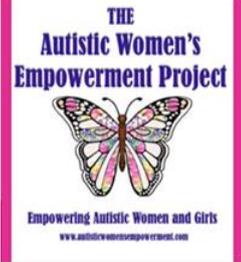




# North Wales 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Autism Conference

## Communication Across the Spectrum



The first North Wales Annual Autism Conference is an opportunity for individuals with an Autism Spectrum Condition, their families and professionals to network and access credible information from educators, researchers and specialists working in the field of autism.

This is an opportunity to hear their experiences and access their knowledge about how we can work in partnership to reduce the barriers within education, employment, healthcare and social situations which will enable individuals to progress in every area and therefore improve self-esteem, confidence and develop opportunities to feel valued, understood and included in society.

### Key Note Presentation

- **Dr Luke Beardon** Senior Lecturer, Autism Centre Sheffield Hallam University  
*Exploding the Myths and Presenting a Positive Perspective of Autism*

### Additional Speakers

- **Dr Linda Buchan** Consultant Clinical Psychologist
- **Alex Lowry** Public Speaker and Educator
- **David Reiser** Independent Speech and Language Therapist
- **John Williams** "My Son's Not Rainman"
- **Dr Jacqui Jackson** Autism Researcher, Consultant, Author and parent

### Choice of Workshops for afternoon session:-

- Understanding and Misconceptions of ADHD **Blue**
- Autism and Epilepsy **Red**
- Introducing the new Additional Learning Needs Code of Practice and Individual Development Plans. **Yellow**
- Strategy's for Living in an Intense Sensory World **Green**
- Challenging the Way You Work **Purple**
- Autism – Maintaining Health and Well-being **Orange**

### Target Audience

- Individuals diagnosed or self-recognising with an ASC or related condition
- Local Education Authorities
- Teachers, ALN Co-ordinators, Teaching Assistants
- Health and Social Care Providers
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Educational and Clinical Psychologists
- Academics
- Parents, carers and others who are meeting the needs of Autistic individuals.

### Venue:

The Catrin Finch Centre  
Glyndŵr University  
Wrexham, LL11 2AW  
[www.glyndwr.ac.uk](http://www.glyndwr.ac.uk)



Friday 7th October 2016

8.30am Coffee and Registration  
5.00pm Close

### Cost:

**Conference Fee 1** £125.00 + VAT  
(Professionals)

**Conference Fee 2** £ 40.00 + VAT  
(Individuals with ASC, parents, students)

**Early Bird Discount for bookings by 31.08.16**

**Conference Fee 1** £100.00 + VAT

**Conference Fee 2** £30.00 + VAT

Ticket Price includes buffet lunch and refreshments

How to Register:

Please book online at:

[http://store.glyndwr.ac.uk/browse/extra\\_info.asp?compid=1&modid=1&catid=66&prodvarid=102](http://store.glyndwr.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=1&catid=66&prodvarid=102)

Or email: [conference@glyndwr.ac.uk](mailto:conference@glyndwr.ac.uk)

A limited number of trade stands are available – please call 01352 703055 for information.

The trade stand cost is £125 + vat

All proceeds from the event will be donated to Spectrum Wales

*\*Terms and Conditions – Cancellations are not possible. A named substitute may be made in the event of a withdrawal\**



# North Wales 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Autism Conference

## Communication Across the Spectrum

Learn more about our speakers

### Dr Luke Beardon

#### Senior Lecturer - Autism Centre, Sheffield Hallam University

Dr Beardon has worked in the field of autism for over twenty years in various capacities ranging from practitioner, researcher and trainer. He has worked for the National Autistic Society as a Service Co-ordinator assisting in the development of a residential service for young adults with autism.

In his post as Senior Lecturer in autism, he runs various courses at different academic levels and supervises students at a doctorate level. He has been recognised for his work and dedication in education and teaching and also awarded the Inspirational Teachers Award and the Inspirational Research Supervisor Award by his students. He continues to research and consult in the field of autism. His specific research interests are around individuals with autism who have broken the law.

### Dr Linda Buchan

#### Consultant Clinical Psychologist - Axia ASD Ltd

Axia ASD Ltd are an independent provider of services to the NHS for the Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Dyspraxia/Developmental Co-ordination Difficulties as well as complex psychological intervention, post diagnostic support and systemic therapy. We accept NHS referrals from other sources for both adults and children.

We offer an extremely personal service and always go that extra mile to make sure our clients and their families feel cared for.

This service is led by Dr Linda Buchan who has over 30 years' experience in the field.

### Alex Lowry

#### Autistic Speaker and Trainer

Alex is Autistic, diagnosed at age four. As a child Alex found the world a horrifying place. He had heightened senses and a language of his own that very few people could understand. As he moved into his teens he found living life harder than everyone else. This was extremely difficult for him to accept. For years he was terrified of people finding out he had autism yet in truth most people knew he was different. Alex spent a lot of his early teens in a very anxious state and his attempts at being cool and funny like his peers always ended in failure. This caused Alex to feel depressed and withdrawn but his attitude towards autism began to change when he learnt about adults with autism who lead successful lives. He learned that there are advantages to having autism and thinking positively about autism helped him to cope with having the condition.

Nowadays, Alex is a positive role model who has learnt how to succeed despite his difficulties. Alex has written a book about his life and is in demand as a speaker and trainer in autism. He is a regular blogger on his website [www.alexlowry.co.uk](http://www.alexlowry.co.uk) and has been a youth patron with Ambitious about Autism since January 2013.

## David Reiser

### **Independent Speech and Language Therapist**

David is a Speech and Language Therapist, having worked for Cheshire NHS Trust as a therapist until 2012, working in various clinics, schools, specialist schools and nurseries during which time he developed a particular interest in the presentations of neurodevelopmental differences such as autism and ADHD.

Upon leaving the NHS in 2012 he started his own practice being engaged by educational settings and individual clients and also focusing on the identification, support and training in the area of autism spectrum conditions often working in partnership with other professionals in the field.

He is a member of the National Autistic Society and accredited by the society (Lorna Wing Centre) to use the DISCO autism diagnostic methodology. In addition, he is qualified in the use of ADOS 2 and the ADI-R diagnostic instruments.

He is a founding trustee of the Autism Inclusive Charity providing support and advocacy for adults and children. He is also an ELKAN, ICAN and Hanen tutor and regularly provides training in the area of autism, speech, language and communication in educational settings and for parents.

## John Williams

### **“My Sons Not Rainman”**

I’m a comedian and parent ...that’s what I do. I used to always talk about family life on stage, but there was one crucial bit of our story I always missed out and that was the bit about my son having Autism and Cerebral Palsy. Yet despite his diagnosis and maybe even sometimes because of it, there is joy in our world. That’s all this is about, it isn’t a story about Autism – it’s a story about a young boy who happens to have autism. There’s a difference.

The show first premiered at The Edinburgh Festival in 2013. Since then it has been performed at theatres, comedy clubs, head teacher conferences, teacher training days, autism events and fundraisers across the UK and Ireland . An excerpt was recorded for Radio 4 “Four Thought” and was selected by the BBC as one of their “Magic Moments of Radio 2015” as well featuring on Radio 4’s Pick of the Year.

The book telling our story “My Son’s Not Rainman” will be published by Michael O’Mead Books in September 2016

## Dr Jacqui Jackson

### **Autism researcher, consultant, author and parent**

Dr Jacqui Jackson is mother to eight wonderful ‘children’ most of whom are now adults. Each is unique. Five have various shades of Autism Spectrum differences including Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and related Mental Health conditions. Dr Jackson's book “Multi-coloured Mayhem” is about her family and Autism. The TV drama “Magnificent 7” featuring Helena Bonham Carter as the real life super mum, was based on the 2003 documentary ‘My Family and Autism’. Dr Jackson’s Doctorate crossed over from both design and health and social welfare and focused on the sensory differences encountered by children on the Autism Spectrum. Dr Jackson’s son, Luke Jackson is an acclaimed author of ‘Freaks, Geeks and Asperger Syndrome’ and other books including the latest book ‘Sex, Drugs and Asperger Syndrome’

Dr Jackson is a director of Research Autism [www.researchautism.net](http://www.researchautism.net).