

APRIL, 2019

AUTISM VOICE



Quarterly Newsletter

Employment Support for Autistic People starts in June

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With the support of a grant received from the People's Postcode Lottery, Autism Voice will start Employment Support for Autistic People in June. This specialist service will involve a three employment trainings and once weekly employment advice and support service to people with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) within working age. This service will help autistic people gain vital skills and knowledge for successful job application, interview techniques, writing curriculum vitae and tips about staying in job. The service will also involve training of employers on supporting and creating an enabling environment for autistic persons. AVUK has successfully supported autistic people on a very small scale in the past, who have been gainfully employed and maintained their jobs. This new service is an opportunity to expand on this experience.

"Every topic was useful. I enjoyed my time at the conference. Excellent presentation from all the speakers",

- Mom of autistic teenager at Autism in BAME Community Symposium 2019

2nd Autism in BAME Symposium discusses Quality Care for the Autism Family



Autism Voice in partnership with the Critical Autism/Disability Research Group at London Southbank University (LSBU) and the Participatory Autism Research Collectives (PARC) on Tuesday April 23 held the second Autism in BAME Community symposium at the LSBU campus in London. The theme for this year's confab was 'Providing a Comprehensive Care for Autistic People and their Families'. The symposium provided an opportunity for the autistic community to brainstorm, identify and develop comprehensive care approaches that are multicultural sensitive to the needs of autistic people in BAME community.

Speakers at this year's conference included AVUK's Mariama Korra Kandeh, Professor Bhismadev Chakrabarti from the University of Reading, Professor Eddie Chaplin and Professor Nicola Martin from LSBU, Dr Damian Milton and Dr Susy Ridout from PARC, Hannah Hayward and Bethany Oakley from Kings College London.

For presentations and more on this event please check www.autismvoice.org.uk

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Let's Talk About Autism promotes Happiness



The Let's Talk About Autism series which started in January aims to enhance the happiness of autistic people and their families, informs and engages the public on diverse aspects of autism and also provides opportunity for interaction and networking. The once monthly session involves speakers from diverse background and expertise. In January, Mom of a 35 year-old autistic son Lorna Bryan talks on 'How to raise a happy child with autism and how to stay happy as a parent', In February, Community Development expert and Mom of an autistic daughter Sue Sheehan talks on 'Food and Staying Healthy with Autism' and in March Holly Maby talks about her experience with autism and fixation/obsession . These workshops have benefitted 45 people and will continue throughout the year. Dates and topics to be announced.

Arts and Crafts Club for Autistic Children and their Siblings

March witnessed the start of AVUK's Saturday arts and craft club for autistic children and their siblings. This club aims to support the children explore their talents in the arts and also to help boost awareness about autism and autistic children among their non autistic peers. This service will help non-autistic children to understand difference. AVUK is aware of the practical and emotional benefits art lessons bring to children.



AVUK takes Monthly Support to Southwark

In February, AVUK extended it once monthly support for wellbeing for autistic people, parents, carers and professionals to Southwark. This service has been ongoing in Lambeth since 2016. The Southwark group meets in Dulwich every last Tuesday of the month and aims to bring people together to share their autism experience, knowledge and understanding and also rely on each other for support and enhancing their wellbeing.

"I love this meeting. It is a great place to meet other parents, to talk, gain knowledge and information about other services" – Halimatu Turay



Photo News: AVUK at Lambeth Focus on Autism Event



Empowering Families and Communities