

30 years of Autism West Midlands

1985 - Autism West Midlands was created.

1995 - **Pinetrees** was opened as a residential service for 4 adults with Asperger Syndrome.

1998 - Our Worcestershire based residential service, **Upper Ford Lodge**, opened, and now supports ten adults.

2001 - Our 5th residential service, **The Poplars**, opened in Birmingham. It accommodates 5 individuals.

2003 - We began **Family Outreach** work in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Sandwell, including workshops, training and home visits.

2004 - We began liaising with organisations within the **Criminal Justice System** and developed the Attention Card to help solve communication difficulties between people with autism and the emergency services.

2009 - We opened our most recent residential service, **Wagstaff Way**. This smaller home accommodates 4 adults with autism.

2012 - We moved our head office to Regent Court and created a public space for people with autism that offers access to computers, a library, a sensory room, a training room and games!

2013 - We began publishing our own books .

2014 - We launched **AUTISM CONNECT** (www.autism-connect.org.uk), the first social media network for people with autism in the UK.

2014 - On behalf of the Autism Alliance, we secured a £200,000 grant from the Department of Health to launch a nationwide autism awareness campaign.

2015 - We launched family support and activities in **Walsall**, Wolverhampton, and Dudley.

2017 - We saw the launch of our **Community Supported Living Service**, which enables individuals on the spectrum to maintain independence in the community.

1965 - A group of parents with children on the autism spectrum in Birmingham joined together to provide each other with support.

1988 - Our first residential service, **Oakfield House**, was opened by Princess Anne. This service continues to support 19 adults with autism.

1997 - We opened **Gorse Farm**, a large residential service for 14 adults.

2000 - We began providing autism specific training courses for carers and professionals in our local area.

2001 - Our specialist employment support service **ASpire** was formed and continues to support adults with autism throughout all steps of employment.

2003 - Our supported living service, **St Pauls**, opened in Smethwick with the successful placement of 8 individuals who had previously been accommodated in long term secure hospitals.

2005 - We started supporting families and children and young people with autism in Shropshire.

2006 - We started delivering outreach support to adults with autism in their own homes to help them to live independently.

2011 - We ran a Carers Roadshow project, which reached out to communities across the West Midlands and raised awareness of autism.

In October 2013 we staged a major conference for the Department of Health as part of their review of the Autism Strategy.

2013 - Together with academics from the University of Birmingham and specialist clinicians, we co-founded **SPARC AUTISM** - a specialist diagnostic and assessment facility for adults in the West Midlands.

2014 - We opened our newest supported living service, **The Hollies**, in Droitwich in Worcestershire. The service supports 2 adults with autism in their own home.

2016 - We completed an important project with Birmingham Airport through OCS to create an **airport video and guides** for people travelling through the airport.