

## **Adult Autism Strategy – Tailored Engagement Activity**

The government is currently developing an adult autism strategy, co-produced with people whose lives are affected by autistic spectrum conditions (ASC). The purpose of the strategy is to ensure that adults with autism get the support they need to live life as full and equal citizens.

The Department of Health is leading the development of this strategy, with involvement from a range of other government departments. We are working with an external reference group made up of services providers and practitioners across health, social care, and employment sectors as well as with adults with ASC and parents and carers of adults with ASC.

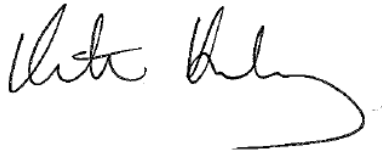
To feed into the development of strategy we are running a formal consultation and a programme of tailored engagement activity. This letter relates to the programme of tailored engagement activity which will include interviews, group discussions and workshops, and an online community. This activity is intended to help us better understand the views, experiences and expectations of people affected by ASC and to explore some of the issues and actions outlined in the consultation document. The research is going to be used to gather evidence on what the key needs, opportunities and barriers are for people with ASC and what practical solutions can be developed.

Opinion Leader is an independent market and social research firm who we have asked to run the tailored engagement activity. They are looking to speak to people with ASC, their families, carers and professionals working in this field. There are a number of different ways to get involved and they are currently looking for expressions of interest from people who would be interested in taking part in this research.

I would be very grateful if you could find the time to help Opinion Leader with this study: either by registering your expression of interest or recommending others to take part. You can register your interest to take part at **[OLAdultAutism.org.uk](http://OLAdultAutism.org.uk)** or call Opinion Leader on **020 7861 2877**. If

you would like any further information on the project please contact Natalie Read or Joanna Bibby-Scullion at [adultautismstrategy@opinionleader.co.uk](mailto:adultautismstrategy@opinionleader.co.uk) or by calling **020 7861 2877**. If you would like to speak to somebody in the Department of Health about this issue please contact Kate Hardy on **020 7972 3943**.

Many thanks in advance for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Hardy', with a long, sweeping underline.

**Kate Hardy**

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