**HEAR AUTISM**

**Newsletter edition 3**

**The flagship Hear Autism event will be at:**

**The Cherry Hub, 171 St James’s Road, Croydon, CR0 2BY.**

**On 6th April 2019 between 10.30 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

**Thank you for your feedback so far. Please keep sending your comments and ideas.**

**Here are some more FAQs:**

**What will be the four groups?**

**Answer:**

**Employment, Further Education and Training**

**Relationships and Leisure**

**Housing, Independence, Support**

**Health and Social Care**

**Can I take part in more than one group?**

**Answer: Yes. Each group will run throughout the day. You can stay in one group. You can move from group to group. You come when want to. You leave when you want to.**

**I want to give my view on something which does not appear to be covered by any of the groups. Can I do that?**

**Answer: Yes. No problem at all. There are small rooms available where someone will be available to listen to you individually and write down your view. Or you will be able to write it down yourself on a post-it note, and put the post-it note on one of the large sheets provided.**

**I am a carer for an autistic person. Can I take part in the groups?**

**Answer: We want to hear the views of autistic people as independently as possible which is why these groups are specifically for autistic individuals only. If your young person/adult with autism needs you to be with them in order for them to participate that’s ok but please do not participate in the discussions yourself. There will be tables for carers to meet and chat, and there will be people available to write down the views of carers. Carers can also write down their views on post-it notes.**

**Will the volunteers who are running groups be autistic?**

**Answer: At least one will be. Every volunteer who is running a group will have experience in working with autistic people.**

**Would you like my view on the ear logo, which is meant to show the need for everybody to listen to and answer the questions of autistic people?**

**Answer: Yes. Please email me your views. If you have designed a logo that you think would be better, please send it to me.**

**I have heard that the National Autistic Society (NAS) would like people in the autistic community to fill in a questionnaire. Why do they want us to do that?**

**Answer: in 2009, Parliament passed an Autism Act. The NAS want to know whether and how the Autism Act has affected our lives in the last ten years. I have pasted in below the link to the questionnaire. I hope you will fill it in so that people who make policy for the autistic community know how well they are doing, you can click on the following link to do this:**

[**https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/media-centre/news/2019-03-02-ten-things-autism-act.aspx**](https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/media-centre/news/2019-03-02-ten-things-autism-act.aspx)

**Jerry Fitzpatrick**

**Croydon Council’s Autism Champion**

**You can email me at** **jerry.fitzpatrick@croydon.gov.uk**