

Here's What You Told Us...

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I have worked with the National Autism Team for several years and I was particularly pleased to be part of Wales' very first Conference for Autistic adults in April 2019 in Swansea Bay. The Supplementary Annual Report 2019/20 is a positive reflection of the work of the team but it also captures the valuable and extensive work of Autism Leads across Local Authorities in Wales.

These have been challenging times for every single resident in Wales and not least for autistic people. Routines have been broken, accepted timetables have been shattered, "normality" has been swept away by a pandemic that has impacted on us all.

I am proud of the work of the National Autism Team, which has adapted to the changes and challenges faced by everyone. The team has produced some really good materials for autistic people and their families to help them better cope with the changes.

The Team has done much of this work in partnership with third sector partners, with autistic people and with other stakeholders.

I love the new web-site Autism Wales dot org. It is simpler, more dynamic and more accessible. It took time for the Team to find the right provider to support them relaunch this important resource but it was well worth the investment in time and money.

I continue to be grateful to Welsh Government for funding the NAT. The Code of Practise for the Delivery of Autism Services is out for the final round of consultation and I am looking forward to seeing services more streamlined and responsive to the needs of autistic people across Wales once the Code is laid before the Welsh Parliament.

Have a read of this report, listen to the audio clips, review the data. It is jam packed with information and when you need a distraction from the news, or a change from the latest box set on TV, have a look at the Compendium of Case Studies at the end of the report – it's a wealth of positive examples of how services across Wales are working together for the benefit of autistic people and their families.

I remain proud to be the Spokesperson for Health and Social Care for the Welsh LGA and I continue to be proud of the work of the NAT and all those who support it.