

## **Autism – Parent Support**

The Family Services Directory and Local Offer

<https://lincolnshire.fsd.org.uk/kb5/lincs/fsd/home.page>

### **PAACT (Parents and Autistic Children Together)**

PAACT is a Lincolnshire based support group, run by parents of Autistic children. We provide support for families with children and young adults who have an Autistic Spectrum Condition, associated condition or are in the process of a diagnosis. We are a friendly, informal, non-judgemental group. We aim to help family and friends to access advice, support and activities within the local area.

We hold regular support meetings in both Lincoln and Gainsborough, offer a drop-in service at our Lincoln office and run frequent training in conjunction with Andrew Whitehouse to support both parents and professionals to support people on the autistic spectrum effectively.

During the school holidays, there is a wide variety of activities organised by the PAACT committee, from exclusive use of soft play facilities to exotic animals and trains at North Scarle playing field. We also have a term-time youth club for young people aged 11 and above, plus a monthly games club and exclusive swimming.

#### **Telephone**

01522 581915

**Email:** [paactsupport@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paactsupport@hotmail.co.uk)

**Website:** <http://www.paactsupport.com/>

**Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum**

Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum (LPCF) is Lincolnshire's Parent Carer forum recognised by the Dept for Education.

LPCF is a registered Charity supporting parents and carers of children with disabilities and SEN in Lincolnshire through its parent carer forum.

LPCF are responsible for representing the views of a wider group of parents and carers through their Parent Carer Forum

**Telephone**

07925 232 466

**Email:** [admin@lincspcf.org.uk](mailto:admin@lincspcf.org.uk)

**Website:** <https://www.lincspcf.org.uk/>

**The National Autistic Society**

Around 700,000 people in the UK have autism. Together with their families they make up around 2.8 million people whose lives are touched by autism every single day.

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them.

It is a spectrum condition, which means that, while all people with autism share certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways. Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent lives but others may have accompanying [learning disabilities](#) and need a lifetime of specialist support. People with autism may also experience [over- or under-sensitivity](#) to sounds, touch, tastes, smells, light or colours.

[Asperger syndrome](#) is a form of autism. People with Asperger syndrome are often of average or above average intelligence. They have fewer problems with speech but may still have difficulties with understanding and processing language.

**Telephone**

0808 800 4104 - Austim helpline (Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm)

0808 800 4102 - Education Rights Service (leave a message and we will call you back)

0808 800 4106 - Parent-to-Parent Service (leave a message and we will call you back)

020 7833 2299 - switchboard

**Email:** [nas@nas.org.uk](mailto:nas@nas.org.uk)

**Website:** <https://www.autism.org.uk/>

### **Lincoln and District Portage Service**

Portage is an educational home visiting service for pre-school children and their families.

Portage works in partnership with parents and their children, offering advice on, and structured strategies to tackle;

- specific learning difficulties
- autism
- language and communication skills
- physical disability
- learning through play

Where appropriate your Portage Home Visitor will liaise with other services to support your child.

Referral from other professionals (Paediatrician, Educational Psychologist, Health Visitor, Speech and Language service). Parents may also refer their child to the Portage service themselves.

The Portage Co-ordinator will then contact the family and discuss the best options for the child.

In partnership with the family the Home Visitor will devise a programme of activities to tackle the specific difficulties, and to achieve successful developmental progress.

#### **Telephone**

07741 598332

01522 528378

**Email:** [suzanne.shorthouse@lincolnstchristophers.com](mailto:suzanne.shorthouse@lincolnstchristophers.com)

**Website:** <https://www.lincolnstchristophers.com/about-us/portage/>

## **Early Support and Care Coordination (ESCO)**

ESCO is a targeted service provided by Lincolnshire County Council Children Services, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Service. Our Mission Statement: To provide early support for families and children and young people with special needs and disabilities to feel empowered.

### **Telephone**

01522 552389

**Email:** [esco@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:esco@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

**Website:** <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/childcare-and-family-support/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/disability-and-sensory-impairment/early-support-care-coordination/>

## **SNAP Support Group**

SNAP is a friendly and inclusive support group for all families who care for disabled, special or additional needs children, young people and adults.

We would love to connect with you and we offer various ways in which to do this. We are here to help.

Please contact us or join with us, we'd love to welcome you.

### **Telephone**

01522 542166

07900635366

**Email:** [snaplincoln@gmail.com](mailto:snaplincoln@gmail.com)

## **Specialist Nurse for Children with Additional Needs/ Complex Disabilities**

This is a specialist service and is offered to all professionals working with children aged between 0-19 years, within the county of Lincolnshire.

It has been developed to provide support and education to professionals, to further support families who have children with additional needs and complex disabilities

**Telephone**

01522 521186/07790354895

**Email:** [joanne.mccardell@ulh.nhs.uk](mailto:joanne.mccardell@ulh.nhs.uk)