

Autism Unlimited empowers BCHA to better support neurodiverse community.

Charitable housing association [BCHA](#) has enlisted expert training from [Autism Unlimited](#) to better serve neurodiverse people who seek its support.



GREATER UNDERSTANDING: BCHA Learn's Jamie Clarke and Val Jefferies (seated) are among the BCHA Learn employees who have undergone neurodiversity awareness training from Christchurch-based charity Autism Unlimited.

Autism Unlimited, based in Christchurch, provides bespoke education for autistic children and adults, along with independent living skills and career guidance. The charity has also developed a range of accredited training programmes to help other organisations provide effective support to their autistic customers and employees.

Members of [BCHA Learn](#), BCHA's training and employability arm, completed Autism Unlimited's day-long 'Your approach to Neurodiversity Matters' course, at their base in Palmerstone Road, Boscombe, earlier this month (June 10th).

The course enables people to strengthen their understanding of neurodiversity, develop meaningful communication strategies, implement a neuro inclusive environment, and plan strategies for the future.

Val Jefferies, Project Manager for BCHA Learn, said: "The training we received from Autism Unlimited was just what we needed. It not only brought the team together to enjoy an

engaging and interactive training day, but also equipped the staff to work more effectively with the ever-increasing neurodivergent client group we are seeing.

“Our trainers Becs and Josh were amazing. They made the training fun and interesting with plenty of activities to get the group debating, working together and sharing concerns and good practice. It was a very productive day, and we would all highly recommend it to other organisations.”

At least 15 - 20% of the UK population are neurodiverse.

Neurodiversity is an umbrella term for differences that people experience with cognitive functioning. In other words, their brain has developed in a way which means they may behave, think and learn differently.

Increased understanding of these needs and often very simple adaptations and considerations can lead to greater inclusion, acceptance, and outcomes for both neurodiverse customers and employees, and that's where Autism Unlimited's training comes in - they assist companies to be able to do this.

Autism Unlimited's Training Manager Claire Causley said: “It's fantastic that organisations like BCHA Learn are committed to understanding more about neurodiversity and how adjustments should be put in place to support people to succeed.”

Other local companies and organisations which have sought out training from Autism Unlimited include MoreBus, Gallagher Insurance and the local NHS. Dorset Council has also enabled 2000 of its employees to receive Autism Unlimited's training.

Autism Unlimited's training can be tailored to an individual company's needs and can be conducted online or in-person. For more information visit: [Autism Unlimited Training](#)

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Picture caption: GREATER UNDERSTANDING: BCHA Learn's Jamie Clarke and Val Jefferies (seated) are among the BCHA Learn employees who have undergone neurodiversity awareness training from Christchurch-based charity Autism Unlimited. They are seen here with Autism Unlimited's Training Manager Claire Causley.

www.autism-unlimited.org.uk

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