

Ambitious Futures

Strategy Summary



We are Ambitious about Autism, the national charity for children and young people with autism. We provide services, raise awareness and campaign for change.

Our vision is simple but ambitious; to make the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism. In 2013 we spoke to a wide range of stakeholders on the development of our new three-year strategy. Young people with autism, their families and carers, supporters and partners, policy makers and Ambitious about Autism staff were all consulted. Their feedback highlighted the progress that we have made since the charity was founded 16 years ago.

Ambitious about Autism was recognised as a thought leader in autism education with a track record of innovation in service delivery and grass roots engagement with children, young people and their families. It was also widely acknowledged that we exert a strong influence on government policy.

These are strong foundations on which to build over the next three years. However, we know there is still much more we need to do to ensure that every child with autism has the support to learn, thrive and achieve. Demand for our services and support is growing and we have further to go if we are to realise our ambitions for all children and young people with autism.

Over the next three years, we will focus our efforts in six key areas:

Ready for school

- ▶ We will design and deliver a campaign to draw attention to the need for effective early years intervention. We will secure the partnership and funding to pilot a new model of provision in the UK.

Achieving at school

- ▶ We will develop a strategy to ensure the development of **TreeHouse School**. We will open the **Rise School** and develop more free schools as opportunities arise through the **Autism Schools Trust**. We will share our expertise more widely through training and outreach and we will support families throughout the implementation of the Children and Families Bill.

Preparing for adulthood

- ▶ We will deliver an integrated model of post-19 education via **Ambitious College** and the development of our community based service. We will secure partnerships to provide housing and employment support and grow our capacity across the further education sector.

Empowering children and young people and their families

- ▶ We will secure funding to significantly develop our work with children and young people and their families. We will grow our family support work to enable families to benefit from the changing legislation and continue to support our growing online community. We will initiate a new national programme for young people to build their confidence and skills, empowering them to influence the policies and services that impact upon their lives.

Building the evidence

- ▶ We will demonstrate the quality of our work by continuing to invest in outcomes research and publicising our findings. We will develop our partnership with the Centre for Research in Autism Education (CRAE) based at the Institute of Education and we will improve and analyse our impact reporting.

Developing our organisational capacity

- ▶ We will deliver an internal change programme to ensure that our governance and operations support the delivery of our strategy.

The economic environment is likely to remain tough over the next three years and special educational needs legislation will be subject to change on an unprecedented scale. This will bring a great deal of uncertainty for children and young people and their families, making our work to support and empower them even more important.

Our mission remains unchanged. Ambitious about Autism exists to support children and young people with autism to learn, thrive and achieve. There is so much to be done. Forging relationships and continuing to value our partners in this work is essential if progress is to be made.



Jolanta Lasota, Chief Executive



Ambitious about Autism

Ambitious about Autism is the national charity for children and young people with autism. We provide services, raise awareness and understanding, and influence policy. We exist to enable children and young people with autism to learn, thrive and achieve.

About autism

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability which affects 1 in 100 people in the UK. It affects the way a person communicates and how they experience the world around them. Early intervention, education and support are critical in enabling children and young people with autism to lead fulfilling lives.

Support Ambitious about Autism's vital work by making a donation online at:

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or calling us on 020 8815 5433

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