

What is Access to Work?

Access to Work is a scheme funded by the UK government that helps people in employment whose work may be affected by their health or a disability. The scheme provides advice to you and your employer and will pay for any changes to be made to your workplace or for new equipment to cater for your individual needs. You will also be provided with an Employment Supporter who will visit you regularly and deliver ongoing support in your employment.

How can Access to Work help?

If you are autistic and have a paid job or are self-employed, Access to Work will be able to help you.

- You will be allocated an Employment Supporter who will provide employment support and visit you regularly in your workplace.
- Your employer and colleagues will be offered autism training to help them understand autism and how it may affect your job. Your Employment Supporter will assess your workplace and advise your employer on any reasonable adjustments to help with your specific needs.
- You will be encouraged to build professional relationships with your colleagues.
- Your allocated Employment Supporter will offer ways to view situations differently if required.

Are you eligible for Access to Work?

To be eligible for Access to Work funding, you must meet the following criteria:

- You must be 16 years old or over
- You must be either in a paid job, self-employed or about to start a new job.
- You find certain parts of your job difficult due to being autistic.

How can Autism West Midlands help?

At Autism West Midlands, our Aspire team will support you throughout your application, but we cannot fill it in for you. Once your application has been accepted and you receive your funds, we will then start to act as Employment Supporters and provide you with ongoing support in your employment.

As Employment Supporters, we will promise to:

- Help you understand being autistic
- Deliver high quality autism training to your colleagues
- Suggest suitable amendments to be made to your workplace to suit your individual needs
- Help you build relationships with your colleagues and employer.

Why choose us?

Across the West Midlands, we are the only autism specific provider of in work support. With over ten years' experience of working with the Jobcentre, we are committed to helping autistic people achieve their work-related goals. Taking a person centred approach, we embrace the special interests, specific requirements and individual goals of each of our service users. Over 75% of attendees on our employment programmes experience positive outcomes and we aim to maintain this high standard to create a positive working environment for autistic people.

How to access

If you haven't already been given a copy of our factsheet on Access to Work for employers, please contact us to request one. Please take this information to your employer to discuss support and make an application.

How to find out more

Contact the Autism West Midlands information helpline on 0121 450 7575 or email: info@autismwestmidlands.org.uk

Department for Work and Pensions information page on Access to Work:

www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview