

Essex Autism Project

A newsletter for organisations in Essex, Southend and Thurrock

Website: <https://autismessex.kids.org.uk/>

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What's new at the Essex Autism Project?

- Monthly Update
- Co-production webinars for families
- Thank You!
- How are we planning the website?
- Can you help us?
- FAQs

Monthly Update

This month we have been focusing on the more technical aspects of the service. We continue to connect with new families and our steering group meetings are now just around the corner. We are therefore beginning to build a far stronger picture of what our service will look like. As our new website is put together, it will continually change and evolve in line with feedback we receive from families and professionals. We welcome comments from you and would be pleased to arrange a Teams meeting should you ever wish for more detailed updates about the service.

Co-production webinars for families

From September this year, we will be holding co-production webinars for families. Parents, carers and young people are all welcome to attend. The webinars will take place every few weeks and will give people who are unable to commit to the steering group a chance to contribute ideas to the service. Each webinar will have a discussion focus. The steering groups will meet after each webinar to make a group decision about how to move forward with the subject at hand. If you would like a poster to send to families or put on display, we can email you a digital copy.



For dates and times, please visit our events page:

<https://autismessex.kids.org.uk/events/>

Thank you!

A huge thank you to all of you who have been circulating our flyers and pinning them up on your organisation's notice boards. The Essex Autism Project is speaking to an increasing number of parents/carers who have said they discovered us thanks to other local organisations. One of these parents has even joined our steering group now! We are more than happy to send you printed copies of our flyers. Please just get in touch and let us know how many you need.

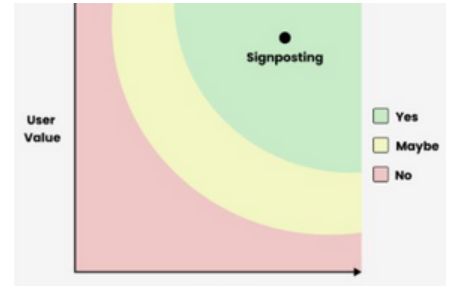


How are we planning the website?

From Research To Design

Feature Feasibility

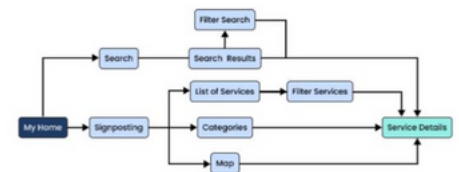
We strive for a professional service, so an important task for our team was to think about what we *want* to offer and what we *can* offer. By understanding our users' needs and goals, we can start choosing what we add to the website. To offer high quality features, we must recognise our resources and work within our limitations. It must be fun and easy for users to use, so ensuring the website isn't cluttered with unnecessary features is essential.



User Flows

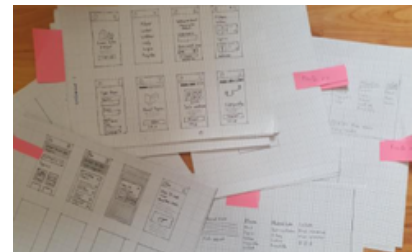
We have talked to so many wonderful people and collected a huge amount of amazing ideas. By understanding user needs, we can start exploring the best way to help them reach their goals. We do this with user flows. These graphs follow the journey of the user, giving them different options and ways to complete their task. Different people approach tasks differently, so we want to make sure that everyone can easily access our service.

Signposting Flow



Ideating and Sketching

The beginning stages of designing are all about getting ideas down on to paper and exploring all the possibilities. By using pen and paper, our designer can quickly ideate and see what works and what doesn't. Changing the placement of different elements can let us see if the content will be easy to navigate or blocked by different features. This exciting step lets us imagine how we can implement all the ideas we have gathered.



Can you help us?

We have had an incredible response from parents and carers since the Essex Autism Project was first publicised. However, we are very keen to get in touch with more young autistic people aged 12-25. There are several places remaining in our young people's steering group and it would be great to have more join us. Thank you to those of you who have already sent young people in our direction. For those of you working directly with this age group, it would be great to hear from you.



FAQs

Do you send email updates to my colleague ____? They should know about the EAP too.

Every month we talk to new organisations across Greater Essex. As you know, this is a huge area! For larger workplaces, we can be in contact with multiple departments at once. Our goal is to connect with anyone who is interested in our service, so please do share our contact information with colleagues who may not be known to us. We can then arrange an introduction meeting.

Would you be able to meet with the support groups I hold to tell them more about the EAP?

We will gladly attend any of your group sessions to introduce ourselves to parents, carers and young people. This can be done online or in-person. We appreciate it can be less daunting for families, and especially young people, when they are in a known space with familiar faces.