



For more information contact:

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James Sharpe - Specialist Autism Social Worker

I am currently employed as Hackney's social worker for autistic adults, who may have social care needs, but who do not have a learning disability.

What do I do?

- Social care needs assessments
- Care and support planning
- Signposting
- Carer's assessments
- Guidance and advice to other professionals
- Supporting the development of Hackney's offer to autistic adults
- Support with transitions for young people coming up to the age of 18 into adult social care

How do I work?

- 1) I will meet you with for a few sessions so we can get to know each other, and I can find out what kind of things are going on in your life at the moment.
- 2) If you need more support or would like a social care assessment, I can do this with you. Otherwise I may be able to help you by signposting you to services within London that might benefit you.

- 3) If you are assessed as eligible for support, I will work with you to come up with ways in which we can meet your unmet needs. This can be as creative and personal as you wish. Some people employ a personal assistant, some access specialist employment services, others access specific courses or groups around the city, whilst some move into accommodation with additional support on site.

The Assessment and Support Process

The assessment process looks at the following areas:

Your situation – We will look at the issues you need help with and the impact these issues are having on your day to day life. We want to understand all the issues you need help with so that we can decide how best to support you.

What is already working to address those issues – We will also look at how you currently support yourself and how others (friends, family members or other organisations) are supporting you now and/or in the future.

What needs to happen or change – We will look at what you want to achieve in the future and what needs to be put in place to enable this to happen.

If after our first few meetings we both agree that only a small amount of support is required then I will work with you to signpost and / or refer you to services in the community that will be able to meet your needs. You will then be discharged from the service.

If it is felt that you require a greater level of support in your daily life (if your needs are complex, or if you are likely to require ongoing or funded support), I will continue to meet with you to discuss your needs at a greater length and complete a report based on the meetings and - if you wish to complete one - your self-assessment. I will determine whether or not you meet the eligibility criteria for further support. More details of the eligibility criteria can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ydcft2tv> .

If you have been assessed as being eligible for support, we can arrange the necessary support on your behalf or if you prefer to arrange some services yourself, you can manage your personal budget through direct payments.

Once your care and support has been arranged, our work together will end, though your support can be reviewed when requested (though will be reviewed at least annually) and can change if your needs change. Sometimes our work together may be longer than usual if your needs or situation is very complex.

Other Support:

- If you require an occupational therapist to assess your mobility within your home environment, I will arrange this for you.
- If you require support to apply for benefits, I can support you with this during our process.
- If you require support to apply to the housing register, I am also able to support you with this.
- If you require support with your family relationships, I can assist with this.
- If you are experiencing abuse or neglect, I am also able to work with you to protect yourself and keep yourself safe.

Advocacy

You are entitled to have someone present at your meetings with myself if you want this. This person could be a family member or a friend. If there is no one suitable who can support you in this way, or you would prefer to have an independent advocate, I am able to arrange for a professional advocate to be present during your meetings. A professional advocate is someone who is professionally trained to help ensure that your views are appropriately considered during the care and support process. If you would like me to arrange an advocate for your meetings, please contact me. It may take a week or two to organise this depending on availability.