

BASS @ Bath & North East Somerset Autism Service for Adults

What are Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASCs)?

People with ASCs typically have difficulties with social interaction, social communication and social imagination. This is referred to as the 'triad of impairments'.

Social interaction – difficulties in forming and maintaining reciprocal social relationships, difficulty understanding the thoughts and intentions of other people.

Social communication – difficulties in recognising and using verbal and nonverbal communication, i.e., poor eye contact, reduced range of facial expression and gesture, literal interpretation of language, lack of reciprocal conversation, difficulty with conversational turn-taking.

Social imagination – strong preference for routine, difficulties with change, having interests which are pursued intensely, inflexibility of thought.

Difficulties in all three of these areas have to be present from birth, and have a significant impact on the person's life. Many people with ASCs also experience sensory hyper or hypo-sensitivity, for example, disliking loud noises or bright lights.

Nice guidelines and tools for implementation can be found at www.nice.org.uk/CG142
For more detailed information about ASCs, useful tips when considering a referral, why diagnosis is important and referral letter information, please visit the link where you can download an informative leaflet to your desktop
[www.heathlanesurgery.co.uk/website/C82121/files/Autism_top_tips_web\[1\].pdf](http://www.heathlanesurgery.co.uk/website/C82121/files/Autism_top_tips_web[1].pdf)

What we do at BASS @ Bath & North East Somerset:

- Diagnostic Assessments
- Supervised diagnosis
- Training
- Supervision/Consultation
- Post-diagnostic support
- Carer and family support
- Weekly Advice Service
- Partnership working

What we do not do:

- Hold caseloads or Care co ordinate
- Directly assess and diagnose for other disorders
- We are not a crisis team
- Conduct long term therapy
- Prescribe medication

Please send referrals with as much possible information to:

Team Admin: Gemma Allen/ Denise Saunders

Email: awp.bassinbanes@nhs.net

Tel: (01275) 796200

Address: Petherton Resource Centre, 3 Petherton Road, Hengrove, Bristol, BS14 9BP

Diagnostic Pathway BASS @ Bath and North East Somerset

