

## Supporting individuals, families and professionals in Southern Hampshire

There are an increasing number of people with autism, including Asperger syndrome, in the local area. Living and working with these people brings great rewards as well as challenges.

There is often social isolation of people with autism and their families. The branch can help in a number of ways:

- Our monthly **Parent Support Group** is for parents/carers of children and young people with autism to meet to exchange experiences, skills and understanding. We often invite guest speakers who can advise on aspects of autism spectrum disorders (ASD). We also welcome those who work with children with autism. Branch members have access to our extensive **resource library**.
- We operate a monthly, Saturday afternoon, **Family Youth Club** for these children, their siblings and parents.
- We are able to signpost young people with autism (over 13) for referral to a weekly **teenage youth club**.
- **Social events** also take place for the benefit of individuals and their families.
- As a branch of the **National Autistic Society**, we have access to a wealth of advice and information.

## Branch membership

If you would like to become a member of this branch, please read the Branch rules, complete, print out and sign the membership form. This should be returned to the Branch Officer.

**Please note:** *Membership does not require regular attendance at any of our events, we can simply keep you in touch with information. There is no membership fee, but we do ask for a small contribution when attending events.*

Members are also encouraged to become full members of the National Autistic Society. There are a great many advantages. A leaflet and membership form is available from the Branch Officer.

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## Branch rules

Name:	The name of the Branch will be the South Hampshire Branch ('the Branch').
Governance:	The Branch is an integral part of The National Autistic Society ('the Society') and as such is bound at all times by the Memorandum and Articles of the Society and the policies and decisions of its governing body.
Objects:	The objects of the Branch will be to provide practical support (calling on the assistance of central staff as necessary) to people with autism and their families living in the Branch area, to seek to raise the awareness of local education and social services departments and other relevant bodies and persons as to the nature of autism, and the needs of people with autism and to raise funds to further the objects of the Society within the geographical area of the Branch.
Authority:	Branches may not commit the Society in finance or contract except as approved by the Society and may not speak or write on behalf of the Society without the Society's prior approval; the Branch may however communicate about their own activities.
Composition:	The Branch shall consist of not fewer than 5 members all of whom must be subscribing members of the Society.
Officers:	The officers who shall be elected annually, shall be the Branch Officer and the Honorary Treasurer. Their names are to be reported to the Society on appointment and annually thereafter. In the case of re-election, names must be reported to the Society immediately.
Training:	Branch Officers will be required to undertake initial training and thereafter will receive and have access to ongoing support from the Society. Training required by the Society will be arranged and paid for by the Society.
Meetings:	The Officers may call and regulate meetings as they think fit, save that formal meetings must be held at least once a quarter. All formal meetings should be minuted, copies of which are to be forwarded to the relevant Regional/National Officer other informal support meetings may occur as desired.
Reports:	A quarterly report of the activities is to be submitted to the relevant Regional/National Officer.
Letterhead:	The Branch shall be provided with at the Society's expense and shall use approved letterhead which includes: the Society's logo and the fact that the Society is a registered charity. Branches should add their own Branch details under the society's logo
Finance:	The Branch shall comply with the Financial Rules Governing Branches.
Insurance:	The Society will maintain insurance cover for the Branch in respect of public liability; it is the Branch's responsibility however to inform the Society of any planned activity which may involve an additional risk.
Dissolution:	The Society reserves the right to terminate the Branch in the event of a breach of these Rules or following notification by the Branch that it can no longer meet the requirements of these rules.
Amendments:	These Rules may not be amended other than by the Society.

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**South Hampshire Branch**  
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[www.shantsnas.org.uk](http://www.shantsnas.org.uk)

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Helpline: 0870 600 8585  
[www.nas.org.uk](http://www.nas.org.uk)  
Registered as a Charity. No. 269425



The National Autistic Society

South Hampshire Branch

Branch Membership form

Parents'/Carers' contact details:

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms,etc): ..... Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms,etc): .....

First name(s): ..... First name(s): .....

Surname: ..... Surname: .....

Address: .....  
 ..... Post code: .....

Phone (daytime): ..... Phone (evening): .....

Email address: .....

Please indicate how you would like us to send you updates and other information:

Preferred method of contact\*:    email     post     **Please note:** Information is circulated by email as soon as it becomes available. \*please tick  
 Information is circulated by post as regularly as possible.

Your child(ren)s' details:

Please state the (actual or suspected) ASD details/diagnosis of your child:

Your child(ren)s' name(s):

Child's name ..... Date of birth .....

Child's name ..... Date of birth .....

Child's name ..... Date of birth .....

Are you currently a member of the National Autistic Society\*?    Yes     No     \*please tick

What do you hope to get from this branch?

Declaration

By signing here, I/we indicate our acceptance of the Branch Rules:

Signed..... Date .....

(When completing this form online, please print it out and sign here before posting to the Branch Secretary)

**Data protection**

All personal information submitted on this form will be kept confidential, will not be made public nor given to outside individuals or groups. Contact details will only be used for the internal purposes of the National Autistic Society South Hampshire Branch for mailing of information.