

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overall Aim of Services for Adults with Autism - to provide a range of high quality specialised value for money services. It is the outcome for the service user which is our central concern

1.2 Service Aim - to overcome or compensate for disability and to enable the achievement of the following dimensions of quality of life for adults with autism.

- a) Physical well-being
 - health
 - fitness
 - absence of disability

- b) Cognitive well-being
 - satisfaction with life
 - positive life events

- c) Material well-being
 - absence of poverty
 - a comfortable, secure home
 - suitable transport

- d) Social well-being
 - community presence
 - choice
 - competence
 - respect
 - valued relationships

1.3 Service Approaches - to aim to overcome or compensate for the disabling effects of autism by addressing those deficits known as the "Triad of Impairments" (Wing and Gould), ie impairments of imagination, communication and social skills.

Approaches must also address associated disabilities as part of the programme plan. In addition to autism, many of our service users have other disabilities. These may include sensory impairments, seizure disorder or physical disability. Wherever possible, a suitable individual programme is designed.

1.4 The Triad
Impairments of:-

1.5 **Statement of Values** -The National Autistic Society believes that:-

Each of the following values should underpin all its activities.

- * People with autism should be afforded the full respect, dignity, rights and value of citizenship contained within the Statement of Rights and the services provided for them should be founded upon equality and an anti-discriminatory approach.
- * The potential for development of people with autism should be recognised, whilst taking into account their vulnerability. Their needs should be met with empathy, in the least restrictive environment feasible.
- * People with autism should receive services and support appropriate to their individual needs throughout their lives. A range of services should be available so that through the promotion of self advocacy individual preferences can be identified and met.
- * Services should be based on a commitment to quality and regularly monitored, evaluated, re-assessed and developed.
- * The NAS is committed to the continued improvement of knowledge and practice in recognising, understanding and meeting the needs of people with autism, their families/carers.
- * The needs of people with autism and the means by which they must be met should be positively promoted through effective communication, consultation, public relations and the broad implementation of the Equal Opportunities Policy.
- * The main assets of the NAS are its members and

- * The NAS recognises that it is accountable to its users and that the interests of people with autism are paramount.

1.6 Mission Statement

Society Mission Statement

The National Autistic Society exists as a covenant of its members to champion the rights and interests of all people with autism with the informed, consensual voice of themselves, their families and their supporters.

The National Autistic Society aims to ensure that by the year 2012 (the Society's 50th Anniversary) all those in the United Kingdom whose lives are affected by autism, or a related condition, receive services appropriate to their needs.

The NAS works to achieve this through:-

- * Raising professional and public awareness of the needs of people with autism and their families.
- * Directly providing services for people with autism and their families.
- * Working with statutory and other bodies to help and encourage them to provide services.
- * Providing information to lobby legislators and funding bodies to ensure that adequate funding is available to support the required services.
- * Encouraging research into the causes and the effective management and treatment of autism.

Operational Mission Statement

To provide and develop a range of services for children and adults with autism and related conditions which are specialised, innovative, high quality and well resourced; and continually seek to improve and