

Autism  
Accreditation  
Advanced Award

# Key Questions

# What is an advanced award?



When the Accreditation Committee receive an Accreditation assessment it can give one of three awards:

- ❖ Advanced
- ❖ Accredited
- ❖ Aspiring

The Advanced award is for schools and services that are providing support for autistic people which is of an exceptionally high standard in both quality and consistency.

Such provisions stand out as being exceptional and can be considered as centres of excellence.

**Will my provision  
automatically be considered  
for an advanced award?**



No, you will need to apply ahead of your assessment.

Your application form will be added as an appendix to your report.

As part of your application form you should include case-studies.

If your application form is not included you will only be considered for an Accredited or Aspiring Award.

# What evidence will be considered?





In your application form you will need to describe how you are an outstanding and innovative provision that goes well beyond similar provisions. In particular you should give examples of initiatives that make you stand out and most important of all the impact they have had on autistic people.

The assessment report is also expected to show a high level of consistency and quality in all observed practice.

We will also expect to see excellent feedback from autistic people and/or families from our confidential survey.

We also consider the most recent statutory assessment as independent and reliable evidence that you meet and exceed statutory requirements and are an outstanding educational or care provider.

We appreciate that some provisions do not have a statutory inspection e.g. educational outreach; day services.

In such cases we will need clear evidence from other sources that the provisions are of an Advanced Level.

# What should be included in case studies?



Please refer to the further guidance we provide on creating case studies.

**A lot of the improvements we  
have made in practice have  
been made recently.  
Will this count against us?**

Yes it could.

The committee will need to see that practice is embedded and impact can be shown over time.



**Is there anything we can do if we don't get Advanced status?**



You can appeal against the committee decision.

Your appeal will be considered by an independent panel of professionals experienced in the field of autism.

You can also reapply at your next assessment.

Whilst we recommend that assessments take place every three years you can ask your adviser to arrange an earlier assessment if you don't want to wait three years before you get another chance.

# Criteria

# Criteria

Statutory Inspectors consider service to have outstanding features especially in relationship to well-being. Nothing is scored as less than good.

## Notes:

*The committee will consider the ratings from the last statutory inspection (where available) to confirm that the provision exceeds statutory requirements as a care or educational provider. Applications where practice needs improving or there are no outstanding features will not be considered further.*

# Criteria

There are many considerable areas of strength with no or minor actions for development.

Highlighted areas of development are likely to address issues that the service is already working on or fine-tuning practice which is already of a very good standard.

## Notes:

*The Committee will consider evidence of what the provision does well and what it needs to work on from the latest Autism Accreditation assessment.*

*Where an area of development is considered significant or related to basic good autism practice the application will not be considered further.*

# Criteria

A high-quality programme of continuous Professional Development is in place. It ensures that staff have a robust specialist knowledge of autism specific best practice methods and approaches. Overall support is clearly based on methods and approaches that produce positive outcomes for autistic people.

## Notes:

*The Committee will consider evidence from the latest Autism Accreditation report of what training and professional development staff receive and how this is evident in observed practice. It will also refer to Section 1 of the Application form.*

# Criteria

Although there may be a few minor areas for improvement, the overwhelming majority of practice is informed by an excellent understanding of how to support autistic people in:

Communication and social relationships;

Self-reliance and independent problem solving;

Sensory regulation;

Emotional well-being

## Notes:

*The Committee will consider evidence from the relevant section of the latest Autism Accreditation report backed up by Section 2 of the Application form and relevant case-studies. Where there are inconsistencies in practice or clear areas of improvement, the application may not be considered further.*



# Criteria

Feedback from families and/or autistic people shows that an overwhelming majority are happy with the support provided by the provision e.g. over half very happy and the rest happy. Only a tiny minority are unhappy e.g. one or two respondents.

## Notes:

*The Committee will consider surveys carried out by Autism Accreditation. An overwhelming majority will normally be defined as 75 % or higher with at least a third of those supported by the provision responding. Lower ratings are likely to result in the application not going any further.*