



contact

Head Office

EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM
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E-mail enquiries@espa.org.uk

You can find out more about the work of the Charity on our website at www.espa.org.uk

To enquire about a placement or to make a referral
please contact Mike Smith, Placements and Transitions Manager on:

Telephone: 0191 510 2611
E-mail: mike.smith@espa.org.uk

Or by post to:
6-7 The Cloisters, Ashbrooke, Sunderland SR2 7BD

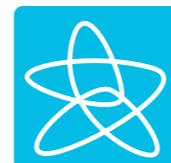
If you are interested in working for ESPA
please contact Jemma Scott at our Head Office or e-mail jemma.scott@espa.org.uk
We offer extensive training and great career opportunities

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espa
EDUCATION & SERVICES
FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM



overview

Your guide to who we are,
what we do, and what we offer.



welcome

Education and Services for People with Autism (ESPA) is a Charity that has over 22 years of making a positive difference to the lives of people on the autism spectrum.

Over the years we have developed a range of services that aim to support people through the different stages of their life.

ESPA College is an Independent Specialist Further Education College offering a positive educational experience that prepares both day and residential students for their future life, well-being and work.

Each of our residential services is tailored specifically to the needs of the individuals who live there. These vary from single person apartments to shared living arrangements. Each service offers intensive, flexible and responsive person centred support provided by highly skilled and experienced staff.

ESPA's Domiciliary Support Agency provides autism specific support to people living in their own or family home. Each person receives an individual package of care and support to meet their needs, wishes and expectations.

The Croft Centre provides people with a wide range of social, leisure, recreational, creative, educational and vocational opportunities both within the centre and the community. Individual programmes of activities reflect the person's needs, wishes and interests.

The Charity also provides additional highly specialised services including:

- Training for professionals, parents and carers
- Individual Service Designs that are both autism specific and person centred that capture people's expectations for the future
- An assessment and diagnostic service for adolescents and adults with higher functioning autism or Asperger Syndrome



Lesley Lane
Chief Executive

our commitment

As a charity we are committed to:

- Providing the highest quality autism specific support delivered by qualified, experienced and knowledgeable staff
- Making sure that all our services are individually tailored to meet each person's unique needs, wishes and aspirations for the future.
- Supporting everyone to achieve their full potential for independence within their home and community
- Enabling people to overcome some of the barriers they have experienced in their lives that can then enable them to enjoy an active, fulfilling and rewarding life of their choice.



ESPA subsidiaries



This company was established in 2010 as a not for profit trading subsidiary of the Charity. ESPA wanted to make a real difference to the lives of people on the autism spectrum by offering sustainable employment and financial independence.

Autism Works is a software testing company that positively discriminates towards employing people on the autism spectrum. It recognises the many talents and skills people with ASC can possess that are an asset and valued within the commercial IT world.

- Persistence
- Attention to detail
- Methodical working
- Determination
- Honesty
- Integrity

Autism Works aims to provide its customers an exceptional service that offers quality and value for money.

The company supports people to overcome many of the barriers people with ASC often experience in gaining and maintaining employment. It offers a flexible, supportive and autism friendly working environment and terms and conditions of employment that improve accessibility and productivity.

For further information or to follow our progress: www.autismworks.co.uk or on Facebook

Telephone: 0191 516 5088
E-mail: info@autismworks.co.uk

Or write to: Autism Works, 19 Grey Street, Newcastle, Tyne & Wear NE1 6EE



ESPA Research is a not for profit, wholly owned subsidiary of ESPA. The Company was formed in April 2009 and has continued the work of the Autism Research Unit previously based within Sunderland University.

Its aims are to improve the quality of life for people on the autism spectrum through high quality publishable research investigations.

For further information you can contact the team by:

E-mail - info@espa-research.org.uk
Telephone - 0191 549 9300

Or write to: ESPA Research, The Robert Luff Laboratory, Unit 133i, North East Business & Innovation Centre (BIC), Sunderland Enterprise Park, Sunderland SR5 2TA

services

ESPA provides a continuum of high quality specialist, residential, further education, day and domiciliary services designed to meet the needs of individuals with an autism spectrum condition and related disabilities.



espa college

ESPA College is an Independent Specialist Further Education College that offers young people with ASC a high quality autism specific educational experience.

The College aims to prepare both day and residential students for their future life, well-being and work.

Imaginative and varied teaching strategies support each student to maximise their potential and achieve their personal learning goals.

Individualised support and guidance is provided by qualified and experienced staff. ESPA's Clinical, Multi-disciplinary and Counselling teams provide additional specialist advice and support.

Each day site offers a unique learning experience and the Halls of Residence provide an extended curriculum that enables students to further develop their social, independence and life skills.



espa residential services

ESPA has a wide range of residential services in Sunderland and Durham for people on the autism spectrum. Many of the people we support also have additional or associated conditions.

Each home is unique and individually tailored to the needs, wishes and expectations of those living there. Person centred planning ensures that each person enjoys a life of their choice and is supported to work towards a more independent future.

Everyone enjoys taking part in a wide range of social, leisure, recreational, educational and vocational activities as part of their week. The Croft Centre and community activities provide many more opportunities for people to pursue their interests and learn new skills.

Properties vary from single person apartments to shared living arrangements.



espa domiciliary agency

ESPA Agency is committed to providing each person with high quality support that is autism specific, person centred, flexible and responsive.

Skilled and knowledgeable staff can provide support:

- into the person's own home
- into the family home
- to enable people to enjoy being part of their community
- to support individuals in work or educational settings

The Agency supports people over the age of 14 years.

Support can be provided for specific hours during the week up to 24 hours a day.

Staff aim to enable each person to become as independent as possible within their home and community and to enjoy a lifestyle of their choice.

Support can be purchased on an hourly basis through Direct Payments or Personal Budgets.



espa croft centre

This innovative day provision offers an extensive menu of creative and expressive art activities for people on the autism spectrum to choose from. Individual programmes of activities take place within the building and the community that reflect each person's interests, wishes and needs. These include:

- Pottery
- Dance, drama, music and movement
- ICT and digital photography
- Arts and crafts
- Vocational opportunities
- Conservation
- Massage and pamper sessions
- Sport and fitness
- Educational courses

The centre has a well-equipped sensory room, café and nail and hair salon. Parties, social evenings, the Tuesday Club, discos and nights out are regular events.

Sessions can be bought through Direct Payments or Personal Budgets.



espa individual service design

ESPA is committed to personalised support and is experienced in working with people on the autism spectrum and their families to develop Individual Service Designs that reflect each person's uniqueness and aspirations for the future.

These comprehensive plans define:

- What is important to the person now and for the future
- How ASC impacts on their life including relationships, communication, sensory perception and behaviour
- What a good life would look like for the person and the support they need to live this lifestyle
- The most appropriate environment and community for the person to live in
- The essential characteristics of the support provider and staff
- Strategies and support needed to ensure the person stays safe and healthy

The specialist expertise within ESPA's Clinical and Multi-disciplinary team supports the planning and design process.



espa transition services

Transition is a term that can be applied to many changes in the life of a person but is commonly used to describe people moving from children's to adult services. Any transition can be a very difficult time but often extremely difficult for people with ASC.

ESPA have developed 2 unique services that have been specifically designed for those individuals who require highly specialised and individualised support to make the next positive step in their lives.

A number of ESPA College leavers have already experienced the benefits of this transition programme.

They are now starting to enjoy a much more independent future and a reduced reliance on statutory funding or services.

This service however is also available to other young people who with the right support can make a significant difference to their future.

ESPA Agency can also support children from 14 years to make a planned and smooth transition into adult life.



espa training and development service

As a specialist provider, we want to share our understanding and experiences with others who are involved in supporting, assessing or commissioning services for people on the autism spectrum. We have developed a wide range of courses from Awareness Training to an intensive four day course for professionals, which has been quality assessed by Northumbria University.

www.espa-training.org.uk or www.espa.org.uk

For further information please contact Gill Linfoot, Project Development Co-ordinator

Tel: 0191 516 5080

E-mail: gill.linfoot@espa.org.uk

