



Relationships and Neurodivergence

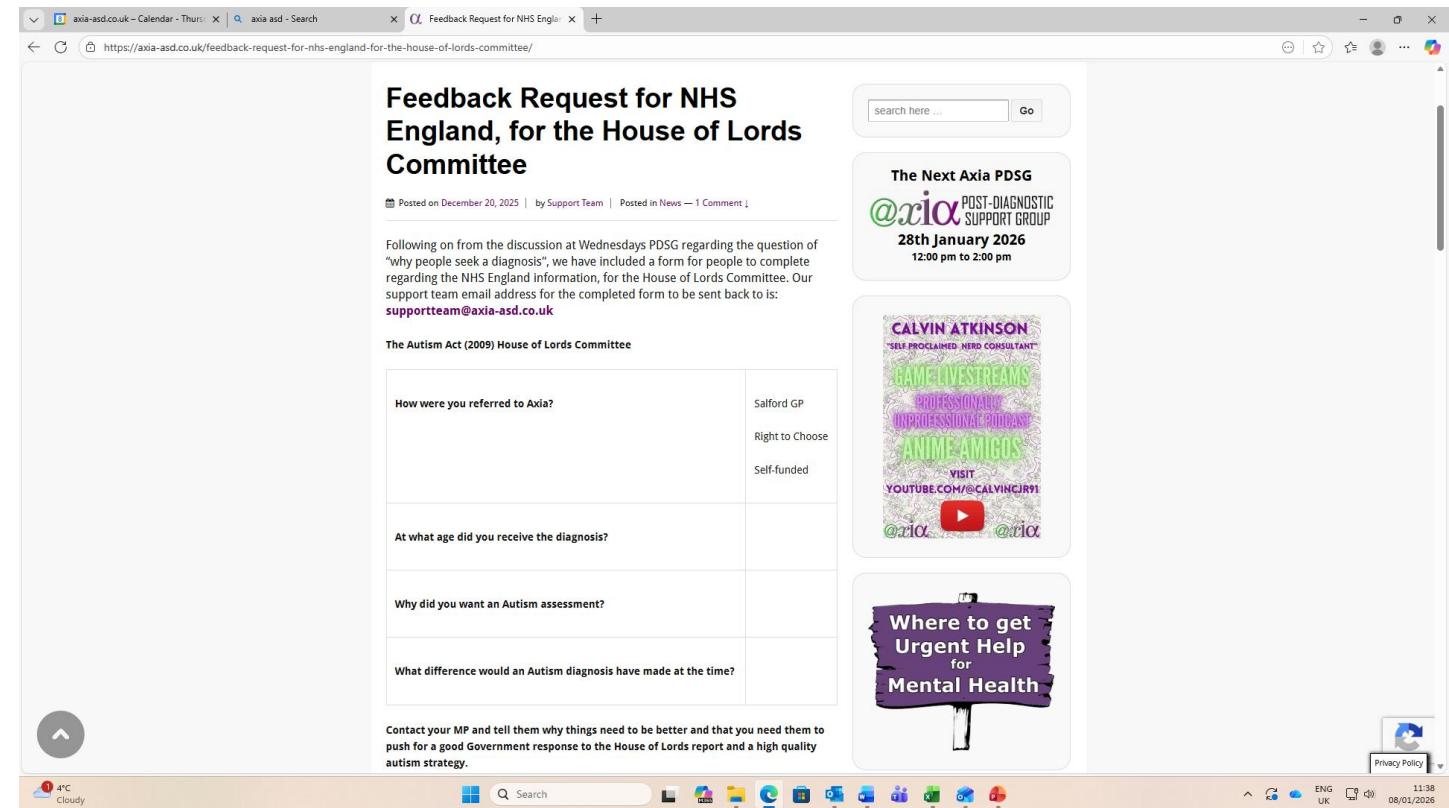
AXIA PDSG 28th January 2026

Autism Act 2009

- “The Autism Act 2009 is a law that says the Government must make an autism strategy, keep it up to date, and provide guidance for the NHS and local authorities about what they need to do. A House of Lords committee was formed in 2025 to review the Autism Act and to make recommendations about how the Government should support autistic people.
- That makes both the Autism Act and the autism strategy what we call **‘root causes’** – because they have the potential to have an impact on **all** autistic people, and if the Autism Act and autism strategy aren’t working, they will create a huge number of problems across all areas of life.”

[Making the House of Lords report count - Autism Action](#)

Autism Act 2009



Feedback Request for NHS England, for the House of Lords Committee

Posted on December 20, 2025 | by Support Team | Posted in News — 1 Comment ↓

Following on from the discussion at Wednesdays PDSG regarding the question of "why people seek a diagnosis", we have included a form for people to complete regarding the NHS England Information, for the House of Lords Committee. Our support team email address for the completed form to be sent back to is: supportteam@axia-asd.co.uk

The Autism Act (2009) House of Lords Committee

How were you referred to Axia?	Salford GP Right to Choose Self-funded
At what age did you receive the diagnosis?	
Why did you want an Autism assessment?	
What difference would an Autism diagnosis have made at the time?	

Contact your MP and tell them why things need to be better and that you need them to push for a good Government response to the House of Lords report and a high quality autism strategy.

The Next Axia PDSG
@xiα POST-DIAGNOSTIC SUPPORT GROUP
28th January 2026
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

CALVIN ATKINSON
"SELF PROCLAIMED NERD CONSULTANT"
GAME-LIVESTREAMS
PROFESSIONAL
UNPROFESSIONAL PODCAST
ANIME AMIGOS
VISIT
YOUTUBE.COM/@CALVINCJR91
@xiα @xiα

Where to get Urgent Help for Mental Health

- [Feedback Request for NHS England, for the House of Lords Committee - Axia ASD](#)

Autism Action Event for MPs

Help us raise awareness of autism among MPs

You may have been following Autism Action's work on the House of Lords Autism Act Committee. The Government must respond to the committee's report in early 2026 and should give an idea about how many of the committee's recommendations it will take on board.

Autism Action is holding a short event on January 21st for MPs (members of Parliament). This will raise awareness of autism among MPs in that crucial period before the Government's response. The more MPs speak up for autistic people during that time, the better.

This event was prompted by Jessica Toale, MP, based on the experiences of one of her 'constituents' (somebody who lives in her local area). For that reason, this event will be particularly focused on autistic women and girls, how they are often missed or given the wrong diagnosis instead of being recognised as autistic.

We are giving the stage to several autistic women - and bereaved family members of autistic women - who have been let down by services. They will be able to tell the MPs about the changes that are so urgently needed.

Autism Action Event for MPs



Autism Action Event for MPs

How to email your MP

You can find your MP's email address at members.parliament.uk/members/commons.

Here is a starting point that you can change as much as you like:

Subject line: Please attend the Autism Action Parliamentary event on January 21st

Dear [MP name]

I am one of your constituents and I live at [ADDRESS] (you must include this so they know they are your MP)

I would be very grateful if you can attend the Autism Action event in Parliament on January 21st. You will already have received an invitation from Jessica Toale, MP, who is co-hosting. More information is available by emailing info@autismaction.org.uk

This is urgent because the Government must respond to the House of Lords Autism Act Committee very soon.

The event is very important to me because it is about some of the difficulties autistic people face, especially autistic women and girls.

[add a note about your connection to autism and why you want a new autism strategy to really make a difference - this is your chance to tell your story, though we always suggest trying to keep it as short as possible as MPs receive a large number of emails]

Yours sincerely,

[your name]

Autism Act 2009

- **Useful links:**
- [Autism Act 2009 Committee - Summary - Committees - UK Parliament](#)
- [Making the House of Lords report count - Autism Action](#)
- [Our response to the Autism Act Committee report](#)- NAS

Cognitive Assessments

- **The WAIS – IV** (Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale – Fourth Edition) is a cognitive assessment which measures 4 key cognitive domains and is measured using the following subtests, comprising:
 - **Verbal Comprehension:** (ability to access and apply word knowledge, involves verbal concept formation, reasoning and expression) – Similarities & Comprehension.
 - **Perceptual Reasoning:** (ability to accurately interpret, organise and think with visual information) – Block Design.
 - **Working Memory:** (Ability to register, manipulate and maintain information in conscious awareness) – Digit Span & Arithmetic.
 - **Processing Speed:** (Speed and accuracy of visual identification, decision making and decision implementation. Quickly and correctly scanning & discriminating between simple visual information) – Symbol Search & Coding.

Cognitive Assessments

- **The BADS – IV** (Behavioural Assessment of Dysexecutive Syndrome – Fourth Edition) is also another cognitive assessment consisting of a battery of tests used to predict the everyday problems which might arise from Dysexecutive Syndrome.
- **Rule Shift Cards Test** – Used to measure one's ability to respond correctly towards a rule and able to shift from one rule to another.
- **Action Program Test** – Practical Task requiring the individual to come up with an action plan to solve a problem.
- **Key Search Test** – Locating their lost keys using an A4 piece of paper as a large field, with a 100mm square in the middle and a small 50mm black dot.

Cognitive Assessments

- **Temporal Judgement Test** – Ask four short questions, ranging from responses for a few seconds to several years, allowing the individual to provide their best guess.
- **Zoo Map Test** – The subject is required to showcase how they would visit a series of designated locations on a map of a zoo.
- **Modified Six Elements Test** – Given instructions to do three tasks of Dictation, Arithmetic, and Picture Naming, each divided into two parts, A and B, wherein the individual is required to attempt at least something from these six subtests within 10 minutes.

Cognitive Assessments at Axia

Cognitive Assessments

- We provide assessments for individuals from 6 years old onwards.
- Neurodivergent individuals typically have what we call spiky cognitive profiles. This means they can excel in some areas of intellectual functioning but struggle in other areas. This can lead them to be misunderstood as lazy, not trying hard enough, or putting it on, and they will often hear 'how can you do X but you can't do Y'?
- We are able to offer an assessment that could identify a potential spiky profile, often highlighting difficulties with, for example, working memory and processing speed. This can help ensure further reasonable adjustments can be made in educational and workplace settings. We do not calibrate an overall level of intelligence (IQ) but focus on the individual components.
- In order to access a cognitive assessment you must attend our Chester premises in person. It is best if you are assessed without anyone being present as it is very hard for other people not to want to help you get the answers right. Of course, if it is a young child who needs a parent in the room with them that is possible, but you will not be able to say or do anything to help.
- Typically, a cognitive assessment takes two hours. There would then need to be time for the assessor to score up and feedback the results. This can be done on the day during a break where you leave and come back later on in the day. A detailed report of the clinician's findings will follow.
- We also offer the following specific cognitive assessments:
- Assessments of executive functioning
- Assessment to see if individuals meet the three key criteria for having a learning disability
- The cost of a cognitive assessment is £500. If you would like to be placed on our referral and waiting list, please provide further details and a member of our team will be in touch.

Sensory Assessments at Axia

Sensory Assessments

- We provide assessments for individuals from 7 years old onwards.
- The assessment draws on Sensory Integration principles and uses a mixture of standardised and non-standardised assessments, including the Sensory Processing Measure 2 (SMP2), Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness (MAIA), Sensory Modulation tools and Ayres® clinical observations.
- These measures are completed using a mixture of methods, such as parental input, school observations and direct observation. The face-to-face section of the assessment process will take between 1-2 hours. A detailed report of the clinician's findings will follow.
- The purpose of these assessments is to demonstrate areas of need and to understand the individual's strengths and challenges. This may be useful when transitioning in education, requesting reasonable adjustments at work and in providing evidence to support benefit entitlement.
- These are not suitable for tribunal or EHCP purposes due to the specific formatting required. These do not provide access to a Sensory Processing Disorder diagnosis as this is not recognised within the United Kingdom as an official diagnosis.
- The cost of a sensory assessment is £1500. If you would like to be placed on our referral and waiting list, please provide further details and a member of our team will be in touch.

Speech and Language Assessments at Axia

Speech and Language

- We can offer speech and language assessments for children between the ages of 2 and 16 who experience difficulty with: speech sounds, language development (understanding and/or use of), early language development, stammering, and communication difficulties related to Autism.
- An initial face-to-face assessment will take approximately 1 hour, and a detailed report of the clinician's findings will follow. The purpose of which will be to detail the child's areas of strength and need in relation to their speech, language and communication skills.
- Additionally, we can also offer advice on your child's speech and language needs via telephone consultation or video call. Resources to support this can be provided on request. Most of the therapist's experience was gained working within NHS Trusts in North West England in nurseries, mainstream and special schools.
- The cost of a speech and language assessment is £110. If you would like to be placed on our referral and waiting list, please provide further details and a member of our team will be in touch.
- (Speech therapy appts at £50)

Understanding Behaviour as Communication (UBAC)



@axia

Understanding Behaviour as Meaningful Communication - Pilot Workshop

Friday 27th February 11am-1pm

Would you like to learn more about understanding your Autistic child's behaviour?

Our workshop will cover:

- Learning how to investigate the causes of your child's behaviour
- Learning to recognise how your child may use different behaviours to communicate
- Learning strategies to understand and manage these behaviours
- Take away resources on strategies

In order to take part in this pilot, your child must be under 18 and have been diagnosed at Axia-ASD, and you agree to provide feedback on a questionnaire so that we can enhance the provision.

The pilot workshop will be in a small group of eight parents/caregivers and is not suitable for children to attend.

If you would like to reserve your place, or if you have any questions, please email us at supportteam@axia-asd.co.uk

@xiao



Relationships and Neurodivergence

Relationships and Neurodivergence

What constitutes a relationship?

- Why do we seek/need/think we...
- Where do we find relationships?
- Who do we find relationships with?

Relationships and Neurodivergence

Are they more or less challenging if:

- One person is neurodiverse, one not
- Both neurodiverse
- Both not neurodiverse

Relationships and Neurodivergence

What can impact relationships?

- Sensory processing
- Communication
- Theory of Mind
- Executive functioning

Relationships and Neurodivergence

What works?

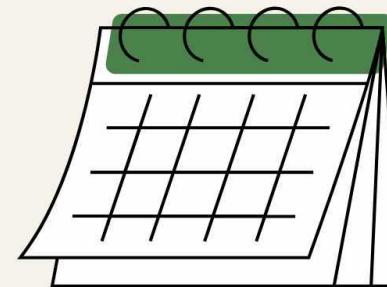
- Unconventional ways of communicating

Next PDSG



See below dates for our 2026 PDSG sessions. As usual all dates are a Wednesday 12pm-2pm The group will take place in a different room this year, Leverhulme 1st floor. The entrance to this is directly opposite the car parking barrier and there is lift access to the first floor.

Wednesday 28th January
Wednesday 11th March
Wednesday 22nd April
Wednesday 3rd June
Wednesday 15th July
Wednesday 26th August
Wednesday 30th September
Wednesday 18th November
Wednesday 16th December



Please send any queries regarding the PDSG to social@axia-asd.co.uk

Wednesday 11th March 12-2pm

Emma Eager- The Autism Wellbeing Project CIC