

NAS Cambridge Branch/Hub: Mission Statement

The Cambridge Branch of the National Autistic Society (CNAS) provides support to individuals of all ages with autism and their families and campaigns for better local services for those living with autism in Cambridgeshire.

Our Aims:

- to give support and practical help to families, carers and people with an autism spectrum disorder by providing opportunities for social contact and mutual support
- provide general information on autism and on the services, benefits and other resources available to carers and people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) from health, education and social care services, voluntary organisations and the private sector
- generate funds for branch activities and services, in accordance with statutory regulations
- campaign for adequate and high quality services, including improved services for diagnosis, assessment and care for people with ASD and promote them
- increase public awareness by active work within the community, informed use of the media and by other means permitted by charity law
- recruit new members to the branch using Society membership literature and other relevant information
- joint-working and co-production with Local Statutory and Voluntary Organisations

The Branch currently provides 24/7 information and advice support via telephone helpline, E-mail and website (see below) and runs a number of support groups and clubs for people on the autistic spectrum and for their families. These include the Meet and Play group for families of children under 5 with communication difficulties and/or autism, day-time and evening Parent Support Groups and a Social Club for adults with autism spectrum disorder.

To improve support and services for local people affected by autism in the region, CNAS has recently been selected as one of the charity's three regional hubs. The NAS Cambridge Hub will help to develop other branches in the East of England and offer new services including parent training programmes. The hub works closely with the Branch Family Support Coordinator of the region who provides advice, support (including home visit) and training to local families whose children have been affected by autism.