

Case Study – Dudley Autistic Support Group

Amount Granted: £ 5,000 (Grassroots Dudley – Date Completed: July 2009)

The Project:

Dudley Autistic Support group was established to support parents and carers living in the Dudley borough who have children with an autistic spectrum condition. This is achieved via group meetings, family events, support and advocacy work, the delivery of telephone and face-to-face that will advance the needs and issues raised by families and lead to a better quality of life

Total number of people benefiting from this project: 39 (12 men & 24 women)

Area of Benefit: Dudley Metropolitan Borough

Why was the project needed?

A common experience of parents/carers who contact the group are feelings of isolation, the challenges of living with autism and the difficulty they feel of having their views heard and needs met. Issues around education, health, the need for better services and equality have been identified by parents and carers as being critical to their day to day lives.



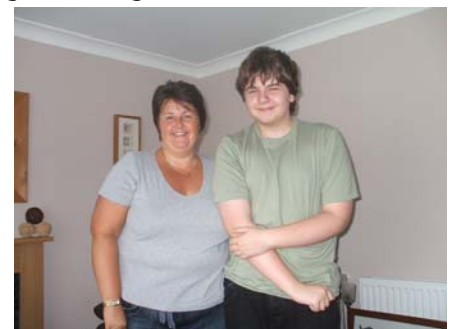
The difference the project has made:

As expected as soon as the project began we had a number of parents contact us wanting advocacy and support. We were faced with some quite emotive issues around home education, discrimination and bullying, and anger management that parents were disclosing. There were positive outcomes for a number of parents including successful applications for benefits and grants, parental involvement at strategic meetings, attendance at autism awareness courses and taking part in events and activities.

Quote:

“The Grant has made it possible for us to take a more active role in supporting parents and carers. The actual value of the funding for families is proving to be much more than a cash benefit.”

Neale Pilkington
(Chair – Dudley Autistic Support Group)



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