emails. (Please note you can stop receiving this at any time by calling 02890401729 or selecting unsubscribe in the email).

I agree to the Terms and Conditions of membership with Autism NI

Signed:

Date:

## Gift to Autism NI. No cost to you.

### Gift Aid is a no hassle, low effort way to help Autism NI.

Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, Autism NI will receive an extra 25 pence from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation go further. This means that £10 can be turned into £12.50, as long as donations are made through Gift Aid. Imagine what a difference that could make and it doesn't cost you a thing. Simply complete the form below and send it back to Autism NI. It's that simple.

### GIFT AID FORM.....

#### Your details

Title:  Forename(s):

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

**Declaration:** I want Autism NI to treat all donations I have made since 6 April 2000, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Signed:  Date:

#### Notes

- To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year.
- You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying Autism NI.
- Please notify Autism NI if you change your name or address.

Please return to: **Autism NI**  
**Donard, Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 8BH**

Please fill in the whole form using a ballpoint pen and send it to:

Autism NI  
Donard  
Knockbracken Healthcare Park  
Saintfield Road  
Belfast  
BT8 8BH

Name(s) of Account Holder(s):

Bank/Building Society account number:

Branch Sort Code:

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To the Manager

.....  
Bank/Building Society

Address.....

.....  
Postcode.....

Reference Number

P	A	P	A																
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Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions from some types of account

**Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit.**

Service User Number

9	6	2	5	7	2
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**OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

**Instruction to your Bank or Building Society**

Please pay Autism NI Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with Autism NI and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s):

Date:

This guarantee should be detached and retained by the Payer.

**The Direct Debit Guarantee**

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Autism NI will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Autism NI to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by Autism NI or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society
  - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Autism NI asks you to
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.





Donard, Knockbracken Healthcare Park  
Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 8BH

Tel: **028 9040 1729**

Email: **info@autismni.org**

**www.autismni.org**

