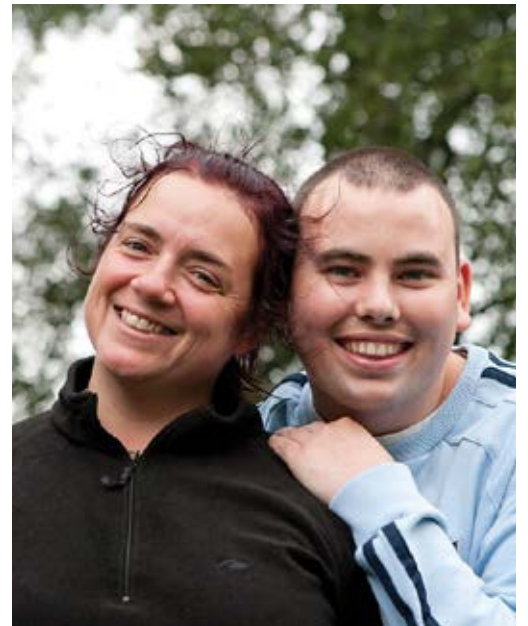


Autism support services

Delivering positive outcomes for people with autism



Our services at a glance

- Specialist residential care with designated Autism Advisors
- Innovative support programmes in a safe and caring environment
- Independent living in safe accommodation
- Companywide Autism Strategy that supports each staff member through a dedicated professional development programme of learning and development
- Supported living and community outreach transition services
- Specialist autism training through a team of specialist Autism Advisors
- Support in accessing education and paid employment prospects
- Progression through a care pathway that fulfils each individual's maximum potential



Delivering positive outcomes for people with autism

Autism is a developmental disability. People with autism, including Asperger's Syndrome, share difficulties in areas such as communication, social interaction, flexible thinking and sensory processing.

At Priory Adult Care, we understand the importance of a specific approach which puts the individual and their autism at the centre of all support. Our company strategy links directly to the Government's Strategy for Adults with Autism – Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives (2010).

Through our four levels of training, online resource bank and Autism Leads we can offer truly specific and effective support.

Our internal Autism Aware Kitemark is awarded to services with the highest levels of trained and knowledgeable staff. Service's which receive the Kitemark must demonstrate that they are supporting people in a predictable, person centred and 'autism friendly' way.

Above all, enabling people to lead fulfilled and meaningful lives is what we are all about. At Priory Adult Care, we firmly believe that autism specific support is key to positive outcomes.



Flexible packages give individual choice

As the support and enablement needs of people can change, we offer a flexible and responsive approach. We are currently developing consistent pathways to enable individuals to move between different types of services smoothly. The focus is on a continuity of support and putting the individual with autism at the centre of everything we do.

At Priory Adult Care, we support individuals across the autism spectrum, including those with additional specialist support needs, physical disability or healthcare needs. We can adapt arrangements for each individual as often as is required to provide the most stable environment possible. We make every effort to limit unplanned upheavals and placement breakdown. As autism specialists, we make consistency and predictability in the delivery of our services a priority.



“

Priory Adult Care's autism service provides specialist residential and support services to meet the specific needs of people with autism and associated support needs, in a safe, stimulating and structured environment. We enable each individual to reach their full potential and participate as full and equal members of our society. ”

Delivering a personalised autism approach

At Priory Adult Care, we believe it is vital to keep up-to-date with the fast changing field of autism. To ensure this, our Autism Leads attend conferences regularly and are involved in research. These Autism Leads run companywide training and organise internal conferences and seminars for support staff. It is our Autism Leads who have written our company Autism Strategy and they are committed to driving the targets identified within the strategy forward. Our Autism Leads also carry out bespoke training and work with individuals or staff teams who need extra specialist support.

Gavin's story

Many people with autism have sensory processing difficulties or differences. Gavin* lives at The Lodge in Somerset and has Asperger's Syndrome. In 2010 Gavin joined a discussion group run by one of our Autism Advisors, aimed at helping individuals with Autism to understand themselves better.

Gavin's Asperger's means he sometimes stands in people's personal space without realising he is doing this, or he may get agitated when in the community or stare at people. When he is very anxious, Gavin self-harms.

With the support of his key worker and staff at The Lodge, Gavin has developed coping mechanisms such as a volume-of-voice scale, writing daily diary entries and working on a circle-of-relationships project.

These supports have greatly improved his self-esteem and enabled him to understand more about his own autism. From being involved in the discussion group, Gavin has learnt new ways and approaches to cope with the things that make him anxious.

“

Staff at the Lodge have helped me understand myself better. ”

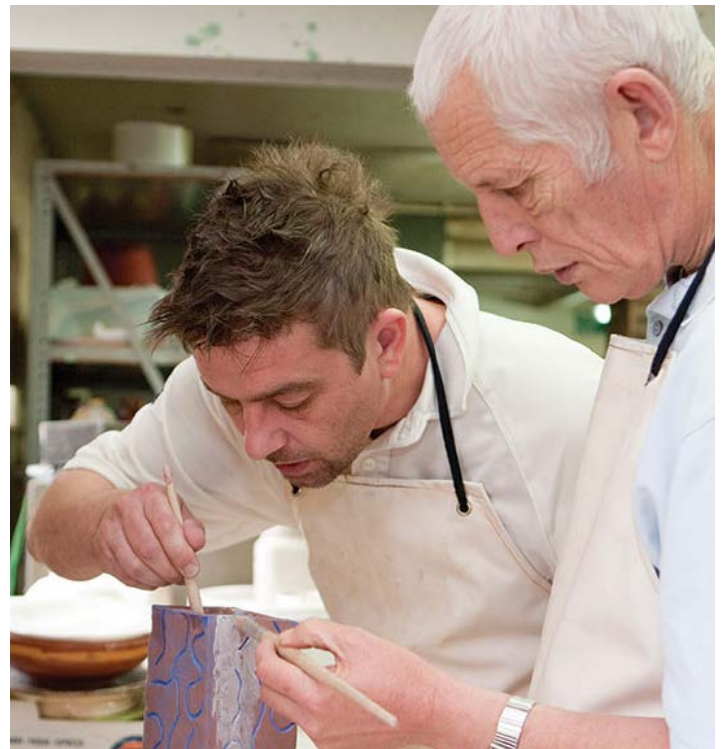
Gavin, supported by Priory Adult Care's The Lodge



“

The service has improved so much over the years, that I would now highly recommend it to other purchasers. ”

A Local Authority Commissioner



Fulfilled lives

At Priory Adult Care, we place strong emphasis on listening to and engaging with every service user. We recognise the importance of special interests and staff are trained to appreciate and value the importance of each service user's special interests.

Our support approach is never static; we want everyone we support to progress and achieve. Steps of progression vary hugely depending on the individual and their ability. As autism specialists we recognise that programmes of development must always be autism friendly and contain a lot of things that are predictable and familiar, as well as some that are new and enriching.

Our programmes of activities could include:

- Hobbies, interests or sports activities
- Work placements, voluntary or paid
- Domestic skills such as cleaning and cooking
- Aspects of personal care and hygiene
- Working towards their goals, aspirations and greater independence

*Names have been changed to maintain confidentiality.

The Priory Adult Care Autism Aware kitemark

Our internal kitemark highlights excellent autism practice across our sites. Services are evaluated according to 10 autism specific criterias, ranging from evidence of well maintained visual supports to demonstrating a low arousal, sensory appropriate environment. Priory Adult Care's services which achieve the kitemark are then encouraged and supported to go on to gain further accreditation from the National Autistic Society.



The implementation of our autism strategy has guided our determination to provide services that truly understand autism. Our Autism Leads frequently deliver service specific training in conjunction with people who have autism themselves. As a company we are constantly striving to deepen our knowledge of autism and motivate and enthuse our staff through sharing the latest research in the field.

Each autism specific service must work towards our internal kitemark – Autism Aware. Part of achieving the kitemark involves completing autism profiles for each person. Staff, family, external professionals and the service user themselves are involved in creating the autism profile, which exists as an active document to be regularly reviewed and updated. The profiles also highlight the strengths of the person and the qualities they bring that can be developed and valued to improve their lives. This is a simple but hugely effective tool which led to Priory Adult Care being recognised at the 2011 Laing and Buisson Independent Specialist Care Awards for its innovative approach to supporting people with autism.

Priory Adult Care also provides a top tier of training to further support its autism strategy. This is an entry level academic course focusing on autism and best practice within adult services and is accredited by the University of Brighton.



Everyone is individual, everyone has a voice

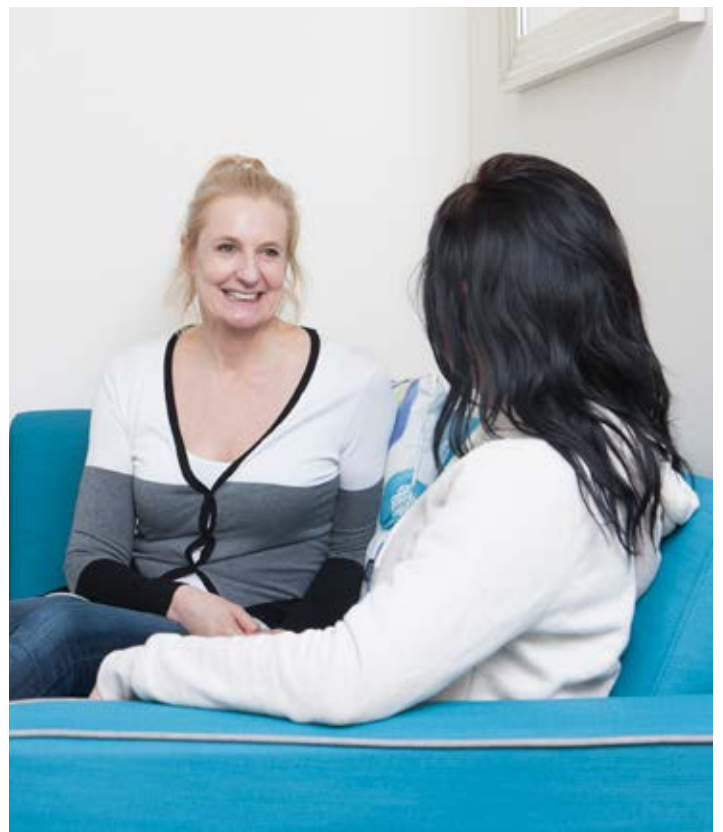
'Your voice' was re-launched in May 2014. The re-launch has given services the tools and resources to ensure we do our best to find out what everybody thinks about the support they are receiving, no matter how great their physical disability or communication difficulty may be.

We have developed a pack entitled 'Accessing Your Voice for People with Autism' which is now being widely used. This pack contains guidance on visual supports, enabling environments and autism-friendly ways of establishing people's views. Crucially our guidance puts knowing the individual and their needs and preferences at the centre of any approach. Your Voice is a process of empowerment, enabling those with the least voice to have their say.

“

I think the staff are great and they really have helped me to live the life I want to. ”

Person supported by Priory Adult Care



Safeguarding

Priory Adult Care is committed to protecting all our service users and ensuring safeguarding best practice is followed at all times. We strive to maintain a transparent and open culture where everyone feels safe and able to share any issues.

Concerns relating to safeguarding are always listened to and taken seriously, and we work in partnership with the relevant agencies across our full range of services. The group has robust national and local structures in place to manage safeguarding, and our clear policies and procedures are supported by the delivery of high quality safeguarding training for all staff.

Working in partnership to deliver value added services

Our packages of support are flexible and tailored to individual and local authority requirements. We always offer transparent price bandings reflecting the needs of each service user.

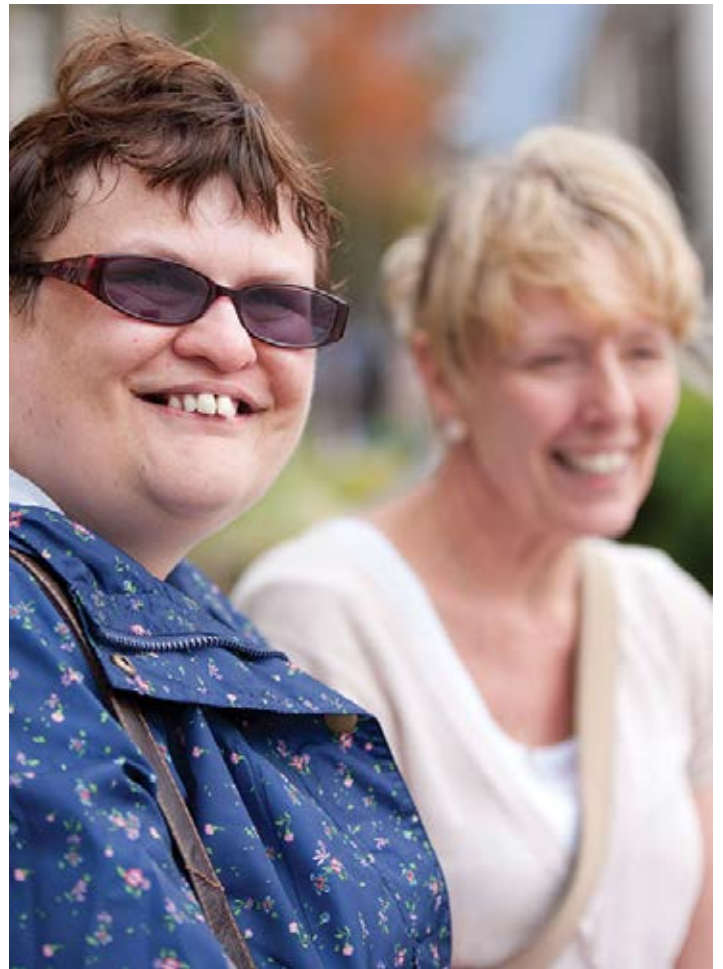
For us, working in partnership with our purchasers is a never ending process. We value the relationship we build with our purchasers so we can demonstrate to our service users that we share responsibility for all aspects of their support.



“

Levitt Mill is by far the one service that ticked all the boxes and stood out from the rest. ”

Rotherham Community Nurse



Integrated pathways - towards independence

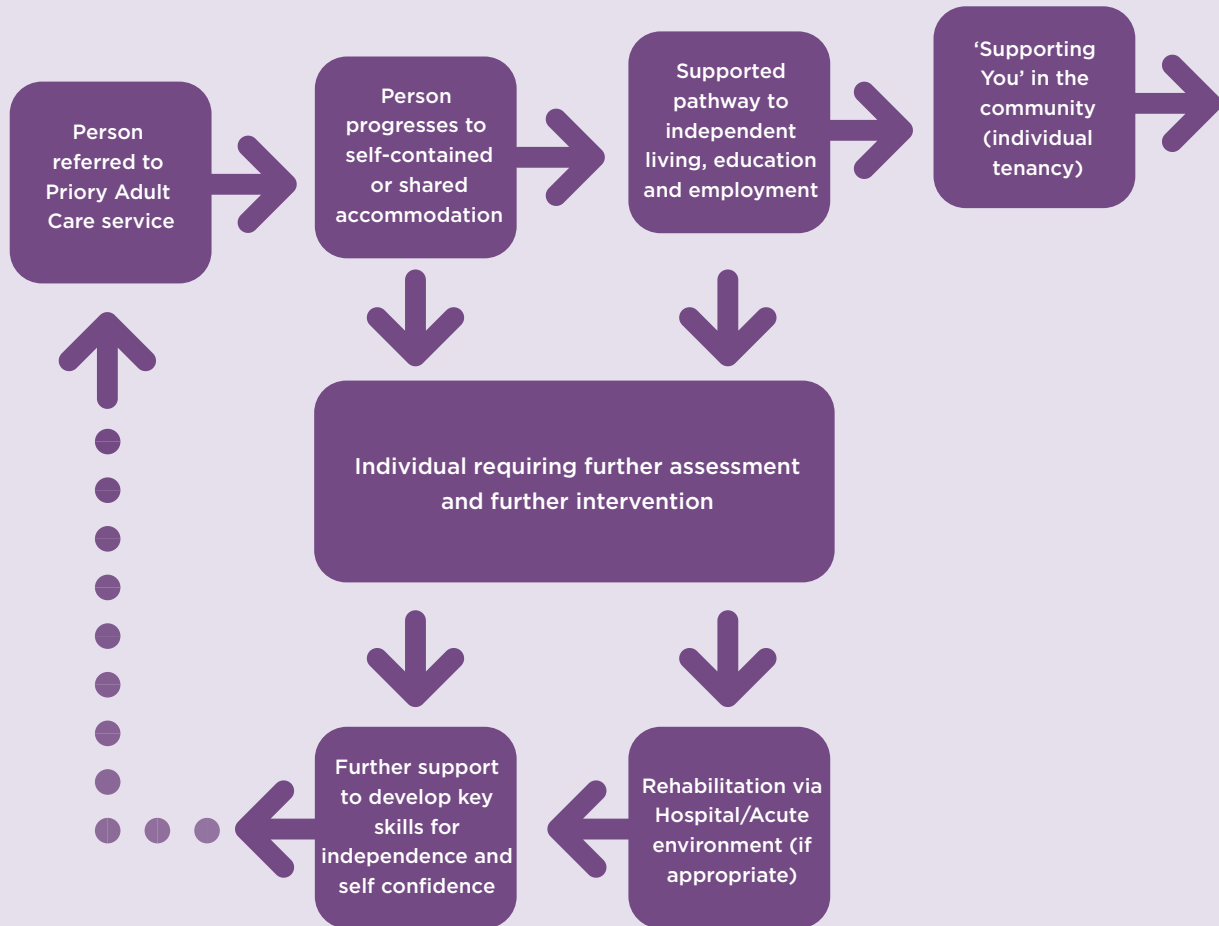
We provide a range of bespoke residential and community based services, including low secure and step down facilities, supported living and residential care for adults with autism.

We are uniquely placed to benefit from the breadth and depth of the Priory Group's reputable service. We can provide predictable and consistent transitions to our psychiatric hospitals and secure units. This ensures accessible therapeutic and psychological expertise, continuity in approach and a real focus on the individual and their specific needs. Our pathways also encourage innovation and improvement in service design across the company.

Links with and accessibility to step-up and step-down services include adolescent acute mental health treatment, addictions, eating disorders, child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), high dependency units, paediatric intensive care units (PICUs) and low and medium secure services. Whether in a residential home environment or out in the community, our core belief is that individualised and autism focused person centred support allows each individual to go on to lead a rich and fulfilled life meaningful to them.

Community options – Supporting You

A range of flexible non-residential 'Supporting You' services for people, including those with Individual Budgets or Direct Payments, are available. Our Autism Leads and Supported Living Lead work closely together to provide Supported Living services for people with autism. Priory Adult Care continually strive to innovate and grow in efficiency to give positive quality outcomes for each service user.



“

As a care co-ordinator of a service user residing at a Priory Adult Care home, I have found the working relationship between agencies to be a positive one. Maintained contact and updates with involved services, encourages an holistic and individual, needs led approach that also empowers and promotes the capabilities of those they support. ”

Social Worker at Assertive Outreach Team, Scunthorpe

Comprehensive referral and support service

Finding the most appropriate care and support can seem complicated. At Priory Adult Care, we can offer advice about accessing benefits and funding and working out budgets. For anyone with an Individual Budget or Direct Payment in place, we can offer support to decide how to spend your budget to make sure you can live the life you want.

Referrals may be made through:

- The individual's Social Services Department management team or, if relevant, their local Health Authority
- By the individual (or an appropriate adult acting on their behalf) who wishes to use Direct Payment or Individual Budget, or who is self-financing



About our Group

Priory Adult Care is part of the Priory Group of Companies, the leading independent provider of behavioural care in the UK. We have established an unrivalled reputation for providing individual care, innovative services and positive outcomes for our patients, residents and service users.

From education to hospitals, care homes and secure facilities, the Priory Group of Companies offers individually tailored, multidisciplinary treatment programmes for those with complex educational needs or requiring acute, long-term and respite mental healthcare.

The integrated strength of each service provides a seamless transition for the individual as they progress between higher and lower dependency care and across services. This unique approach ensures that every individual has the opportunity to achieve the best possible outcomes and quality of life.

At the Priory Group 85% of our services are funded by the NHS and other public bodies, our clinical teams work closely with commissioners across the country to provide transparent pricing models and evidence-based care packages along every stage of the service user's journey with us.

Contact us

To make a referral or for enquiries and further information, call us on **0808 231 9425**, send an email to **adultcare@priorygroup.com** or visit our website at **www.prioryadultcare.co.uk**