



Case Study - "Taking their rightful place in the community."

ADULT SUPPORT - INDEPENDENT LIVING

Autism Unlimited are proud to support a group of autistic adults to live independently and remain in their own homes. Our job is to help them with everyday tasks and to provide the guidance and encouragement they need to lead rich and fulfilled lives.

This includes finding jobs or hobbies that they love. Through this both their confidence and self-respect grows enabling them to make considered, ambitious, and sometimes brave choices and most importantly turn their dreams into a reality.

Each person we support has a team who understands their wants, needs, and wishes as well as their communication preferences. Over time these relationships form deep and unique bonds which are immensely satisfying and rewarding.

Continuity, consistency and predictability are essential and our team brings this stability. Every person with autism is unique and our job is to help them find their passion, their skill, and what it is that they enjoy most.

Our teams, based in Christchurch and Dorchester in Dorset, work in close partnership with parents and other family members to make sure that the support we provide delivers a comprehensive care package.

CHALLENGE

We want to increase the number of adults we support but to be able to do this we need to recruit more people to our team who have the right skills. This is an intensive but highly rewarding career for those who are inspired to change lives.

The challenge for us is in finding more of the right people who can consistently provide this level of care within the budget we have available.

AT A GLANCE

Facts

- We currently support up to 20 adults living with autism to live independently in their own homes.
- There are less and less people who can personally afford to work in this area of care.
- The cost of providing this care is currently more than we are granted.

Opportunities

- We have vacancies across Dorset and are looking for special people who want to support others to live their best possible life.
- If you are interested in a hugely rewarding role that changes peoples lives [apply here](#).



"The social aspect of the community activities, seeing their happiness, this job fills your soul."

Support Worker - Gillian



autism unlimited
adult services

SUCCESS STORY

How the support has changed lives:

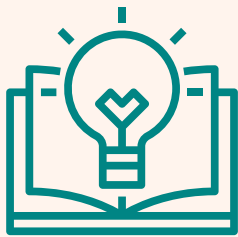
- Jacqui has been a key worker supporting Cath for 6 years and part of this support is to accompany her to a weekly session at the Waverly Art Group, a place where people can go to socialise and practice their art. When she first started going along Cath was very insular and didn't really mix with other students. However, she has now blossomed and has great relationships with other members of the group. As Jacqui says "Just seeing Cath enjoy producing her art and being part of this group - I love it and I get a huge sense of satisfaction out of this."
- Gary is non-verbal but he and Gill have such a bond that they have developed their own way of communicating. During a recent visit to the local sports centre, Gill said "It is really good for Gary to visit the sports centre – he meets different people, socialises with others and still gets to listen to his music. I really love supporting Gary, he has a great sense of humour – just seeing that happiness on his face makes my day. I would totally recommend support work to anybody."
- Dale accompanies Rob to his job at the Tuck by Truck organisation that provide a snack supply service for local groups. As Dale said it's the best job I've ever had, helping people with their independence – Rob is very sociable and this job enables him to take his place in the community, he has a job and a role to fulfil.

STATISTICS



There are 700,000 adults with autism in the UK.

*Source: NAS



1 in 4 of adults with autism need support to live independently.

*Source: NAS



Only 5% of adults with autism get the support they need to live independently.

*Source: NAS



"Support isn't just about the stereotypical aspects of care. It could be anything from helping someone on their first date to empowering them to understand their finances."

Deputy Manager - Sam

