



# Autism Monthly News Round-up March 2025

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### **Social media and Podcasts**

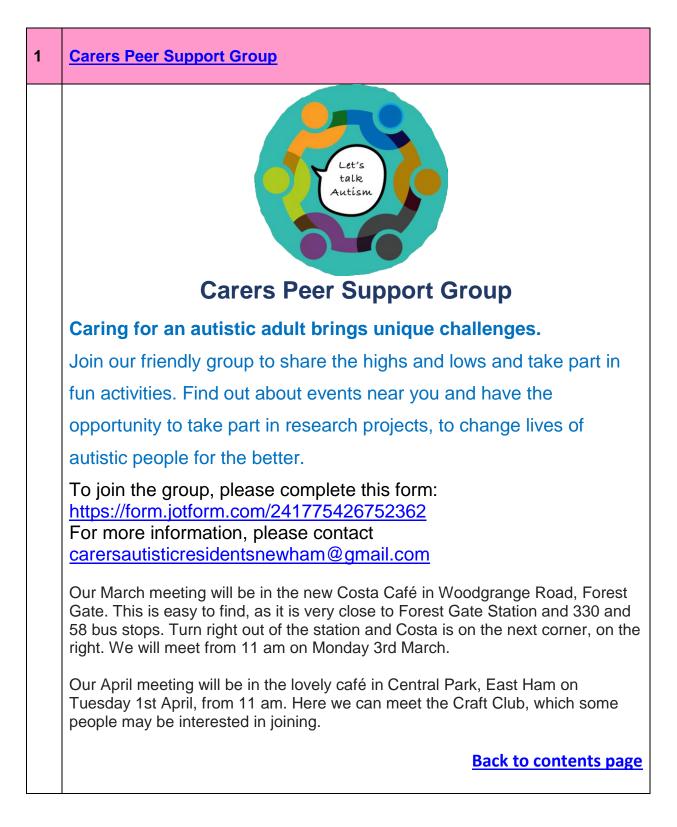
- YouTube
- Instagram
- <u>TikTok</u>





Podcasts

## Local





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2	New Adult Autism Diagnostic Services ELFT website
	Adult Autism Diagnostic Services at East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT) provide diagnostic assessments for adults who suspect they are Autistic. We have 4 Diagnostic Services located for people living in City & Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Luton and Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. Our offer includes a clinical diagnostic assessment to adults who have not had a previous diagnosis of Autism.
	To visit the website please click the link below:
	Adult Autism Diagnostic Services   East London NHS Foundation Trust
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3	Book: Nine Minds - Inner Lives on the Spectrum
	'Nine Minds' delves into the extraordinary lives of nine neurodivergent men and women from around the globe. From a Fields Medal-winning mathematician to a murder detective, a pioneering surgeon to a bestselling novelist, each is remarkable in their field, and each is changing how the world sees those on the spectrum.
	Exploding the tired stereotypes of autism, Daniel Tammet – acclaimed author and an autistic savant himself – reaches across the divides of age, gender, sexuality and nationality to draw out the inner worlds of his subjects.
	For more information about this book please click the link below: <u>https://wellcomecollection.org/books/nine-minds</u>
	Coming soon to Newham libraries' but available for purchase.
	The library has a vast range of autism books & resources available: Search Catalogue   KEYWORD: autistic   Newham Libraries
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# National

Autist	ica: New research opportunities	
Aut	tistic people's experiences of cancer	
Туре	e of involvement: Interview	
Rese exper unde	<b>ut the project</b> earchers at Leeds Beckett University are studying autistic people's riences of cancer diagnosis, treatment and care. They want to rstand areas of difficulty and unmet need experienced by autistic le and their families.	
Who	they're looking for:	
•	Autistic adults living in the UK (formally diagnosed or self-diagnosed) Who have had cancer within the last 10 years Or their family members and carers.	
interv diagr	t they'll ask you to do: You will be asked to take part in a research view. You will talk to the researcher about your experiences of cancer nosis, treatment and care. The interview will last around 45-60 minutes you can choose to do the interview online, over the phone, or in person.	
	<b>t you'll be offered for your time:</b> You will receive a £20 shopping voucher to or your time and contribution.	o thar
	to take part: If you are interested in the study please contact sey King:	
•	Email: <u>L.King4737@student.leedsbeckett.ac.uk</u> Phone: 0113 8121546	
Per	ceptions about autism and cybercrime	
Турє	e of involvement: Interview	
Abo	ut the project	





Computer Science and Technology, University of Cambridge) are looking into the (mis)perceptions that link autism to cybercrime. The project (co-designed by an autistic academic) explores how (mis)perceptions and outdated research influence cybercrime policy and wants to compare this to the experiences of the autistic community.

#### Who they're looking for:

- UK residents aged 16-55 years old
- Autistic (with or without a diagnosis)
- Intermediate to proficient computer user

What they'll ask you to do: You will take part in a 45-minute interview (remote or in-person) or equivalent in written format.

Contact: For more information contact Yanna at <u>yp301@cam.ac.uk</u>

A psychological study into restrictive eating behaviours in autistic adults

Type of involvement: Online survey

#### About the project

A Trainee Clinical Psychologist and researchers at Newcastle University are studying how restrictive eating behaviours develop in autistic adults. It is hoped that findings can help inform ways to adapt current treatments for restrictive eating difficulties that are aimed at neurotypical individuals so that they are sensitive to the needs and experiences of autistic individuals.

#### Who they're looking for:

- Diagnosed or self-identify as autistic
- Aged 18 years and over
- Have a good understanding of the English language

What they'll ask you to do: Taking part involves completing one online questionnaire which should take around 15-20 minutes.

What you'll be offered for your time: At the end of the questionnaire there will be the option to enter a draw for one of five £25 e-vouchers.

**Contact:** Ellie Jackson, Trainee Clinical Psychologist at: <u>e.v.jackson@newcastle.ac.uk</u>

Exploring the parenting experiences and challenges of fathers of autistic children





About t	the project
	chers at the University of Nottingham are studying fathers'
	ences of parenting their autistic child including the challenges
	s. The researchers hope the research will lead to better support
	ers within services, impacting positively on the care for autistic
	and their wellbeing.
wha th	ey're looking for:
	You are a father (biological, adoptive or step-father) of an
	autistic child
	Your autistic child has been formally diagnosed
	Your child is aged 3-17
	You take part in parenting/caring for your autistic child
	You can communicate in English
Mhat th	ney'll ask you to do: You will be asked to take part in a
	d interview which will last around one hour. This can take
	nline or in person - it is up to you, however the researchers
	ble to cover travel expenses.
o discu <b>low to</b>	ou'll be offered for your time: Please contact the researcher iss how you will be compensated for your time and expertise. take part: Contact the researcher at
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minutes online or in person, depending on your preference.	
What you'll be offered for your time: There will be a draw for a £20 Amazon voucher to thank you for your contribution.	
<ul> <li>How to take part: Please choose the link that describes you:</li> <li>For autistic people</li> <li>For neurotypical people</li> </ul>	
Family wellbeing, social support and caregiving: Insights from black, Asian, mi ethnic and other British families	inority
Type of involvement: Online survey and optional interview	
About the project Researchers at the University of Lincoln are investigating the experiences of caregivers of autistic children to explore how social support and coping strategies can enhance the caregiving experience and improve overall family well-being.	
Who they're looking for: Primary caregiver of an autistic child aged between 3 and 13 years, who is a member of either a Black, Asian, or Minority Ethnic (BAME) community or a non-BAME community in the UK.	
What they'll ask you to do: Join an online survey study, which will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. If you choose to participate in the next phase, you will also be invited to a 45-minute interview.	
What you'll be offered for your time: Participants who complete both the survey and interview will receive a £10 Amazon voucher as a token of appreciation.	
<b>Contact:</b> For any questions related to this research, please contact Anum Farooq by email Fanum@lincoln.ac.uk.	
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Autistica- Autism, deception and the criminal justice system   Research	
partnership Autistic people are more vulnerable in the criminal justice system compared	
to non-autistic people. To help address this, Tiegan Blackhurst is exploring the differences between how autistic and non-autistic people display and detect dishonest behaviour and its applications within the criminal justice	





	system.
	This project has the potential to inform training for professionals within the criminal justice system and lead to fairer outcomes for autistic people within the criminal justice system.
	For more project details please click the link below: Autism, deception and the criminal justice system   Research partnership   Autistica
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3	Lecture- Peer support for autistic & neurodivergent young people
	A lecture by Dr Catherine Crompton, Psychologist & researcher at the Salvesen Mindroom Research Centre at the University of Edinburgh.
	Topic: Peer support for autistic & neurodivergent young people: how autistic people communicate
	The session is the third in a series of three, designed to consider the latest research evidence on how to support neurodivergent young people at school. There is a specific focus within the series on the experiences of autistic young people, and on mental health.
	To watch this lecture please click the link below:
	Neurodiversity, autism and peer support
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4	Commission on Social Security PIP replacement Consultation
7	The commission on social security led by experts with lived experience of the UK social security system, is seeking to develop our existing plan for decent social security system, with a detailed proposal for an Additional Costs Disability Payment.
	This would be a replacement for Personal Independence Payment (PIP). Like the rest of the Commission's work, we are putting forward proposals for a reimagined social security system that is designed by and works for those of who rely on it. It would be vastly different to the current system. <b>To be very clear, this is not a government consultation.</b>





To visit the commission on social security website please click this on link: <u>website</u>

To complete their survey please click this on link: <u>survey</u> To take part in their focus group please click on this link: <u>focus groups</u>

### Survey ends midnight, Friday 14 March 2025

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5	Article- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
5	
	The Mix looks into Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit
	Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD and ADHD), what they are and how they can
	affect your life.
	To read the full article please click the link below:
	Hyperactivity Disorder   What ADHD Stands For   The Mix
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6	Research Article: Identification and support of autistic individuals
	within the UK Criminal Justice System
	Autism spectrum disorder (hereafter referred to as autism) is characterised
	by difculties with (i) social communication, social interaction, and (ii) restricted
	and repetitive interests and behaviours. Estimates of autism prevalence
	within the criminal justice system (CJS) vary considerably, but there is
	evidence to suggest that the con- dition can be missed or misidentifed within
	this population. Autism has implications for an individual's journey through



the CJS, from police questioning and engagement in court proceedings through to risk assessment, formula- tion, therapeutic approaches, engagement with support services, and long-term social and legal outcomes

To read the full research article please click the link below: <u>Identification and support of autistic individuals within the UK Criminal Justice</u> <u>System: a practical approach based upon professional consensus with input</u> from lived experience

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7 <u>Research article: Is camouflaging unique for autism? A comparison of</u> <u>camouflaging between adults with autism and ADHD</u>

In the present study, we investigated whether only autistic people use strategies to hide one's autistic traits (also referred to as camouflaging) or whether people with ADHD use similar strategies. We found that people with ADHD reported more camouflaging behavior compared to a neurotypical comparison group, but less than autistic people. Thus, these results indicate that camouflaging is not unique for autism and it is important to be aware of camouflaging strategies in people with ADHD.

To read the full research article please click the link below: <u>Is camouflaging unique for autism? A comparison of camouflaging between</u> adults with autism and ADHD

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8 Research Article: experiences of self-diagnosed autistic women and genderdiverse individuals who are not pursuing an autism diagnosis

As awareness of neurodiversity continues to grow, more adults are seeking autism assessments. This rise in demand is placing pressures on diagnostic services resulting in long waiting lists and high private costs. Many autistic adults are choosing to selfdiagnose as an alternative to a lengthy and expensive diagnostic process which pathologizes their experiences. Research into this population remains very scarce, and little is known about





how and why autistic adults choose to self-diagnose. Autistic women are especially underdiagnosed and underresearched, with gender-diverse autistics rarely included. This study explored how autistic women and genderdiverse adults acquire and shape their autistic identity outside of formal diagnosis and what effect this has had on their lives. An autistic researcher recruited six self-diagnosed autistic adults through social media and conducted online one-to-one video interviews with them. Three main themes were found: (1) autistic self-discovery, (2) living without a diagnosis, and (3) self-doubt and self-diagnosis. The findings offer new insights into the lives of self-diagnosed autistic women and gender-diverse adults and how their experiences are often similar to those who are diagnosed but with unique challenges and benefits. This study offers a new perspective on selfdiagnosis as an empowering way of gaining a positive autistic identity outside of the diagnostic model which views autism as a disorder rather than a difference. This may help self-diagnosed autistics feel more able to disclose their identity to others, access more support and experience less invalidation, stigma and self-doubt. To read the full research article please click the link below:

A qualitative exploration of the experiences of self-diagnosed autistic women and gender-diverse individuals who are not pursuing an autism diagnosis

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9 Autism research study

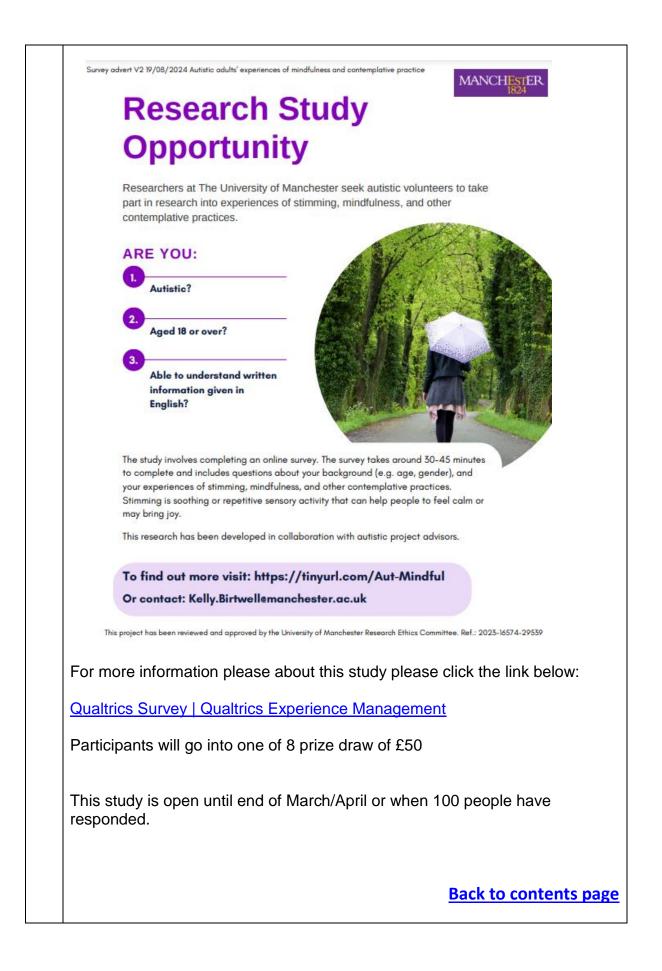














11	Digital inclusion Action Plan
	The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology has developed a
	Digital Inclusion Action Plan. Here is a link to the webpage.
	There is an Easy Read document that summarises the Actions.
	The Action plan is focussed on young people, older people, people with
	disabilities, people out of work and those in low-income households.
	They are looking for more evidence. There is an online
	survey: https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/digital-inclusion-
	action-plan
	People can also respond by emailing: <u>digitalinclusion@dsit.gov.uk</u>
	<ul> <li>or Sending a letter to: Digital Inclusion and Skills Unit Department for</li> </ul>
	Science, Innovation, and Technology 22-26 Whitehall Westminster London
	SW1A 2EG.
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13	Ambitious about Autism: Al meets employability course
	Al meets employability course
	We have partnered with Catch22 to deliver Digital Skills Academy to a group
	of autistic young people.
	Co-designed by Catch22 and Salesforce, the Digital Skills Academy
	programme delivers training to prepare and support young people across the
	UK in staying engaged in education and achieving career readiness,
	leveraging learning technology and using AI to empower their success.
	The course will take place between 10am-3pm, during the below dates. You
	will need to be available for all sessions.
	Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 April
	Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 April
	Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 April
	Application
	<ul> <li>If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete</li> </ul>
	the application form by Wednesday 12 March at midnight
	Please note, there are a limited number of places available for this
	course
	We will let you know the outcome of your application by Wednesday
	19 March
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14	Ambitious about Autism: Relationships and intimacy my way: an
	autistic perspective
	A collection of blogs and audio recordings about relationships and intimacy
	created by autistic young people from the Ambitious Youth Network and Sex
	Ed Matters.
	To read the full resource please click the link below:
	relationships-and-intimacy-resource.pdf
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## **Social media and Podcasts**

Below we have shared some social media links that we found inspiring or thought provoking. If you have an autism link that you would like to share please email us directly on <u>Autism.Commissioning@newham.gov.uk</u>

YouTube
How to: Autism YouTube channel Welcome to How to: Autism, the channel that breaks down social norms and everyday situations for autistic adults. From navigating work dos to handling public transport, we'll help you tackle life's unwritten rules with practical tips and examples—all in short, straightforward videos. Whether you're looking to boost your confidence or just make sense of confusing social norms, you're in the right place. Let's learn together! To watch How to: Autism YouTube channel videos please click the link below: https://www.youtube.com/@howtoautism0
Instagram
Check out kasias_a_drawer on Instagram and watch her fantastic video about stimming.
Description of the video below





" As a neurodivergent person, I realised that I've been spending a huge amount of time and energy on explaining myself to myself and my head feels very full. I originally wanted to capture myself stimming and represent it in a celebratory way, but found that I was exhausted and infuriated by having to translate everything I do, so I made this instead" **Back to contents page TikTok** Check out these light-hearted videos around autistic experiences: https://vm.tiktok.com/ZGd24Savt/ https://vm.tiktok.com/ZGd24U5nF/ https://vm.tiktok.com/ZGd24L8cs/ Back to contents page **Podcasts** An ARAG member has kindly shared the below podcasts. We hope you enjoy listening to them! An episode of the Audhd Florishing podcast about AI tools that can help autistic people: https://open.spotify.com/episode/2UnQFZOMb8BaUQbPdVQC5U?si=bgiE7uAx QQqNYjz3v60TUw A podcast called Divergent Conversations, hosted by two autistic mental health professionals, and it's a series of episodes called "What is autism?" https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLk\_7zVFallQB2UknRYd60KigeEV0ftZb8&si=o KV7Dq6WYExt6IP6 Two podcasts done here in the UK by autistic creators: The Neurodivergent Experience https://shows.acast.com/the-neurodivergent-experience





Thoughty Auti: The Autism and Mental Health Podcast https://open.spotify.com/show/6vjXgCB7Q3FwtQ2YqPjnEV?si=KQnqbGe7RW62 2y0AApKADA

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