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Employment and young people with autism

Easy read summary



Main report title:
Research into Employment Outcomes for Young
people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Employment and young people with autism

Easy read summary

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Views expressed in this report are those of the researchers and not necessarily those of the Welsh Government

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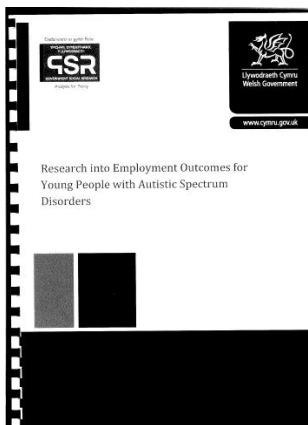
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About this easy read summary



This easy read booklet is about employment and young people with autism who live in Wales.



It is a summary of a much longer report called:
'Research into Employment Outcomes for Young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders' .



Lots of young people with autism find it hard to get jobs when they leave school, college or university. The Welsh Government wanted to know how many young people with autism get jobs and why it can be hard for them to find work. The government asked some researchers to help find these things out.

How was the research done?

We asked lots of people what they thought about employment. We talked to:



- Young people with autism
- Parents and carers
- People who give help and advice about jobs and work
- People who work in charities or voluntary organisations
- People who work at the Welsh Government.



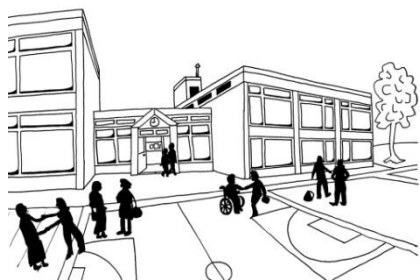
We looked at all the different thoughts and ideas. Then we wrote a report about what people told us.

We want to say thank-you to everyone who helped with this research.

How many young people with autism are working?



Young people with autism living in Wales told us that they want to work. But we found out that very few young people get full-time or part-time paid jobs once they leave school, college or university. Young people with autism are about 2 to 4 times more likely to be unemployed than non-disabled young people.



When they leave school, hardly any young people with autism go on to get a job straight away. Only about 1 person in every 100 gets a job.



Some young people with autism go to further education college instead. But even when they leave college, very few are able to get a job straight away. About 8 in 100 young people leave college and go into work.



A few young people with autism go onto university. More people with autism who go to university get jobs. About 35 in 100 young people find work soon after they leave university.

Support to get paid work



The research found that many young people with autism rely on their families to help them find jobs and stay in work.



Most young people with autism can get help and advice from employment support services, like Jobcentre Plus, Remploy or NAS Prospects. In fact there are over 100 different employment support services in Wales that young people with autism could use.



But the research found that not all young people with autism know about these services, or use them. And not all employment support services have the skills and knowledge to give good support to young people with autism.



Young people and families want employment support from staff who understand autism. It is also very important for young people to get good advice about when and how to tell others about their autism.

What would make it easier for young people with autism to find work?

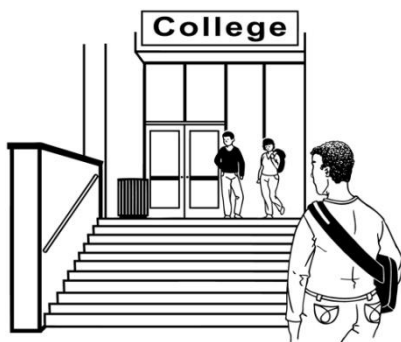
The research found that there are some things that would make it easier for young people with autism to find employment:



1. Careers advice and employment support at school from advisors who understand autism.



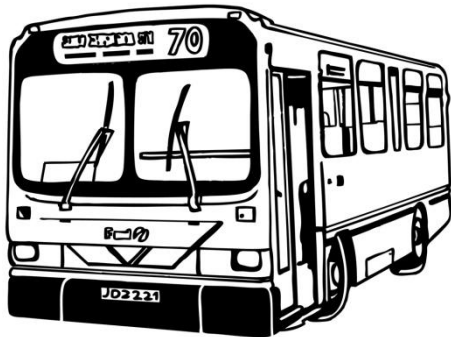
2. Work experience at school which is linked to young people's interests.



3. Access to courses and training (including work based learning) that help young people with autism learn the skills they need for the future.



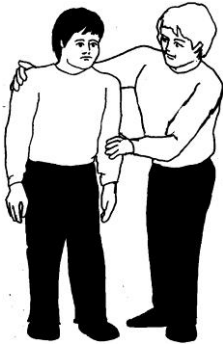
4. Access to benefits and in work' a whole ce family.



5. Travel training and support, as fear of using public transport can be a barrier to applying for and keeping jobs.



6. Having work colleagues and managers who understand autism and are happy to make 'reasonable adjustments'. These are small changes to the workplace to make it easier for someone with autism to do their job well.



7. Access to counselling for work-related anxiety or worries.



8. Getting information, advice and support about working for yourself. This is called being self-employed.



9. Getting help from employment support services where the staff understand autism. Young people want employment support that continues and is not just short-term. Many young people also need regular help and advice from a 'j' someone who can help you at all stages of the job-seeking process, from thinking about employment, to being in work.

What happens next?



At the end of the research, we made a list of ideas called recommendations. These are things for the Welsh Government, employment support services and other people to do, think and talk about.



We hope these things will help to make it easier for young people with autism to get support to find work if they want it.

You can find the list of recommendations in the full report and summary report by clicking on the link at the end of this page.



If you want to find out more about what the Welsh Government is doing about employment and young people with autism, please visit:

<http://www.asdinfoales.co.uk>

